

Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Quarterly Board Meeting

May 15, 2021 at 9:00 AM (CST) via Go-To Meeting

Present: Glenn Schumacher, Karen Brokenleg, Justine Ashokar, Jenny Hallan, Brain Poelstra, and Mary Tommeraasen, Brenna Christiansen

Absent: Doris Schumacher, Jennifer Williams

Justine called the meeting to order.

February 2021 Board Minutes were approved – Karen motioned, Jenny second.

Individual Board Member updates:

Justine BI Rehab Center is taking people into the day program, no opening for residential currently. No support groups just yet. There are 3 residential people in the facility currently.

Mary T is busy with work, seeing 11 clients and doing many one-on-ones.

Karen shared that the support group thanks to Mary has been meeting on the second Saturday via zoom. Contact from an Iowa resident who was interested in more services that are available. Has not talked to Ron recently about the Aberdeen BI Support Group. Did email Allison with ILC but did not hear back from her.

Glenn shared that she is reporting for Doris – one person and their significant other contacted Doris and she referred them to Unite South Dakota. Suggestions for writing about their brain injury in the newsletter. Glenn said it has been a fairly write time with the Brookings BI Support group but looking forward it starting up again.

Jenny shared ILC has been meeting in-person for peer support groups. ILC is following safety guidelines, by keep group number small with RSVPs required, offering individually wrapped snacks, and byob. ILC is also hosting 7 summer transition programs for youth with disabilities, ages 16-21. These will be in person, also following safety guidelines. The deadlines for these programs have passed.

Jennifer – not present

Doris – not present

Brian shared that they are returning to work as usual and reviewing services to allow them to make their greatest impact. Has had a positive response from different PRCM facilities and considering additional outreach to correction facilities. Educating people that outbursts and behaviors may not be due mental illness, rather brain injuries. Using the Ohio Valley.org screen tool and the HELP screen tool-screen tool to check for possible TBI.

Brenna – not yet voted in as a member.

Contacts made to our board members:

Doris – 1 contact

Karen – 1 contact

Mary – 1 contact

Other Updates:

Jenny motioned to approve Brenna Christiansen as a member of Brain Injury Alliance South Dakota. Approved. Brenna will be invited to the next board meeting.

Mary followed up with Irene. Currently full and are unable to work outside the facility, so they are looking at bringing employment opportunities to the center.

-BI Networking Group is meeting this coming Wednesday, 5/19. Gathering resources and have TEAMS set up so items can be attached and accessed easily.

-Mary recently talked to Jacquie at LifeScape, about bringing someone back to South Dakota from Minnesota to be with family, but family situation is complicated. They are needing services here.

Brian talked about a survey on website about Disability Rights SD to assist with goal setting in the upcoming year. This is for all persons with disabilities. He will send us the link to share with others. BIASD will share the link in the next newsletter. TBI Medicaid waiver in SD is his next big project.

-“To take the survey you can follow this link: <https://drsdlaw.org/survey/>. Surveys for this year will be accepted until July 15, 2021. This link can be placed on the BIASD website as well. The responses that we receive will be used to determine the areas of focus for Disability Rights South Dakota for the next fiscal year.”

Committees:

Nominating (membership): Karen, Mary — (Reported above as well)

Mary mentioned that the more we can show that we are actively supporting the BI movement and changes in SD, then we will have more opportunities to bring other individuals in as board members.

Legislation: Justine — Still waiting to hear on any updates to needs assessment at Legislative level.

Newsletter/Advertising: Doris, Mary — Karen had an Avera Rehab social worker asked for the recent newsletter for a patient they are working with. For future newsletters Jenny’s mom will write an article about her personal journey with a brain injury. Brenna will also reach out to individuals she knows and ask if they are interested in submitting a short article. Next newsletter to include Disability Rights SD survey link.

Technology: Glenn, Karen, Jenny — Jenny will update the website with Brenna's information, get the DRSD survey link on the website, talk to Ron Sasso about getting the Facebook page changed over, and work on getting options of a logo.

Fundraising/Brain Injury Awareness Month: Doris (Glenn reporting for Doris) — Glenn did a Facebook fundraiser and raised \$275!

Veterans: Mary T., (Brian) — No update. Brian has sent information about DRSD to VOSs but has not received much response. Mary mentioned that veterans need their own peer support groups and that a veteran needs to lead this group.

Scholarship Committee report: Karen —

Scholarship application that Jenny created looks good. Group needs to continue to figure out how to get it out to people to utilize.

- Scholarship opportunity was created to give individuals w/ TBI or family members an opportunity to seek out attend a conference on TBI.

- Additional thought is asking conference chairs to allow for 1 person to access conference free of charge. Just another way to get individuals or family members to attend.

Treasurer's report: Karen — Fixing a few mistakes, but the total balance is correct at \$5,703.00. The board paid for Justine to be a member of NASHIA. Conference is in November. Hoping Justine is able to attend. It will be virtual. Membership dues checks need to be mailed to Karen .

Made a motion to accept the Treasure report with the corrections. All agreed.

The next Board meeting is set for September 18th, at 9:00-11:30 CST.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Submitted,

Jenny Hallan
Board Member