

9THI/SCI TRUST FUND

QUARTERLY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

November 10, 2016

Attending Board Members: Andrew Kuyoro, Mark Martin, Anne Olivier, John Fanning, Michael Chafetz, Hazel Odom, Paul Harch, Gary Matherne, Stephanie Patrick, **Senator Dan Claitor**

Agency Staff: Alicia Smith, Anastasia Webb, Sherlyn Sullivan, Ryan Romero, Rebecca Clement

Contractors: Kimberly Hill

Public: None

Call to Order. Andrew Kuyoro called the meeting to order.

Introductions. Board members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes. Everyone reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on November 10, 2016. Gary Matherne made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Mark Martin and approved.

Resource Center Updates – BIALA Kimberly presented everyone with documentation showing the call log and the brochure for the conference that is coming up in March. Kimberly stated that BIALA receives 30 calls a month and that she tries her best to follow up with callers if she refers them to someone to make sure that they received the resources that they needed. Since June BIALA has been working on a new website and the website went live in October. It went from 500 hits to 2,100 hits. Kimberly stated that the website has received a lot of positive feedback and that people have been utilizing that “contact us” button that is on the website. Kimberly stated that BIALA has been encouraging people to use the website and to complete the online forms for help. Kimberly stated that BIALA is planning a conference in March of 2017. Kimberly read the feedback from the previous conference and found that many survivors stopped attending the conference because they felt that it was professionally based. Kimberly stated that in March they would offer a track for professionals and a track for survivors and caregivers.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Financial Report – Alicia pointed out that we collected \$552,731.98 so far this year. Stephanie asked if the Trust Fund has Case Managers throughout the state now. Alicia stated that two Case Management contracts for Regions 2 & 4 will be finalized shortly. Alicia stated that Anastasia has been acting as the Case Managers for Regions 2 & 4 and that she is trained and certified to complete the MDS assessment. Mark Martin stated that he read in the newspaper

that the Division of Administration has asked the state agencies to come up with different scenarios for mid-year budget cuts. Mark asked would the Trust Fund be included in Mid-Year budget cuts. Alicia stated that Sherlyn could answer that question better. Sherlyn stated that they have come up with no less than eight scenarios regarding budget cuts. She stated that some days THSCI is on the list for budget cuts and some days they are not. Sherlyn stated that right now THSCI is off the table but that could change any day. Mark Martin pointed out that the Trust Fund experienced statutorily dedicated funds being swept in the past. Sherlyn assured everyone that she is making sure that does not happen and there is nothing there to sweep since funds are being collected and spent at about the same rate. Sherlyn stated that she has learned her lesson in the past so now she is making sure the funds in THSCI program are spent. Stephanie asked Sherlyn if she knows when they will make the announcements regarding the cuts and Sherlyn said she does not know for sure but Louisiana Department of Health has a big meeting at the State Capitol on December 7, 2016. Dr. Chafetz stated that expenses are out running collections and Sherlyn pointed out that they did have \$288,000 in carry over money from the previous year and that THSCI is trying to spend to keep the funds from being taken. Senator Claitor stated that maybe the funds should be published so that people would know how the funds are being spent. Sherlyn agreed and said that is why she is happy Senator Claitor is on the Board and that the Trust Fund needs an advocate. Senator Claitor asked are the meetings recorded; and if so, how? Alicia stated that a voice recorder is used. Stephanie asked Alicia if the Trust Fund is still trying to get their own computer system. Alicia stated that it is off the table for now and that the Trust Fund is still using the Aware system through LRS. Alicia stated the Trust Fund is still looking and they are back at ULL. Andrew asked if anyone had any questions regarding the financial report. There were no further questions.

Program Status – Alicia Smith

Currently the Trust Fund is serving 674 individuals with a waiting list of 270 and 25 new applicants in the last quarter. We have two applicants with both a TBI and SCI, six with a TBI and twelve with an SCI. In the last quarter, we have had seven denials for services. Three of the denials were from the plans that were submitted. One of the denials was for PCA hours. The amount of \$416 was approved but the client's mother submitted a receipt for \$1,000. A request for a washer and dryer was denied because it did not relate to the injury. We had four applicants that were denied, three of which did not meet the definition of the program. Mark Martin stated that two individuals reached out to him and would need immediate help from the Trust Fund. Mark asked the board if there was ever a decision made on taking individuals who need immediate assistance and moving them to the top of the waiting list. Alicia stated that the Board did discuss it in the past but a decision was never made. Alicia stated that the program is on a first come first served basis. Andrew stated that it maybe something the Board should consider again. Alicia stated that the MDS assessment was implemented when their case is first opened so the Trust Fund can meet their immediate needs and then move on to the next individual. Mike Chafetz asked Alicia if she could explain what the assessment is to the new

Board Members. Alicia stated that the other programs in OAAS use the Minimum Data Set (MDS) for home care. Alicia stated that it is a proven technique that was developed by the University of Michigan. The MDS covers all areas of the individual's life for example, daily living, dental, incontinence, etc. Stephanie asked how long the waiting list is right now. Alicia stated that cases from 2013 has been opened and now we are waiting to open 2014 cases. Sherlyn stated that the Trust Fund is still hoping to open 2014 cases this year. Alicia stated that when she received the program in 2010 the waiting list had over 500 hundred individuals so the current waiting list is a big improvement. Dr. Chafetz asked how many years behind is the waiting list and Alicia said two. Dr. Harch asked how many new applicants the Trust Fund receives in a year. Alicia stated that the Trust Fund receives approximately 20 applications a quarter.

Other. Andrew asked Alicia if we have vacancies on the Advisory Board. Alicia stated that we have one applicant for the Spinal Cord Injury Survivor but he has to get an opinion from The Board of Ethics. Alicia stated that the applicant is a current participant in the Trust Fund but is willing to give that up his spot to become a member of the Board. Even though he is willing to give up his spot on the Trust Fund, Alicia stated that we need an opinion from the Board of Ethics before he does. Dr. Harch asked if the participant resigns, why should he have to get an opinion from the Board of Ethics. Sherlyn stated that THSCI Trust Fund wants to consult with Ethics to make sure it is okay that he can resign from the program to be a Board member. Sherlyn stated that today is Dr. Harch's last board meeting. Andrew thanked Dr. Harch for his service and his dedication to the Trust Fund. Andrew stated that his heart is extremely heavy since Dr. Harch has to leave but he appreciates him and asked everyone to give Dr. Harch a round of applause. Dr. Harch thanked everyone and stated the reason why he is leaving the Board is that he has a lot on his plate. Anne assured Dr. Harch that he would be missed. Dr. Harch suggested that Alicia should contact the local Medical Societies to fill his position. Andrew asked Senator Claitor to introduce himself. Senator Claitor stated that he is happy to be a part of the Board and appreciates the opportunity.

Public Comment. None

Advisory Board Appeal Hearing.

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

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS
February 9, 2017 and begins at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr., Baton Rouge, La
70806**

Respectfully submitted,
Anastasia Webb, Admin. Coordinator

2017 Dates for TH/SCI Trust Fund Board Meetings*

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

~~February 9, 2017~~

May 11, 2017

August 10, 2017

November 9, 2017

***PACE, located at 7436 Bishop Ott Dr. Baton Rouge, La 70806. Conference room has been reserved for all 2016 meetings.**