

THI/SCI TRUST FUND
QUARTERLY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
August 13, 2015

Attending Board Members: Stephanie Patrick, Andrew Kuyoro, Mark Martin, Mike Chafetz, Sherlyn Sullivan proxy for Anne Olivier.

Agency Staff: Allison Vuljoin proxy for Tara LeBlanc (Interim Assistant Secretary of DHH/OAAS), Alicia Smith, Joalanda Conley, Ryan Romero proxy for Kim Sullivan.

Public: None.

Call To Order. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Kuyoro.

Introductions. Board members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes. Everyone reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on May 14, 2015. The Board agreed that there were no changes to be made to the May 14, 2015 minutes. Mike Chafetz made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Mark Martin and approved.

Resource Center Updates - BIALA

Catherine Howard had a flat tire on the way and was not present at the meeting. No information given to report.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Financial Report – Sherlyn Sullivan

The Financial summary reports shows 2014 Carry forward of \$118,358.70, State General Funds of \$237,640.30 and YTD Collections of \$1,658,197.85. Dr. Chafetz asked about the difference in the monthly collections and Sherlyn explained that we have no control on collections. Some municipals pay each month while others pay every two-three months, quarterly, or yearly. Stephanie inquired about municipals not paying if we've been in touch with them. Sherlyn and Joalanda explained that we have sent notices out to let them know about the program and bylaws to pay from the collections they receive from DWI, Speeding and Reckless Operations tickets. Majority of the municipals are paying according to their fines collected where there are very few not paying or is handled by another entity.

Program Status – Alicia Smith

Currently, there are 689 with 75 pending clients actively receiving services through the THSCI Trust Fund program. The waiting list has decreased due to the new procedures being there is approximately 243 people on the wait list. This quarter we received a total of 24 new applicants (14 SCI, 2 TBI/SCI, and 8 TBI). Alicia explained that those applicants not reached goes inactive and if they happen to contact us about their case we request for updates and depending on funds case gets open or return to waiting list. Andrew asked about an increase in the new of applicants we have. Alicia explained it fluctuates based off the new of cases we open so the waiting list is going down with the new procedures. Alicia explained that we are assessing their needs and getting them met sooner rather than later. Stephanie asked if we are seeing people we are not able to serve, if we are prioritizing them or no funds available. Alicia stated we are not prioritizing the clients, it is still on a first come, first served

basis. We are going in assessing the client's needs and addressing them and move along to the next. If the client has a need, we get a quote/estimate and set the funds aside for them to have for ongoing needs. Andrew asked if denied clients get appeals and Alicia explained that they are given the opportunity to appeal the decision. If it is based off their doctor putting them "medically unstable", the client has the right and opportunity to get another Medical Eligibility form completed to see why their doctor declared them "unstable". If not stable or have a TBI/SCI injury, it's not much they can appeal against being that's part of the eligibility for the program.

HCR 133 – Allison Vuljoin

Sherlyn stated that everyone was present during the last board meeting to know what the HCR 133 is about. Allison discussed the draft and explained to the board that we must come to agreement with response. She will send to Alicia to send copy to board members for review and prepare response by the November board meeting. Dr. Chatefz and Allison will collaborate together and he will send her some data. Andrew questioned if the same program exist in other states. Alicia stated that it's about 20 states that have the program and will get information to Allison. Allison explained that the response is going to the legislation, but no need to testify or a hearing. This response is just to provide information to Rep. Schexnayder about the program as far as who is eligible and what the program provide to applicants.

Other. Alicia Smith mention about nominations for Board members. There are currently four vacant positions on the Board to fill now due Paul Bosworth resigned 08/11/15, which are a Representative of an organization recognized for its work in advocacy programs for persons with a head injury, a Survivor of a Traumatic Head Injury, a Family Member of a Survivor of a Traumatic Head Injury and Survivor of a Spinal Cord Injury.

Alicia discussed software from AWARE that they are still working with Mark to get the system. They talked about getting a copy of the software and THSCI have it tweaked to meet our needs. Mark explained that it needs to be resolved to say if we get our own system or enter into a cost allocation so that THSCI pay for the program they use.

Stephanie asked about the RFI she seen online. Alicia explained that yes we are looking for new case management for Regions 1 and 9. ABC Case Management decided to end their contract effective September 1, 2015. In the meantime, Joalanda will cover those regions until an agency is placed.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Advisory Board Appeal Hearing. The Board went into Executive Session. Anne Olivier was present on the phone for the appeal hearings.

Adjourn. Andrew Kuyoro adjourned the meeting to go into Executive Session.

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS
August 13, 2015 and begins at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
70806.**

Respectfully submitted,
Joalanda Conley, Admin. Coord.

2015 Dates for TH/SCI Trust Fund Board Meetings*

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

~~February 12, 2015~~

~~May 14, 2015~~

~~August 13, 2015~~

November 12, 2015

***PACE, located at 7436 Bishop Ott Dr, Baton Rouge 70806. Conference room has been reserved for all 2015 meetings.**