

Virginia Brain Injury Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
April 23, 2010

Members Present:

Carole Norton, Ph.D	Professional
Kelli Williams Gary, Ph.D	Survivor
Jason Young	Professional
Lisa Garver	Professional
Chuck Walsh	Professional
Michelle Witt	Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers
Jeff Carpenter	Survivor
Barbara Seymour, R.N.	Virginia Department of Medical
Assistance Services	
Heather Board	Virginia Department of Health
Gerald Showalter, Psy.D.	Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
Brian Shenal, Ph.D.	Salem VAMC
Linda Redmond, Ph.D.	Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Susan Elmore	Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
	Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Jeff Sherman	
Services	
Patricia Goodall	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Anne McDonnell	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Leigh Wion	High Street Clubhouse
Tori Harding	Mentor ABI
Jim Rothrock	Commissioner Department of Rehabilitative
Services	
Karen Trump, Ed.D.	Virginia Department of Education
Martha Mead	Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
Lynn Forsyth	Family Member
<u>Members Absent:</u>	
Jenny Toth	Brain Injury Association of America
Mark Salisbury	Family member
Michelle Nichols, R.N.	Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
Terry Miles	Survivor
Alan Towne, M.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University
Julie Triplett	Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy
Nancy Bullock	Virginia Department of Health
Paul Sharpe	Virginia Department of Health
<u>Other in Attendance:</u>	
Paige Melton	Ombudsman to Federal Grant
Kristy Joplin	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Mary Wallace	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Kristie Chamberlain	DRS, Staff to the Council
Clay Bowen	Virginia Department of Deaf and Hard of
Hearing	
Dena Schall	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Karen Brown	Brain Injury Services

## **CONVENING OF THE MEETING**

Carole Norton, Ph.D., Chair, called the Virginia Brain Injury Council meeting to order. Dr. Norton asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

### **Meeting April 23, 2010 Meeting Agenda:**

**Anne McDonnell motioned to approve the agenda, as written; Leigh Wion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Approval of January 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of the January 22, 2010 were distributed and reviewed. **Tori Harding made a motion to approve the minutes; Kelli Gary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Public Comment:**

A public comment period was offered. No public comment was given.

### **New Business:**

#### **Comments from the Department of Rehabilitative Services Commissioner, Jim Rothrock:**

- The Virginia General Assembly has ended its session, and funding to brain injury services will be cut 5% as of July 1, 2010. Commissioner Rothrock is open to input from both the Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers and the Virginia Brain Injury Council on how these cuts should be distributed statewide. The Commissioner noted he was reviewing a proposal from the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers to use stimulus funding to help offset the impact of the funding reductions to brain injury.
- Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) is currently finishing a pilot project funded by the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund working with individuals with brain injury and substance abuse problems. They just completed their first two-week long pilot session with four clients. Initial findings are showing that cognitive/memory impairments are mitigating some of the information learned during the program, but that the belonging and camaraderie were a very important part of the program.
- The new Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Bill Hazel, and his staff are traveling Virginia to see how state agencies can work together more efficiently and effectively. The Commissioner encouraged the brain injury community to get to know the Secretary and the staff in his office.
- \$750,000 in funds is being released on an RFP process to DRS' Employment Services Organizations to create jobs for persons with disabilities.

#### **Educational Presentation to the Council:**

##### **Sports and Combat Concussion--Jeffrey Barth, Ph.D, ABPP-CN; University of Virginia.**

Dr. Barth provided a dynamic, hour-long educational presentation to Council members on the history and treatment of mild brain injury in sports and combat.

#### **Educational Presentation to the Council:**

##### **Clay Bowen, Virginia Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.**

Mr. Bowen provided a brief fifteen minute presentation on the Virginia Relay and Speech to Speech services available throughout the Commonwealth for those with speech difficulties. Dialing 711 gets you to Virginia Relay.

#### **Recommendations for Distribution of Brain Injury Services Funding Cuts:**

##### **Michelle Witt, Virginia Alliance for Brain Injury Service Providers (VABISP):**

Michelle Witt, Chair of the Virginia Alliance for Brain Injury Service Providers, presented the Alliance's recommendations that the 5% reductions to brain injury services funding, effectively July 1, 2010, be distributed equally across the nine state-funded services providers. Council members were reminded of their duty to provide recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Rehabilitative Services on the distribution of new state brain injury funds and, in this case, recommendations for decreases. **Martha Mead made a motion to accept the Alliance's funding reduction recommendations; Brian Shenal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kelli Gary made a motion that the Secretary of the Council, Jason Young, write a letter to Commissioner Rothrock on behalf of the Chair, Carole Norton, Ph.D., stating that the Council endorses the Alliance funding recommendations; Brian Shenal seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Update on the Brain Injury Mental Health Workgroup:**

##### **Michelle Witt, Virginia Alliance for Brain Injury Service Providers**

The Virginia Alliance for Brain Injury Service Providers informed Council that they commissioned an ad-hoc committee of the Alliance to come up with formal recommendation on protocol changes needed within the state mental health crisis system. This committee will provide input to the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) on a "short study" or question to be proposed to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) for 2011 on neurobehavioral services for people with brain injury and challenging behaviors. **Martha Meade made a motion that the Council also form a committee to look at the neurobehavioral JLARC issue and provide recommendations to the Council to then pass onto the Brain Injury Association of Virginia. The Council would review the committee's recommendations via electronic vote. Chuck Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** The Chair requested volunteers to serve on the Committee. Committee members will include: Linda Redmond, Anne McDonnell, Tori Harding, Paige Melton, and Lynn Forsythe, and Gerald Showalter. Tori Harding will chair the committee.

#### **Old Business:**

#### **DRS' Federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act Grant Update:**

##### **Patti Goodall, Department of Rehabilitative Services**

Funding for Year 2 of the grant has been approved. A 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report on Year 1 of the grant was distributed by Kristy Joplin of the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (can be found at the end of these meeting minutes). Ms. Goodall also introduced a new staff member to the DRS Team, Dena Schall. Dena will be the Program Specialist for DRS' Federal Grant, working closely with the Brain Injury Association of Virginia on execution of the grant goals and objectives. Dena is located in DRS Central Office.

#### **TBI Action Plan and Neurobehavioral "White Paper" FINAL copies:**

##### **Patti Goodall, Department of Rehabilitative Services**

Copies of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Action Plan and Neurobehavioral "White Paper" were distributed to the Council. Unfortunately, the wrong version of the Neurobehavioral paper was copied, so it was collected back from the Council. A correct version will be e-mailed out to Council members for final approval to send onto the Commissioner. The Council will be voting on the final formatted version and is asked to refrain from editing the content. The Action Plan will be available on the DRS Website (<http://www.vadrs.org/cbs/biscis.htm>) or by e-mailing Patti Goodall at [patti.goodall@drs.virginia.gov](mailto:patti.goodall@drs.virginia.gov) or contacting the Brain Injury Association of Virginia ([www.biav.net](http://www.biav.net)).

**Meeting Dates:**

The next Council meeting is July 23, 2010 from 1-4 at the Department of Rehabilitative Services Central Office in Richmond. **Leigh Wion made a motion to hold the October 22, 2010 meeting at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville; Brian Shenal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Carole Norton, Ph.D., Chair. adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

## **“Closing the GAP” BIAV Grant Report Year 1 – 4th Quarter**

### Target Group # 1: Juveniles with brain injury committed to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Systems Change

- Completed 3 out of 3 required outputs

#### *Data Collection*

- Screening tool has been developed and will be piloted in May/June. Depending on modifications, implementation is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2010.

#### *Education*

- BIAV conferring with other states on training mechanisms

#### *Outreach*

- Year 4 goal

### Targeted Group #2: Persons with Low Socioeconomic Resources

#### *Systems Change*

- BIAV participated in the Virginia Department of Education’s workgroup to develop a statewide initiative to identify and provide special education to children with brain injuries within the public school system. The workgroup has identified four focus areas:
  - Prevention
  - Identification and screening
  - Professional development and networks of support for school personnel
  - Resources and supports for families

UPDATE: Development of DOE’s TBI State Action Plan is continuing, and BIAV will participate in its implementation.

#### *Data Collection*

- BIAV conducted an outreach mailing to the 570 individuals with brain injury who were admitted to Virginia hospitals and reported to the Virginia State Trauma Registry between April 09 and December 09. Process in place to continue quarterly mailing through life of grant.
- Resources distributed 1/1/10-3/31/10:
  - 157 survivors and 55 professionals received resources through the I&R program
  - 591 survivors and 973 professionals received copies of the newsletter
  - 4,938 visitors received information through the website

#### *Education*

- Forty-two survivors and family members/caregivers attended BIAV’s Annual Conference that was held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Conference Planning Committee had 5 requests for scholarships.

#### *Outreach*

- In March, BIAV attended the Virginia Head Start Association’s Annual Conference as a vendor and distributed materials to the 500+ attendees.
- Mailed 25 copies each of mild TBI and pediatric TBI fact sheets to 48 free clinics.

- BIAV's domestic violence tip card is being redesigned and a tip card for service providers is also being created. Meeting with staff members of domestic violence programs to gain feedback on the tip cards and ideas for outreach and distribution.

### Targeted Area: Infrastructure Expansion

#### *Systems Change*

- DRS primarily responsible for meeting goals.

#### *Education*

- DRS & BIAV facilitated "Navigating the Mental Health System", a workshop for brain injury service providers, on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the DRS offices. There were 32 individuals in attendance. Organizations represented include:
  - Beacon House
  - Brain Injury Association of VA
  - Brain Injury Services, Inc.
  - Community Futures Foundation
  - Crossroads to Brain Injury Recovery
  - Defense & Veterans Brain Injury Center
  - Department of Rehabilitative Services
  - High Street Clubhouse
  - Mary Buckley Foundation
  - Middle Peninsula Northern Neck CSB
  - Mill House
  - Virginia Commonwealth University
  - Virginia Supportive Housing
- Thirty-three professionals attended BIAV's Annual Conference on March 27, 2010.
- Presented at two additional VA Wounded Warrior trainings.

#### *Outreach*

- Two individuals have been identified to fill the role of "family ombudsmen" as defined in the grant request: Christine Baggini, Director of Family Services, BIAV; Page Melton, family member. Page will serve as family representative to the VBIC.
- Attended/Exhibited at the Virginia Wounded Warrior Conference in February and distributed 378 pieces of literature to attendees.
- Completed the TBI State Action Plan.