

**THI/SCI TRUST FUND  
QUARTERLY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
February 13, 2014**

**Attending Board Members:** Ken Alexander, Andrew Kuyoro, Paul Harch, Anne Olivier, Mark Martin, Representative Scott Simon, Henry Bateman, Paul Bosworth and Stephanie Patrick.

**Agency Staff:** Hugh Eley, Robin Wagner, Alicia Smith, Valencia Roberts, Sherlyn Sullivan, Kim Sullivan.

**Public:** Tommy Lotz and Mike Freeman

**Call To Order.** The meeting was called to order by Ken Alexander.

**Introductions.** Board members and everyone else in attendance introduced themselves.

**Minutes.** Everyone reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on August 8, 2013. No formal meeting was held in November 2013, due to there not being a quorum; therefore, no minutes were recorded. The Board agreed that there were no changes to be made to the August 2013 minutes. Paul Harch made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Anne Olivier and approved.

**Resource Center Updates - BIALA**

BIALA's Executive Director, Tommy Lotz gave updates on the Resource Center. Updates included handouts with information on the helpline call logs and community outreach activities from January 2014 and the Resource Center Marketing Plan for September 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014. There are several support group meetings held throughout the month. These and other activities are provided by the Resource Center's toll-free helpline, website and Resource Directory with information to the community for traumatic head and spinal cord injury survivors.

**Board Members: Term Limits – Kenneth Alexander**

Carol Harbo's, Andrew Kuyoro's and John "Jay" Lyles' terms have been reached. Some other members' terms will be met within the upcoming quarter. Jay has notified us that he will not be renewing his term due to time restraints and scheduling with his current job. Carol sent an email stating that she has some nominations and Alicia Smith will check on those for Jay's position. Paul Bosworth and Stephanie Patrick should be filling the current vacant spots on the Board for the advocacy programs for head and spinal cord injuries once all paperwork is finalized and received by the board applicants. Kenneth made a motion to re-nominate Carol, Andrew and Henry Bateman another term for their current positions on the Board. Mark seconded and all was in favor.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **Financial Report and 2014 Budget – Alicia Smith.**

There was concern about the different amounts in November and December. There was a decrease in November but an increase in December. Statistically, drinking and driving occurs much more around the holidays than other times of the year. Therefore, this may have caused the increase. There is also the possibility that the fee deposits from the municipalities were held and not sent in until the end of the year. No money has been expended yet for the computer system project. In the past, Ken has suggested that we consider the company Comtec for the building of the computer system; however, depending on the cost of it, we may not need an RFP.

### **Program Update – Alicia Smith.**

Currently, there are 664 clients actively receiving services through the THSCI Trust Fund program. There are 273 individuals on the waiting list and 42 applications received in the last quarter with no denials.

### **Legislation**

The Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury (THSCI) Trust Fund Program's definition of "spinal cord injury" is being addressed for amendment. Upon the Board's unanimous approval, the definition will be amended to: "...an insult to the spinal cord, not of a degenerative or congenital nature, but caused by an external physical force resulting in **evidence of significant involvement of two of the following deficits or dysfunctions: paraplegia or quadriplegia. a. Motor deficit; b. Sensory deficit; c. Bowel and bladder dysfunction.**

There are some concerns about the amended definition being subjective and whether there have been any issues with the current definition. Ken made a motion to turn the discussion regarding the THSCI's program criteria into a study resolution pending a more thorough Board committee investigation and recommendation; seconded by Representative Simon. All eight (8) Board members present were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Waiting List Priority – Alicia Smith.**

There have been on-going concerns about prioritizing the waiting list, it was recommended to no longer use the approach of first applied first served, but to serve individuals whose injury occurred within a more current timeframe such as the last 18 months. However, there are also concerns regarding those individuals who have been on the list quite some time already. Kim Sullivan stated that an effective date can be decided upon and we make notification of new procedures effective that date. Hugh Eley mentioned that the intent of the program is to assist individuals in great need. The greatest time of need when an individual is injured resulting with a TBI and/or SCI is when it first occurs. We can still honor those already on the waiting list but as new applications are received, they will be prioritized according to date of injury. The budget will be researched as well to make sure it can accommodate the number of cases opened. Paul Harch made a motion to table the discussion regarding prioritizing the waiting list until the next meeting. Seconded by Mark Martin; all was in favor and the motion passed.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**Advisory Board Appeal Hearing.** The Board voted to go into Executive Session.

**Adjourn.** Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Harch and approved.

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS  
May 15, 2014 and begins at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr., Baton  
Rouge, LA 70806.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Valencia Roberts, Admin. Prog. Spec.

**2014 Dates for TH/SCI Trust Fund Board Meetings\*  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**~~February 13, 2014~~  
May 15, 2014  
August 28, 2014  
November 13, 2014**

**\*PACE, located at 7436 Bishop Ott Dr, Baton Rouge 70806. Conference room has been reserved for all 2014 meetings.**