

Virginia Brain Injury Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2008

Members Present:

Paul Aravich, Ph.D.	Eastern Virginia Medical School
Scott Bender, Ph.D.	University of Virginia Health System
Karen Brown (proxy for Lisa Garver)	Brain Injury Services, Inc
Helen Butler, RN	Brain Injury Services of SWVA
Tia Campbell, RN, BSN, NCSN	Virginia Department of Education
Kelli Williams Gary, MPH, OTR/L	Professional
Anne McDonnell, MPA, OTR/L	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Carole Norton, Ph.D.	Professional
Patricia Goodall	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Victoria Harding	Lakeview Healthcare
Katherine Lawson	Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Terry Miles	Survivor
Mark Salisbury	Family member
Micah Sherman	Survivor
Gerald Showalter, Psy.D.	Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
GiGi Szelesta	Family member
Alan Towne, MD, MPH	Virginia Commonwealth University
Julie Triplett	Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy
Jason Young	Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers

Members Absent:

Theresa Ashberry	Family member
Nancy Bullock, RN	Virginia Department of Health
Michelle Nichols	McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center
Jenny Toth	Brain Injury Association of America
Russell Payne	Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
Linda Redmond, Ph.D.	Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Paul Sharp, RN, NREMT-P	Virginia Department of Health

Board Staff:

Christine Grauer	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
------------------	--

Others in Attendance:

Laura Anglin	Phoenix Star Clubhouse
Paul Blais	Survivor
Jennifer Clarke	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Marylin Copeland	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Valerie Evans	Fort Lee Ombudsman
Commissioner James Rothrock	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
John Szelesta	Family member
Marianne Talbot, Ph.D.	National Rehabilitation and Rediscovery Foundation
Leigh Wion	High Street Clubhouse

CONVENING OF THE MEETING:

The Virginia Brain Injury Council meeting was called to order at 1:05 a.m. by Anne McDonnell, Chair. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the April 25, 2008 meeting were distributed and reviewed. **Paul Aravich made a motion to accept the minutes; Mark Salisbury seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Agenda

The July 25, 2008 agenda was distributed and reviewed. **Paul Aravich made a motion to accept the agenda as prepared; Scott Bender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment:

No public comment was given during the Public Comment period.

Remarks from the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) Commissioner:

Commissioner Jim Rothrock provided the following updates, announcements, and suggestions:

- 1) The Commissioner announced that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for brain injury services on the Eastern Shore and in Virginia Beach was issued and that a review of submitted proposals is underway. This RFP was issued because the current contractor declined to its contract for FY '09.
- 2) The Commissioner announced the allocation of new funding to contracted services in the South Boston / Emporia areas. A total amount of \$30,000 is allocated for a staff person to serve as a Regional Resource Coordinator (RRC) for Southside Virginia.
- 3) The Commissioner discussed the recent allocation of \$2 million to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to provide coordination of services to returning soldiers and veterans, using community partners such as Community Services Boards and Brain Injury Services Providers. An Executive Director has been hired for Virginia's Wounded Warrior Program and it is anticipated that three regional coordinators will be hired in the Fall. A Wounded Warrior Conference is scheduled for November 2008 at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. The focus of the conference will be on post traumatic stress disorder following brain injury. Persons with brain injury and their families are encouraged to attend.
- 4) The Commissioner commended the Council on the completion of the Neurobehavioral Committee's "White Paper" and stated that it would be shared as recommended by the committee.

- 5) The Commissioner announced a slow down in departmental purchases in response to the state's below budget revenue growth. It is hoped the housing market will pick up so that state revenues may rebound.
- 6) The Commissioner reminded Council members to keep its focus on working with DRS on funding allocations and invited the Council to consider the issue of program evaluation / outcomes for the programs receiving state funding.
- 7) Jason Young raised the issue of lack of intervention by Community Services Boards (CSBs) when a person with a brain injury is experiencing a mental health crisis. Commissioner Rothrock felt that the most appropriate course was to send him a letter, informing him of these issues, expressing concern, and asking DRS to address it.

Following the Commissioner's remarks, Jason Young made a motion that the VBIC Secretary draft a letter to Commissioner Rothrock for the Chair's signature expressing concern about the lack of responsiveness from CSBs when people with brain injury are in crisis (i.e., they are in imminent danger to themselves or others) and requesting that DRS look into the matter. Terry Miles seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report/State Agency Report-out

Anne reminded Council of its decision to host a "state agency report out" day to share the work of the Council with other state agencies and to learn what other agencies are doing in the area of brain injury. She suggested a half day session. Anne asked for volunteers to form a committee. Kelli Williams Gary, GiGi Szelesta, Anne McDonnell, and Patti Goodall will serve on the committee.

Repeal of Motorcycle Helmet Law

Jason Young announced a study from the University of Pennsylvania showing the extremely negative impact of Pennsylvania's decision to repeal its motorcycle helmet. Jason motioned VBIC to distribute the report to Virginia legislators to educate them on the effects of repealing a helmet law. The motion was withdrawn when he agreed to table the issue until the January meeting.

Educational Topics for 2009

Anne reminded Council members that it had agreed to set aside a portion of every April meeting for educational topics for Council members and asked for suggested topics. Topics included: 1) Captain Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of Virginia's Wounded Warrior Program; 2) Overview of substance abuse services specifically for persons with brain injury; 3) States of consciousness, Nathan Zasler, M.D.; 4) State funding allocations to brain injury service providers; and 5) Guardianship issues.

Appointment of Nominations & Elections Committee

Anne announced that the Secretary and Chair positions expire in December, necessitating officer elections during the October meeting, with terms effective at January meeting. At-large member elections are conducted in January, with terms beginning at April meeting. Carole Norton offered to chair Nominations and Elections Committee. Kelli Williams, Terry Miles, Mark Salisbury, and Tori Harding volunteered to serve on the committee and Patti Goodall and Christine Grauer will provide staff support.

OLD BUSINESS

Virginia's Brain Injury Action Plan for 2007-2011

Patti Goodall distributed a written draft of Virginia's Brain Injury Action Plan for 2007-2011 as prepared by consultant Ann Deaton, Ph.D. Members were encouraged to review the draft and to provide comments to Patti by August 25th.

\$200,000 Brain Injury Budget Amendment Update

The VBIC Funding Allocation Committee's recommendations were distributed. The committee recommended an overall 4.17% funding increase to programs that demonstrated a need for FY '09. The allocations are as follows:

Program Name	Current State Funding	Proposed Funding Increase	Total FY09 Funding
BIS INC - Adult Case Management	\$1,044,058	\$43,537	\$1,087,595
BIS INC - Pediatric Case Management	\$149,095	\$6,217	\$155,312
CFF - The Mill House and Denbigh House clubhouse programs	\$319,490	\$13,322	\$332,812
CSS - SEEK and No Limits day programs	\$277,162	\$11,557	\$288,719
VANC – High Street Clubhouse	\$159,745	\$6,661	\$166,406
MARC Workshop – Case Management	\$136,103	\$5,675	\$141,778
VSH – Case Management	\$56,138	\$2,340	\$58,478
BIAV – Brain Injury Resource Network	\$159,745	\$6,661	\$166,406
BISSWVA - Case Management	\$517,521	\$21,580	\$539,101

Patti Goodall noted that the final process was similar to these funding recommendations, but that there were changes. She also noted that some of the funding amounts in the original recommendation document were inaccurate and those had to be corrected before proceeding with any actions.

In addition, the Funding Allocation Committee recommended to the Commissioner that the additional \$200,000 in the FY '10 budget be distributed to BIAV for information and referral and to the Phoenix Star clubhouse (both of which are scheduled to lose current grant funding as of June 30, 2009).

Federal TBI Act Grant Update

Jennifer Clarke reported on activities undertaken by BIAV over the past two years and the first quarter of year three to fulfill the requirements of the federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act Grant awarded to DRS. Grant activities are largely subcontracted to BIAV to carry out. Documents outlining achievements in the goal areas of data, advocacy, capacity building, education and outreach were distributed.

Anne informed the Council that Jennifer Clarke will be leaving BIAV at the end of August to relocate with her husband who has accepted a new job. Paul made a motion commending Jennifer for her work on the federal TBI Act Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Anne announced that, for the next funding cycle beginning April 1, 2008, the federal TBI Act Grants will increase in funding amount to \$325,000 per grant, but the total number of grants to be funded will decrease to only 15, thus making it a very competitive process for the next award cycle. Patti provided an overview of the grant writing and application timeframe and reminded Council members that the funds can be used only for systems change; they cannot be used for direct services to individuals. She asked Council members to provide suggestions on how the funds could be used differently, perhaps for a targeted grant (e.g., focusing on housing, or veterans, or mental health issues). Paul Aravich suggested that elements of the Neurobehavioral “White Paper” be utilized to prepare a grant application. Terry Miles suggested that the grant focus on housing, as this is a major issue for survivors, sometimes not right away but it can become a problem down the road after an injury.

Patti stated that an independent program evaluation of Virginia’s federal TBI Act grant program is being conducted by consultant Gail Merridew as part of the federal grant’s “deliverables.” She distributed a survey, asking members to provide feedback and recommendations on the objectives and implementation of the grant activities. Surveys should be returned in the self-addressed envelopes by August 8, 2008. Patti also said that DRS Internal Audit was conducting the fiscal evaluation of the grant.

Anne asked for volunteers interested in serving on an ad hoc committee to provide input and guidance on the federal TBI Act Grant application. Helen Butler, Carole Norton, Gigi Szelesta, Tori Harding, and John Szelesta (nonCouncil member) will serve on the committee.

Neurobehavioral Committee Update

An Executive Summary of the VBIC “White Paper” on “Neurobehavioral Treatment for Virginians with Brain Injury” was distributed to members. Highlights of the document included the need for appropriate, accessible, and affordable treatment; the need for interagency collaboration; and an outline of a proposed demonstration project. Paul Aravich motioned that the Executive Summary of the “White Paper” be accepted; Helen Butler seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Anne thanked Paul for his leadership and tenacity in completing the document and announced that she had already provided the Commissioner with a copy.

Veterans Committee Update

A written report was distributed to members for review. Highlights included: the background of the newly hired Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and plans to hire three regional coordinators; the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program directing the Secretary of Defense to establish a national combat veteran reintegration program for National Guard members and their families; Virginia is For Heroes conference at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in the Fall; and the recent announcement by the Veterans Administration of plans to expand community-based outpatient clinics across the country including new clinics in Augusta County, Emporia and Wytheville.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Members learned of advocacy services offered to soldiers by Valerie Evans, Fort Lee Ombudsman. Valerie announced that every Army installation in the country (35) has a Wounded Warrior Ombudsman. Brochures were distributed to members.

Members learned of services available at the National Rehabilitation & Rediscovery Foundation from Marianne Talbot, Ph.D.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:

Anne McDonnell, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Helen Butler, Secretary to the Virginia Brain Injury Council