

THI/SCI TRUST FUND
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 7, 2019

Attending Board Members: Andrew Kuyoro, Beth Arredondo, Jessica Mott, Michael Chafetz, John Fanning, Sherlyn Sullivan, Dan Claitor, Gary Matherne, Larry Bagley, Melissa Bayham, Ken Alexander

Agency Staff: Tonia Gedward, Tara LeBlanc, Ayanna Wilson

Contractors: Kimberly Hill

Public: None

Call to Order: Andrew Kuyoro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions: Board Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on November 8, 2018. Andrew asked if anyone had any comments about the minutes. The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Financial Report – Sherlyn stated there was nothing new in the financial report. Tonia stated the report will be attached to the minutes.

Program Status – Tonia Gedward

- Current Eligible Participants
 - Currently the Trust Fund is serving 634 participants as of today.
 - Since the last board meeting, the program added 13 new eligible participants.
- Waitlist Applicant Update
 - As of 2/27/19, there are 159 applicants remaining on the waitlist.
 - We are currently reviewing 2016 waitlist applicants for eligibility. There were 75 waitlist applicants in 2016. Of the 75 applicants, nine are eligible for the program, 18 are not eligible, and 48 are still on the waitlist, pending review.
- Tonia stated she has developed a plan for 2017 and 2018 applicants. For 2017, there is not a huge number of applicants. The 2017 waitlist applicant review will begin in July of 2019. We will review 2018 waitlist applicants

next year in two phases. She stated reviewing 70 application is too much for the case managers at one time. She stated approximately 40 applications is feasible for 6 months. Andrew suggested Tonia give the board a chart showing how many applicants for each year. Charts will allow the board to have a visual idea of the program status. Tonia stated she would try to include it in the minutes. Beth suggested adding non-eligible as well as eligible applicants.

Current THSCI Waitlist as of 2/27/19				
	Waitlist Eligible	Program Eligible	Waitlist Ineligible	Total Appl Received
2016	48	9	19	76
2017	47	0	8	55
2018	57	0	13	70
2019	7	0	3	10
Totals	159	9	43	211

Waitlist Ineligible Overview as of 2/27/19				
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Decline Services	1	-	-	-
Not a Resident	2	2	3	-
Deceased	3	1	-	-
Requested Info Not Rec'd	1	-	-	-
Unable to Locate	8	-	-	-
No TB/SCI	-	2	4	2
Previous Program Participant	-	-	-	1
Unstable	-	3	1	-
Will Not Improve	4	-	5	-
Total	19	8	13	3

- Forms and Policy
 - We have updated the THSCI forms and policy to reflect the changes in the rules.
- Program Highlights
 - We continue to have bi-weekly meetings with the THSCI case managers, which helps with process improvement. We have improved

several of our internal processes and we continue to streamline others. One of our new goals is to focus on customer service. Since we've made changes to the program and strengthened communication with case managers, vendors and participants, we have fewer complaints regarding the program, payments and the case managers. We are continuing to build stronger relationships with our vendors as well.

- Since our last meeting, my staff and I have received and reviewed 141 Participant Service Plans and processed 293 payments.
- We've identified the non-paying Municipalities and sent them letters. We have received some phone calls regarding possible discrepancies. Nikki is researching and we will be addressing our findings with the municipalities in the upcoming weeks.
- Forthcoming
 - We have a brain injury participant who requested an Advisory Board Review a few days ago. The participant's mother is having trouble finding a doctor who's willing to complete the medical eligibility form because the participant was three at the time of the injury. The doctor, nor the hospital can find his medical records. His current family physician said she did not diagnose him and refused to complete the form as well. I explained to her that we need his current state as of today so as long as he's seeing a physician regarding his injury now, they can give us his current state. If she's unable to get the form completed, the review will be held during our next Advisory Board meeting in May.
 - Tonia will email all information ahead of time so the Board can review before the next Board meeting.

Andrew asked Tonia if any research was done on the mission statement. Tonia stated she did not research it because at the last meeting we decided to table it. She stated that if we do find differences in what we cover and other states cover, we can't change it yet. Andrew stated we still need to do the research to see what we come up with. Andrew asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the program.

Other Business

BIALA – Kimberly Hill

- Highlights
 - Resource Center continues to be the main focus. There is a 24 hour hotline in which Kimberly manage.
 - The website was recently redone but will have to be redone again due to the platform that hosts the website will no longer be hosting.
 - They continue to do outreach in the state.
 - BIALA was able to help a Brain Injury participant within a week to purchase a power wheelchair, ramp and a bench for the bathtub.
 - There was a retreat with the Board of Directors redefining their mission in order to grow the organization and offer more services to people around the state. They want to focus on five key things for the organization. Also looking at grants and other opportunities to help fund the organization.
 - Reached out to people around the state that have contact with people with brain and spinal cord injuries to see what their needs are. They created a group called Community Connections which connects individuals with brain and spinal injuries so that they know there is a support system and hope out there.
 - When visiting the hospitals Kimberly speaks with the Case Managers giving them packets with information about BIALA and the Trust Fund. Since June 2018 she has visited with 900 facilities. She has focused on the rural areas in the last two months.
 - Annual conference on 3/29-30/2019 at the Crowne Plaza in Kenner, LA. Tonia will be a speaker at the conference. There will be a resource table.
 - She asked if anyone has ideas for a place to host the unmasked exhibit.
 - Unveiling their newsletter.
 - State Date at the Capitol will be on June 5, 2019.
 - BIALA is looking to expand their Board of Directors. They are looking for board members outside the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area. Also looking for key positions and creating an Advisory board.

Sherlyn stated we are still looking for a spinal cord injury survivor that is interested in being on our THSCI board. She stated if anyone knows of someone who is interested to let her know.

Public Comment – None

Andrew asked if anyone had any questions or comments. It was asked if the minutes could be emailed with the invite to the board meeting.

The meeting was adjourn at 10:47 a.m.

THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS:

May 9, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Note: Attached is a snapshot of TBI and SCI programs in other states. We can discuss at the next board meeting.