

Virginia Brain Injury Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes DRAFT
January 22, 2010

Members Present:

Carole Norton, Ph.D.	Professional, Chair
Kelli Williams Gary, Ph.D	Survivor, Vice Chair
Jason Young	Professional, Secretary
Lisa Garvey	Professional
Theresa Ashberry	Family Member
Michelle Witt	VA Alliance of Brain Injury Service
Providers	
Jeff Carpenter	Survivor
Gerald Showalter, Ph.D.	Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation
Center	
Scott Bender, Ph.D.	University of Virginia
Patricia Goodall	Virginia Department of
Rehabilitative Services	
Mark Salisbury	Family member
Anne McDonnell	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Tori Harding	Lakeview Healthcare Systems
Linda Redmond, Ph.D.	Virginia Board for People with
Disabilities	
Jeffrey Sherman	Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Terry Miles	Survivor

Members Absent:

Leigh Wion	High Street Clubhouse
Julie Triplett	Virginia Office of Protection and
Advocacy	
Russell Payne	
	Virginia Department of Behavioral
	Health and Development Disabilities
Paul Sharpe	Virginia Department of Health
Nancy Bullock	Virginia Department of Health
Alan Towne, M.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University
Brian Shenal, Ph.D.	Salem VAMC
Jenny Toth	Brain Injury Association of America

Other in Attendance:

Mary-Margaret Cash	Department of Rehabilitative
Services	
Barbara Seymour	Department of Medical Assistant
Services	
Kristie Chamberlain	DRS, Staff to the Council
Elizabeth Nicholls Williford	Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Kristy Joplin	Brain Injury Association of Virginia

CONVENING OF THE MEETING

Carole Norton, Ph.D., Chair, called the meeting of the Virginia Brain Injury Council meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 23, 2009 were distributed and reviewed. **Mark Salisbury made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Kelli Gary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting Agenda: The agenda for the January 22, 2010 meeting was reviewed and discussed. **Anne McDonnell made a motion to accept the agenda as presented; Mark Salisbury seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment:

There was no public comment given during the Public Comment period.

Presentation of Certificates: James Rothrock, DRS Commissioner, presented certificates of appreciation to Theresa Ashberry and Scott Bender for their service to the Virginia Brain Injury Council. Theresa and Scott finish their three year terms in March 2010.

Commissioner remarks:

- Governor Kaine added \$200,000 language correction to his budget, which brings the budget language in accordance with the actual budgetary figures for funding of the Brain Injury Services contracts.
- Governor Kaine included a proposed 5% budget reduction for brain injury services. While the House of Delegates rejected Governor Kaine's budget, given the economic environment and the \$4 billion dollar budget deficit, future cuts remain a possibility when the General Assembly and Governor McDonnell put together their final state budget.
- Dr. William Hazel has been appointed by Governor McDonnell as the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.
- Governor McDonnell is emphasizing job creation and efficiency and effectiveness of state government, so DRS as a state agency is paying closer attention to these areas. Commissioner Rothrock requested that everyone keep these goals in mind and to work in partnership with DRS.
- Governor McDonnell signed Executive Order 2 which commissions a twenty person gubernatorial-appointed citizen panel to look at all of state government agencies and operations and make recommendations. The panel will convene through the end of 2010.
- The Commissioner encouraged individual, non-profits, and advocacy organizations to continue to advocate for brain injury funding and services but reminded Council members that they could not "advocate" or "lobby" as a representative of the Virginia Brain Injury Council – but as citizens only.

Michelle Witt, Acting Chair of the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers (VABISP), asked the Commissioner for assistance in helping to restart the state level crisis

work group which was spearheaded by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities (DBHDS). The work group has not met since July and cancelled the planned meeting in October. The Commissioner said that since there is a new Governor, new Secretary of the Office of Health and Human Resources (OHHR), and new acting DBHDS Commissioner, he advises that we let them get settled into their new roles and then re-approach the work group in a few months (March). The Commissioner will write a welcome letter once a new commissioner is appointed officially at DBHDS that mentions the work group and the brain injury community's desire for it to continue.

New Business

Legislative Items of Interest: Michelle Witt of VABISP updated the Council on its current legislative agenda, which is an endorsement of the one developed by the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV). There are three primary issues:

1. No reductions to brain injury funding in the FY 11-12 state budget.
2. A request for a \$321,854 budget amendment to bring several core "safety net" services up to base funding levels established by the General Assembly. Delegate Onzlee Ware and Senator Ralph Northram have agreed to patron this budget amendment.
3. A request that the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) conduct a follow-up study on behavioral health issues in Virginia. Anne McDonnell, BIAV Executive Director met with Phil Leone, the Director of JLARC, about doing a "short paper" this summer on the state's critical need for neurobehavioral health issues for people with brain injury. JLARC has asked the Alliance for specific questions that they would like them to study, as well as an estimate of the number of individuals who are in need of short-term crisis services and long-term residential placement due to complex neurobehavioral issues. BIAV is working with VABISP and the Brain Injury Services (BIS) providers to reach consensus by June 1st on the "primary issue" to be addressed by the JLARC study, as well as determine the number of people in need.

Other brain injury related bills:

The Alliance is supporting Senate Bill 652 sponsored by Senator Ralph Northram that sets standards for high school athletes that sustain concussions, as well as mandates education for coaches and players on sports concussion in high school athletics. The Brain Injury Association of Virginia is listed in the bill as one of the organizations with whom the Board of Education shall be required to work.

HB 85 patroned by Delegate Robert Marshall involves education of the public regarding the value of umbilical cord blood preservation. HB 411, patroned by Delegate Oder, would require education and distribution of information on shaken baby syndrome. BIAV supports both bills, and is following them closely.

"Brain Injury Awareness Day," co-sponsored by BIAV and VABISP, will be held at the General Assembly from 9-11:00 a.m. on February 10. BIAV and VABISP anticipate that

several busloads of survivors and advocates will attend this year. BIAV has secured an additional room this year to “brief” survivors, family members, and other advocates on the issues to discuss during their legislative visits that day.

Brain Injury Awareness/Sports Concussion: Anne McDonnell briefed the Council on the ongoing focus on sports concussion and brain injury, including the long-term consequences of multiple concussions – particularly when an athlete is not allowed to recover from a concussion before returning to play. Anne told the Council about a visit to Virginia Tech to preview their new helmet technology which actually measures the force with which a player’s head is hit. Brain Injury Awareness and Sports Concussion is the focus of BIAV’s activities for Brain Injury Awareness Month in March.

Appointment of By-Laws Committee: Carole Norton, Ph.D., Chair, discussed the appointment of a By-Laws Committee. Discussion ensued. A decision was made not to appoint a By-Laws Committee at this time.

Old Business

Nominations and Elections Committee: The Nominations and Elections Committee convened a meeting via phone conference in early January 2010. The Committee submitted a slate that included two candidates for survivor/family member/caregiver category, and two candidates for licensed/registered/certified health professional category. The Council unanimously approved the slate which per Council bylaws, will be presented to the DRS Commissioner for his final approval. When the new Nominations and Elections Committee is convened in July, the first order of business will be to look at the application form to see whether demographic, geographic, and ethnic information should be added to the application. Staff to the Council will present the new committee with various templates of a form, as a starting point for its consideration.

Status Report on Federal TBI Act Grant: “Closing the Gap”: Patti Goodall gave an update on DRS’ Federal TBI Grant progress as the end of Year One of the four-year grant approaches (March 31, 2010). Patti is in the process of hiring a “Federal Grant Program Specialist” at DRS Central Office to oversee the implementation of the activities of the grant, as well as to assure that goals/objectives are met, required reports submitted, etc. Page Melton, spouse of a survivor, current member of the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board (and past member of VBIC) has agreed to serve as an unpaid advisor in the Federal grant “Family Ombudsman” role; Christine Baggini of BIAV is serving as the paid “Family Ombudsman” as the person who provides Information & Referral and other family-related services. Kristy Joplin of BIAV distributed the first year, 3rd quarter report to the Council and briefed the Council on the report.

Elizabeth Nicholls Williford, from Virginia Commonwealth University, was invited to the Council meeting to provide an update on a Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund three-year grant awarded to VCU in the amount of \$447,728 to work with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) on “*Best Practices Model for Incarcerated Youth with Brain Injury.*” This CNI grant serves as required state cash match to the Federal TBI Grant, fulfilling one of the Federal grant’s main goals to

address issues of youth with brain injury entering the juvenile justice system. Ms. Nicholls Williford shared with the Council that the grant was funded to identify the prevalence of brain injury among incarcerated juveniles, identify and describe their needs, and recommend best practices to reduce recidivism and maximize opportunities for independent and adaptive community living.

Brain Injury Action Plan 2009-2013 Update: Patti Goodall and Anne McDonnell provided an update on the Brain Injury Action Plan, 2009-2013. An Executive Summary has been written, along with a six-page, "user friendly" manual, both of which were distributed at previous VBIC meetings and are also available on-line at DRS website. The Action Plan document itself is written, but needs to be edited and refined before it can be released publicly.

Patti also provided information on the VBIC Neurobehavioral Services Committee's "white paper" on the needs of people with challenging neurobehavioral issues. Final edits are nearly complete and the document will be included as an addendum to the Action Plan, as it is one of the areas targeted for "action." The Action Plan will be finalized by the end of the first year of the Federal Grant, which is March 31, 2010.

Review of Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items: An orientation session will be held for new Council members at 11:30 a.m. just prior to the next meeting on April 23, 2010. Staff to the Council will be sending information out to Council members on the orientation session in the coming weeks.

Additionally, there will be an invited speaker at the April 23, 2010 Council meeting as part of the effort to provide at least one "educational" event per year for Council members. Council members should e-mail any ideas for educational topics or speakers by February 10th to Kristie Chamberlain at kristie.chamberlain@drs.virginia.gov.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Council will be Friday, April 23, 2010 from 1-4:00 p.m. at the Richmond Central Office of the Department of Rehabilitative Services offices, Conference Rooms 101-103-105. The orientation session will begin at 11:30 on that day. If current members are interested in attending the orientation as refresher, they should e-mail Kristie Chamberlain.

The October meeting is currently scheduled to take place at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. A Council member asked if the WWRC meeting could be held in July instead, due to fog on Afton Mountain in the Fall. Staff indicated they would check with WWRC to see if space is available. Staff will update the Council via e-mail once this has been completed.

Anne McDonnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kelli Gary seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.