

## **Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Quarterly Board Meeting**

November 14, 2020 at 9:00 AM (CST) via Zoom Meeting

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

**Absent:** Jenny Hallan, Brian Poelstra

Doris called the meeting to order.

Giving “Tuesday” rather than “Saturday” was a correction to be made to the minutes from the last meeting.

Minutes were approved.

Mary T. will ask Brian for a photo, the email he will use for the board, and a bio for the website. He will be included in the Veteran’s committee with her.

Jennifer Williams was present to join the board. She shared she worked at Black Hills Works for 8 years as a Behavior Support Specialist. She has a Psychology/Sociology degree from SDSU and her master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She loves her job and wears lots of hats working at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center with Justine. She loves hiking, her dog, family, and friends.

Doris moved to accept Jennifer Williams as a board member. Glenn seconded it.

The board agree to accept Mary O.’s resignation from the board.

### **Individual Board Member updates:**

**Karen** shared that the Sioux Falls support group has been using Zoom to connect. We have not met in-person since February; it is not safe. We will have a bigger Zoom meeting as a support group November 21<sup>st</sup> and see how that goes for other support group monthly meetings. A few individuals have called, and she has answered some emails from the Gmail account.

**Mary T** shared she has been doing the small group Zoom meetings as much as possible. People have contacted her by email and phone to stay connected, as needed. She contacted Dr. Josefina Combs, the Licensed Clinical Neuropsychologist at Sanford Health Orthopedics and Sports Medicine who took Dr. Kate Higgins’ position. Dr. Combs emailed a list of mental health counselors in the state, when requested. Koral Olson was included. Mary shared the list with the board members.

Mary contacted an individual from the Gmail account. She was looking for a good lawyer due to a Workers’ Comp. case in Sioux Falls. Mary has stayed in contact with her.

Mary contacted Kari Severson to see how they are doing in Irene, SD with their facility. Due to COVID staff have not been able to have people out in the community. They have been trying to bring things in and provide structure, though the individuals have been quarantined to their rooms at times. They try to do therapies, but it is difficult with the quarantine. They have played Bingo while in their rooms and

provided packets of activities like word searches, etc. They have tablets now, so some learning has been taking place and they have been in contact with families. Mary shared the mask project with Kari in case there was interest. Mary also offered the opportunity to participate in a support group virtually.

**Justine** shared she received a couple of phone calls. She participated on a panel called, “How states are Addressing TBI and Mental Health.” It was well-attended. She explained we are unable to apply for a grant/waiver through NASHIA because we have no state agency linked to BI. Maybe Long-term Support Services, but it takes a year or more to be nominated and receive a grant. The state must match the grant.

Rep. Chris Johnson was nominated again and has been talking about TBI services in the state. He wants to reinstate the TBI Medicaid Waiver (cut in 2011), then move forward with more services. He may present a bill in the future, but Justine has not met with him yet. If we could identify a state agency, Justine may follow up.

February was the last time the support group met. There have been no Zoom meetings. The group has been postponed until Spring 2021. Admissions are slow. Kari Severson had a bed available if there was a client at Justine’s facility who matched the need, but a match has not been found yet.

**Doris/Glenn** shared their Brookings support group has not been meeting and have not been able to Zoom due to the technology issues. Doris and Glenn participated in the BI Hope Foundation Survivor Series. Doris received a few phone calls. She and Justine were working together to assist these individuals with information regarding long-term care services, and someone with questions regarding caring for her son.

#### **Committees:**

**Nominating (membership): Mary T and Karen**— Mary shared she had been contacted by someone at LifeScape for children. They wondered if we had continued the large group through the Center for Disabilities. We had not due to staff changes there; Mary had asked in the past to start the group again, but there was no one available to assist the group. When she contacted the Center for Disabilities again in November to ask about a networking BI group, they agreed they could support a networking group. LifeScape has 15 staff as CBIS now. They wondered if training is available in our state to keep up their certification. Justine agreed she would be willing to present through Zoom/webinars. She has some presentations she has done in the past but is willing to do them on other topics. She would do them anytime except Sundays. Perhaps someone will be interested in our board in the future.

**Legislation: Justine**—Justine stated nothing was new with the legislation.

**Newsletter/Advertising: Doris/Mary O.**—Mary O. is willing to continue assisting Doris. February is planned for the next newsletter.

**Technology: Glenn, Karen, Jenny**—Glenn has been posting periodically on Facebook and sees when others read the posts. Lindsey at ILC is helping with our website. She worked on the Donate button and Paypal. Could we employ her was a question that came up?

**Fundraising/Brain Injury Awareness Month: Doris**—She created a green BIASD logo for the Giving Tuesday event. (It can be seen at [www.sdgives.org](http://www.sdgives.org)) Lindsey was working with Karen for Paypal and the bank for donations. Paypal seems to be a good option for us.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> is Giving Tuesday. BIASD and the Brookings Support Group are recruiting volunteers and money. We can write checks to Karen Brokenleg (Treasurer) for giving. If All board members give that day, our group goes into a drawing; if our group is drawn, we receive money in the same amount of our collective donation.

**Scholarship: Justine, Karen**—Nothing has been done at this point. Glenn’s music therapist who is now with Anderson-Smith Therapy had a rate increase. It is \$60 for 30 minutes. Mention was made to contact Sioux Falls Community Foundation for others to participate if they assist with funding for other people. Justine and Karen will think and talk about it and talk more as a group. Doris will write up an application process (for February) for further discussion. She may provide a form for us to select people.

**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--\$5044.57 currently. Facebook is helping to get donations! The address for donations and dues (\$10 is the board dues again) 4304 S. Glenview Rd., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. The treasurer’s report was accepted.

Jennifer expressed an interest in the Legislation Committee with Justine.

Ron Hoops’ email for the future was provided. Mary T. will contact him about Zoom options. Karen will contact Ron before each BIASD meeting for updates.

We will send the newsletter to the Center for Disabilities in the future. (Mary T. provide Doris the address.)

The next Board meeting is set for February 20th at 9:00 CST.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Annual Meeting:**

We will need to sign Conflict of Interest statements. The dues are to go to Karen with a separate check for Giving Tuesday.

Glenn’s name will be removed as Vice President. For 1 year, Doris will take over at this time as President; Karen and Mary T. will continue in their roles, and Justine will become Vice President. All agreed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Mary Tommeraasen  
Secretary