

Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota

Meeting Minutes

Date | time September 18, 2021 at 9am CT via GoTo Meeting

Attendance

Karen Brokenleg, Jenny Hallan, Justine Ashokar, Glenn Schumacher, Doris Schumacher, Brian Poelstra, and Jennifer Williams

Approval of Minutes

May 15, 2021 BIASD board meeting minutes have been approved.

Individual Board Member Updates (Contacts or Correspondence)

Justine: Sent in for scholarship to attend the conference for the National Association of Head Injury State Administrators. Got the scholarship and is able to attend the three-day virtual conference. Will share information from that conference.

Karen: Attended First Responders Advocacy Training and got some good notes. New police chief goal is to work toward helping the police force become more diverse – Karen may try meeting with him in spare time. Contacts- new person who attended the brain injury support group, otherwise it has been quiet one. Attended North Dakota Concussion Association conference. Conference was free to attend – they offer many resources that we can reference.

Glenn: Brookings area support group has been inactive due to the pandemic. Facebook page has not been particularly active – anyone can share information that would contribute to the cause on this platform.

Jenny: ILC is now offering a mobile Emergency Response System (ERS) – only previously offered if they had a landline service and only worked in the home – now piloting mobile ERS units with the state that can be used in the home or in the community. There are two primary qualifications: 1. To have a permanent disability and 2. Must have the desire to access the community or currently already are interpedently. A person does not qualify if they receive support services. They must require the need due to independence. ILC has been the only one piloting it for the last 6 months. Western Resources for Independent Living (like ILC but cover the western part of the state) Will also start piloting the project. A one-year pilot program follow up and monitoring will take place to gather needed data. This is a device that people can wear around their neck, as a wrist band, or on a belt clip. The device is \$500, but is no cost to the individual, it's paid for through the Telecommunication Adaptive Device Program.

Jennifer: Providing resources and advocating support for those in need and to other professionals.

Brian: Correspondence through disability rights – contacting the state, department of human services, -figuring out what is actually available –want to know how they're trying to help folks with brain injury – hoping for waiver for TBI. See how to coordinate and gather information from there.

Doris: Nick Mutolo, Raegen Linder (support group), Stoke 40 yr. old from Lincoln, NE referred to Kari Severson, Sunrise Villa, Madonna Lincoln, NE social worker -post acute options (from Huron), SF grandfather calling for grandson (Jessa Stebbin-Mom)-sent newsletter, Nancy Harnison, POA at Estelline (referred to Justine). Will send BIASD brochures if requested. Nick P Regar L, interested in support group, had referred him on to Carrie- social worker that called and connected.

Recent Contacts or Correspondence, Per Organization:

Irene (Doris) – Carrie said that they are currently full on the unit, and still having trouble with job skills for people supported due to COVID

Lifescape (Brenna) - We are looking to find and bring comprehensive conference for clinicians – in person options are limited – but look to bring a course which would be for staff but also open to the public. There are currently five professionals at Lifescape who are in pursuit of Brain Injury Certification

Rehabilitation Center (Justine) - Steadily getting referrals for evaluations – getting referrals from VA and other places. Day program still up and down depending on who is able to come – steady number of people in day program. Support group at TBIRC is still on hold due to pandemic. Going to attend SD Psychological Association Conference, which is geared toward people working in the field.

Aberdeen Support Group (Karen) - Did meet in person for support group. Chose not to have food or beverages- small group had 10. Try meeting in person again for next meeting.

Center for Disabilities (Jenny) – University of Kansas, it was shared a brain injury survey, group now is looking at whether or not to make changes to be more relevant to South Dakota, and then figuring how to disperse it. Send out to all members attending the group. Nice to hear from the people from University of Kansas about what we have done – a step in the right direction.

Disability Rights (Brian) - Presented to directors to encourage use of various screenings (Ohio Brain Injury Screening & The Help Screen). There is potential for people to come into shelter with a TBI, and these resources can help with that identification. Sent email to partners in policy making – people with brain injury can apply to a course about building stronger advocates for the community. It is one weekend a month from November to April 30th, and all expenses are paid for the individual.

Committee Updates

Nominating/Membership Committee (Mary T and Karen) – Find a way to build membership for those who want to -weather they donate or not. Do have a list that goes out with the newsletter. Put people who donate on donor account so know to keep contacting them in the future. Have a list that goes out with the newsletter.

Legislative Committee (Justine and Jennifer) – Mike Derby contacted BHW CEO and asked about where we are with brain injury group. Beginning stages of getting needs assessment going.

Newsletter/Advertising (Doris and Mary O): Sent newsletter out. When asking for feedback, send something back regardless of input (looks fine, go ahead, etc.) – will talk about advertising later with Day of Giving coming up.

Technology (Glenn, Karen and Jenny): Brenna and Brian's numbers and short bio will be added to website. April meeting minutes on website. Newsletter on website. Waiting to get BIASD logo and will then share with board. Karen posts updates on Facebook when support groups meet via social media and will continue to do so once a month. Jenny plans to get in touch with RS in order for board take ownership of Facebook page.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. If logo is ready, can look at getting t-shirts, mugs, pens, magnetic clips for the fridge, post-its. Jenny is in contact with Virginia, a lady who specializes with logos to get her input. It was brought forward that we need to ensure that there are no copyright issues. Once clarified, Jenny will move forward with getting the logo started. Looking at using blue for the logo as it broadens the scope by including all brain injury. This will need to be navigated carefully due to the specifics within grants.

Fundraising (Doris and Brenna): Would be helpful for board members to help out with Day of Giving. If all board members donate some money to the Day of Giving, then BIASD has opportunity to be drawn to have collections doubled. On the check, please note Day of Giving. May also use PayPal to donate – again noting day of giving. The day of giving is November 30th, 2021.

In 2019 for the Day of Giving, BIASD had nine donors, raised \$550, and won a prize. In 2020, Doris had two people assisting her, BIASD had 16 donors, and raised \$865.

Scholarship (Justine, Karen): N/A

Veteran's (Kevin, Brian and Mary T): Item is on hold. DRSD has been sending representative to Veteran Stand Down events, which are fairly well attended. They are handing out brochures from BIASD, and are almost out of them. Tries to bring the pamphlet to various organizations. Brian plans to design a TBI pamphlet that is similar to BIASD in order to use for Disability Rights, as well as other networks. Josefine Combs, PsyD who does sports medicine may be a reference to put on pamphlet. She can do Neuropsychological Assessments – continue to explore resources. When considering new options for pamphlets, the board agrees that it is nice that the resources are separated by region.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of August 2021: \$6,313.95. Karen will use the balance the month prior to the board meetings when presenting information. Includes details/updates by month.

Other

Three parents indicated an interest in serving on the committee. Erik Andersen will follow up with those parents and do some additional recruiting to fill these openings.

Set Next Meeting Date & Motion to Adjourn

Quarter & Annual Meeting: February 5th, 2022 @ 9am CT via GoTo Meeting (link will be provided at a later date)