

**VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes**January 26, 2007****Prepared by Helen Butler, Secretary****Members Present:**

Marianna Abashian	Brain Injury Association of America
Paul Aravich, Ph.D	Eastern Virginia Medical School
Karen Brown	Brain Injury Services, Inc.
Donna Broshek, Ph.D.	University of Virginia Health Sciences Center
Nancy Bullock, RN	Virginia Department of Health
Helen Butler, RN	Brain Injury Services of SWVA
Gary Chiaverotti	Family member
Patti Goodall	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Page Melton	Family member
Anne McDonnell, MPA, OTR/L	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Carole Norton, PhD	Professional
Susan Rudolph, RN	The Arc of Greater Prince William
Gerald Showalter, Ph.D.	Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
Pat Wilkins	Family member
Jason Young	Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers
Nathan Zasler, M.D.	Tree of Life Services & Concussion Care Centre of VA

Members Absent:

Paul Blais	Survivor
Tia Campbell, RN, BSN, NCSN	Virginia Department of Education
Dane DeMoss	Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
Sandy Dyche	Survivor
Katherine Lawson	Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Michelle Nichols	McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center
Russell Payne	Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Substance Abuse Services
Paul Sharp, RN, NREMT-P	Virginia Department of Health
Julie Triplett	Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy
Nadia Webb, Psy.D.	Adult and Pediatric Neuropsychologist

Board Staff:

Kristie Chamberlain	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
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Guests:

Laura Anglin	Brain Injury Resource & Development Center, Inc.
Theresa Ashberry	Family Member
Christine Baggini	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Lauren Carter	Camp Bruce McCoy/Sheltering Arms Rehabilitation Hospital
Mary-Margaret Cash	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Jennifer Clarke	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Martha Cosgrove	Camp Bruce McCoy
Ann Deaton, Ph.D.	DaVinci Resources
Lorraine Justice	Brain Injury Association of Virginia

Kathleen Mancini
Commissioner Jim Rothrock
Lynn Scott
Juanita Thornton
Laura Schreffler
Susan Vaughan

Kelli Williams

Survivor
Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Brain Injury Resource & Development Center, Inc.
Tree of Life
Brain Injury Consultant, National Association of State
Head Injury Administrators
Virginia Commonwealth University

The Virginia Brain Injury Council meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Paul Aravich opened the meeting and announced that Patti Goodall and Anne McDonnell would be in and out of the meeting, as they were working on submitting the Continuation Application for Year 2 funding of Virginia's three-year Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act grant due by 5 p.m.

Public Comment:

Kathleen Mancini, survivor, shared her history of acquiring two brain injuries. She asked the Council for direction on how to go about improving the diagnostic process for persons with brain injury. Paul Aravich responded by encouraging the Council to look into the issue presented after the bylaws and mission process of the Council was completed.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

Donna Broshek made a motion to approve the October 27, 2006 meeting minutes; Pat Wilkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks from the DRS Commissioner

Commissioner Jim Rothrock provided the following updates and announcements:

- 1) The General Assembly (GA) is expected to complete business by February 25. The Brain Injury budget amendments are proceeding through committees in a positive direction. The Commissioner has received no inquiries from members of the GA regarding the amendments.
- 2) The DRS budget includes an increase of \$500,000 for case management services; improvements in Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center; emergency preparedness education, and improving the application process for Medicaid.
- 3) Mary-Margaret Cash, Director of Community Based Services, is working on disaster relief for Virginians with disabilities.
- 4) Dane DeMoss and Gerald Showalter, on behalf of Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, are working to establish an interface between the Center and the nine brain injury providers in the state funded network of community based providers.
- 5) The Commissioner is working with Anne McDonnell and Patti Goodall to learn how individuals with brain injury find their way through the system for services. Commissioner Rothrock recently learned a constituent from Ridgeway contacted her Senator for help rather than DRS even though her son receives DRS services. One part of this effort is to evaluate the effectiveness of the current Virginia Central Registry for Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury outreach approach (i.e., mailing a tri-fold brochure to every person reported to the Registry). The first step, according to the Commissioner, is to find out how individuals who are currently receiving services have gotten to those services. This would include whether the individual received an outreach mailer through the Registry and if this helped them to connect with services. Commissioner Rothrock hopes to use funding that may be unexpended by the state-funded programs prior to the

- end of the fiscal year for this study. The Commissioner wants the Council to assist in improving the “pathway” by which individuals access services in the Commonwealth.
- 6) The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee is working with DRS on a report addressing “access to brain injury services in the Commonwealth.” This will include identifying causes and prevalence of brain injuries, the array of community-based services in Virginia for individuals with brain injuries, the extent to which private insurance pays for brain injury services / treatment, and how other states have addressed the needs of individuals with brain injuries. Commissioner Rothrock stated that the role of DRS is to be a steward of state funds and to partner with community-based service providers to meet the identified needs of Virginians with brain injury.
 - 7) Council members, individuals with brain injury, and brain injury services providers are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Emergency Preparedness workshops. Kristie Chamberlain will distribute workshop dates via email to members.

The Commissioner presented awards to members whose terms were ending to recognize their service to the Virginia Brain Injury Council: Karen Brown, Donna Broshek, Nathan Zasler, MD, Pat Wilkins and Paul Aravich, PhD. Paul will be moving into the position of Immediate Past Chair and will remain on the Council in this officer position.

Paul Aravich then turned over the chairmanship of the Council meeting to incoming chair, Anne McDonnell. Since Anne was working with Patti Goodall to submit Virginia’s federal TBI Act grant by 5 p.m., she asked Paul to continue to chair the meeting, as she would be in and out of the meeting.

General Assembly Update

Paul Aravich stated that legislation to repeal the motorcycle helmet law was introduced by Delegate Janis of the Richmond/Goochland area. Delegate Abbott’s proposed legislation lowers the penalty for not wearing a helmet as required by law from \$250 to \$25 and eliminates demerits given to violators. These provisions are consistent with penalties for not wearing seat belts. The proposed legislation also allows for elimination of helmet use on scenic roads. Paul discussed the perilous nature of the proposals with Delegate Janis. Nathan Zasler, MD stated he had provided a lot of research data collected on the benefits of helmet usage to the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) and suggested BIAA provide data to the media.

Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers

Jason Young reported the Alliance is seeking a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) budget amendment to provide annual increases to state-funded brain injury services programs, to support the current infrastructure of the network established by the legislature. The amendment requests \$260,000 the first year and \$282,000 the second year. The Alliance’s annual Legislative Day will be held January 31 at the Assembly building, 5th floor from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and will be hosted by Delegate O’Bannon.

Virginia TBI Action Plan

Susan Vaughan was introduced as a former Director of Missouri’s Brain Injury Council and current Director of Public Policy for the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). Susan presented a framework for writing up a state action plan and answered questions on how other states’ councils are composed, how they operate, how members are appointed, etc.

Ann Deaton, Ph.D., was hired as a consultant by DRS to prepare an updated draft of Virginia’s current Brain Injury Action Plan. Dr. Deaton distributed surveys to assist her in framing the

successes of the current network of brain injury service providers, and providing areas that remain unaddressed by the current network of providers. The surveys will be available on the DRS website and also by contacting Patti Goodall.

Old Business

Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections Committee:

Susan Rudolph, Committee Chair, presented the slate of at-large membership positions to the Council for a vote. **Susan Rudolph, Committee Chair, made a motion to approve the slate of candidates for the open at-large membership positions; Page Melton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** The new members of the Council are Kelli Williams, Survivor; Micah Sherman, Survivor; Theresa Ashberry, Family Member; Scott Bender, Professional; and Jeannette Duval, Professional. The new members will begin their terms at the April 27 meeting.

By-laws Committee:

Pat Wilkins, Committee Chair, presented the bylaws revisions to the Council for a vote. **Pat Wilkins made a motion for approval of the revised bylaws as communicated to the membership ten (10) days prior to the meeting; Donna Broshek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Neurobehavioral Services Committee:

Paul Aravich, Committee Chair, announced that he will continue to chair this committee in the absence of any objections from the membership since he is still a member of the Council. Nathan Zassler announced he would continue to work on the committee even though he is rotating off the Council. The committee is scheduled to meet Saturday, February 10 in Richmond from 12-5 p.m. to focus on current systems of care. The committee is preparing a position paper for presentation to the Council and the DRS Commissioner.

Veterans Committee:

Anne McDonnell, Committee Chair, reported that the committee had made progress in the area of outreach. Anne sent a letter to Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and has received no response. Anne also contacted Becky Fox, Director of VISN 6 (Veteran's Integrated Service Network for the mid-Atlantic region), but has not received a return call yet. Gary Chiaverotti announced that a documentary titled, "Survive, Thrive and Alive" was produced with funds provided by the Department of Veterans with Brain Injury program and is streaming it on Pentagon TV. Gary offered to take orders for copies. Paul requested copies of the DVD for committee members.

Council Composition Committee:

Page Melton, Committee Chair, will distribute a survey asking members to suggest ideas for the best "make-up" of the Virginia Brain Injury Council; surveys will be due Tuesday, January 30. The committee is chaired by Page Melton and consists of Karen Brown, Susan Rudolph, Anne McDonnell and Patti Goodall. The committee is also looking into how other state advisory committees are comprised.

Federal TBI Act Grant Update

Jennifer Clarke, the Statewide Resource Coordinator for the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (a position funded by the federal grant), reviewed the goals of Virginia's federal TBI Act grant with the Council:

Data Goal:

- The Brain Injury Association of Virginia is working with DRS to improve the collection and analysis of statewide data.
- BIAV will submit questions to the BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey) during the next call for proposal in August 2007.

Advocacy Goal:

- BIAV is finalizing the Advocacy Academy program with the Regional Resource Coordinators and the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA); first training will be in March 2007.
- BIAV met with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) in December to provide an overview of the organization, including history and current activities.

Capacity Building Goal:

- A process is in place for revision of Virginia's State Brain Injury Action Plan; it is scheduled to be completed and presented to the VBIC at the April meeting. .
- BIAV is working to strengthen relationships with policymakers by meeting with delegates and senators to educate them about the incidence and treatment / service needs of Virginians with brain injury.

Education Goal:

- BIAV has donated over 150 specialized materials to professionals about pediatric concerns and about domestic violence.
- To date this grant year, BIAV has educated over 230 professionals through in-services and presentations.
- BIAV Annual Conference in November 2006 had over 100 attendees.
- BIAV is working with the Education Coordinator at the McGuire VA Hospital to set up a Resource Library for veterans and their families in the Polytrauma Unit.

Outreach Goal:

- A VCU professor is having his Spanish classes translate BIAV materials into Spanish.
- BIAV has built relationships with persons in the Hispanic community so that BIAV can easily disperse materials once they are translated.
- Contact has been made with the Virginia Council on Indians and they have dispersed information about brain injuries to approximately 175 people. Lorraine Justice (Regional Resource Coordinator) and Jennifer Clarke will work with individual tribes this year.

Nathan Zasler suggested to Jennifer Clarke that "how to talk with healthcare professionals" should be included in the advocacy goal.

Before turning the chairmanship of the meeting back to Anne McDonnell, Paul Aravich encouraged the Council to look into reporting to the Governor rather than the DRS Commissioner because the scope of brain injury expands beyond the area of rehabilitation and the Governor's office touches a broader audience.

Anne McDonnell adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Butler, RN
Secretary