

Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Quarterly Board Meeting

February 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM (CST) via Zoom Meeting

Present: Doris Schumacher, Glenn Schumacher, Karen Brokenleg, Justine Ashokar, Jennifer Williams, Jenny Hallan, and Mary Tommeraasen

Absent: Brian Poelstra

Mary Ohman was present to receive a plaque for appreciation of years served as board member. Mary O. will continue to volunteer to assist with the newsletter as much as possible.

Doris called the meeting to order.

Minutes were approved.

Individual Board Member updates:

Justine shared they still had not started the support group in Rapid City. Vaccinations were being done for clients and staff. They planned to open the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center a little more in March and April to allow clients to volunteer and have some outside activities first and then the support group next.

Mary T shared she has started the SD BI Networking Group with the assistance of the Center for Disabilities. Staff have received vaccines, so her clients were preparing to return March 8, 2021; she is allowed 3 clients in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. She has been busy; individuals from the support group have been in touch to share their issues, and to be in contact with someone from the group. She was going to ask someone from ILC in Aberdeen if she would like to work together to conduct the Aberdeen support group virtually sometime after work hours or on the weekend.

Karen shared Ron is stepping back from the Aberdeen group. They have not met. He did not think their group would want to do the masks. Maybe with help from the ILC person in Aberdeen they would do the masks. Ron presented to our group in Sioux Falls in the past and always told them they were heroes. Mary T. has been having the monthly support groups virtually with us since November. She has had some smaller groups meet virtually in the evenings and has connected some people by calls to each other.

Glenn shared their Brookings support group has not been meeting and have not been able to Zoom due to the technology issues. Glenn has been participating in the Sioux Falls support group. He has not been as active posting things on Facebook.

Jenny shared ILC has been meeting in-person with people, going into their homes, meeting in public or at the office. They still have contacts by phone or email. They had the vaccine available for the agency, but it is optional. New things with the agency: Cares funding—COVID-related—they are discussing assisting people with cleaning supplies, masks, housing deposits, first month's rent, purchasing vitamin D, transportation to doctor appointments, etc. There are no limits so far. ILC has not begun in-person support groups yet. They are doing them virtually or one-on-one. Specialists can meet with them.

Jennifer shared they are working on getting vaccinations for all people so they can bring people in again.

Contacts made to our board members

Doris had 3 contacts

Karen had 2 contact:

Mary T. had 3 contacts

Doris discussed the newsletter which went out recently. She appreciated the proofing everyone did. Jenny Hallan made the BIASD photo release forms. Mary O. has searched for photos and is cautious. Jenny recommended to have an email with the next newsletters to go to all of us to proof with a note saying, "Please provide feedback by (a certain date)."

Doris has collected 3 books for reading and writing a review for the newsletter. Mary O. is willing to read one and provide this later; maybe she will write a review for Joanne Cohen's book. Maybe Laurie from the Sioux Falls support group would review the Chicken Soup for the Soul Traumatic Brain Injury. She read it in the past and recommended it to the support group. Mary T. had read it and typed a list of pages to note for people reading it. She will send it to Doris and Laurie if she reads the book for the newsletter.

Mary T. and Justine reported on Irene. They have not had much change. Justine had been in contact with Kari regarding services due to an individual who needed the care in Irene. There is a waiting list for their 8 beds.

Jacque at LifeScape mentioned to Doris that they wanted to expand their program.

Doris mentioned Brenna at LifeScape expressed an interest in being on the board when she attended the SD BI Networking Group recently. Perhaps she would be a good fit for the board.

Bylaws note board members need to attend meetings. We may need reminders of this and of the meeting dates.

Doris questioned asking Ryan from the Center for Disabilities to be on the board. Mary T. said it was best at this time to appreciate him assisting us with the SD BI Networking Group.

Committees:

Nominating (membership): Mary T and Karen—(Reported above)

Legislation: Justine—Rep. Chris Johnson is continuing to assist with getting legislation for brain injury services—especially the assisted living our state has needed for years. First, we need a Needs Assessment to tell us how many people need services in our state. Her supervisor, Mike Derby, will mention it at a local meeting today. We need to count these numbers correctly. Before we do a Needs Assessment, we may need a survey to find out which organizations could assist with the Needs Assessment. It could go out in the future to all places who work with individuals with brain injuries, including prisons.

Newsletter/Advertising: Doris/Mary O.—(Reported above)

Technology: Glenn, Karen, Jenny—Jenny updated contact numbers, short Bios on board members, updated minutes, and added the newsletters on the website. The “About us” on the website needs Mary O. and Kevin removed. Jenny is willing to take charge of the website and has received help from Lindsey. Karen will check to see that Lindsey was paid.

Karen and Doris will look at the Gmail account. Something is addressed to Koral which can be deleted. A folder can be created for other emails read.

Jenny stated there is a hyperlink for donating. She will add a link to take them to our website. She will add a professional or formal signature in every email. Jenny will take a screen shot to let her know if there is feedback. She was going to do some of this on Facebook, too, however, she will need to contact Ron S. regarding the password, etc.

Fundraising/Brain Injury Awareness Month: Doris—2019 was the first time we participated in the Day of Giving. There were 9 donors and we won a prize, with a grand total of \$550. In 2020, Sarah Lippert and George from Brookings assisted with the plans. There were 16 donors, we raised \$865, and no prize was won. It has been a great start for BIASD!

Scholarship: Justine, Karen—The music therapy teacher moved, so the music therapy scholarship was no longer needed.

Mary T. mentioned, in the past, there was a discussion tabled for another meeting regarding scholarships for attending brain injury conferences. Doris is attending the ND conference. We all agreed to think of someone who could attend (virtually is an option!) and take notes to share. These conferences are coming up quickly in March, so in the future this could be a formalized plan with a form, amount, etc. Jenny is willing to create that form in the future. At this time, everyone agreed to find someone to attend IA or NE this year and the board would pay the registration.

Veterans: Mary T., (Brian)—Nothing has been done at this point due to COVID. Brian may want to participate with Mary as the contacts are made for a separate support group.

Treasurer’s report: Karen--\$5793.95 currently. Doris had 200 BIASD brochures made for anyone to use. Mary T. has the virtual ones. Glenn had set up the fundraiser on Facebook and 3 checks came through; we currently use PayPal. Glenn raised quite a bit of money for BIASD in this way. The treasurer’s report was accepted.

Brain Injury Awareness Months—We can use blue or green ribbons, as both colors have been used to represent brain injuries. COVID has been a huge issue this year, so ideas will be discussed for next year. Maybe a small stock of items to give out with our logo, magnetic clips, a mask picture (with permission?) Jennifer W. will investigate items to purchase. Justine offered to share a brain injury topic each week in March for everyone to share with others.

The brain logo was discussed. Lindsey offered to work on the logo with our ideas. It costs \$200 for a logo. We can have the rights to a logo if we say “BIASD established (date).” Jenny will contact Abbie Cribbs in Brookings to find out more information.

Unite SD is coming to SD and is going parallel with 211—working with non-profits, no cost, and is mostly East River. Electronic referrals can be made, and the involvement can be tracked. ILC is on track with them.

Doris discussed the ACL Center and wondered about SD getting a grant. Justine explained the state would need to identify a state agency and have them agree to fund \$150,000 for a 1-2 ratio. First, we need the Needs Assessment. Doris and Jenny may send an email to the Center for Disabilities and Disability Rights of SD to discuss this and move it along more quickly.

The next Board meeting is set for May 15th at 9:00 CST.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Mary Tommeraasen
Secretary