

THI/SCI TRUST FUND
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

August 9, 2018

Attending Board Members: Andrew Kuyoro, Beth Arredondo, Jessica Mott, Michael Chafetz, John Fanning, Kenneth York, Dan Claitor, Larry Bagley and Sherlyn Sullivan

Agency Staff: Tonia Gedward, Anastasia Webb, Ayanna Wilson

Contractors: Kimberly Hill

Public: None

Call to Order: Andrew Kuyoro called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Introductions: Board Members and others in attendance introduced themselves. Sherlyn Sullivan announced she has replaced Anne Olivier on the Board. Ken York informed the Board that the new director of LRS is scheduled to start on Monday, August 13, 2018.

Minutes: Due to the board not having a quorum in May, Tonia stated the minutes were unofficial and there were no minutes to approve.

Andrew asked that we address the issue of attendance. He stated to have a quorum is very important. He urged everyone to dedicate themselves to attending the meeting. He stated we will reach out to the board members that were not there to inform them of the importance of attending the meetings. Andrew opened the discussion to the board asking how we can improve attendance. Sherlyn stated we spend about a month sending invitations and reaching out to make sure everyone is coming. However, on the day of the meeting some are still not able to attend. Andrew suggested to send an email invite as a reminder of the meeting. Anastasia stated we put the invite on the email but we need them to respond to know if we have a quorum. She stated everyone does not respond. Andrew asked everyone to check their calendar for their availability November 8. Senator Claitor suggested for those who do not attend time and time again to give their seat to someone who will. He also suggested a proxy, however the proxy cannot vote. Mr. Fanning stated everyone needs to place the meeting on their calendar and plan their calendar around it. He stated if we can't get people to do that then we need new

people. Senator Claitor stated filling seats for other boards is a problem as well. He stated he would work with the board to maybe add or reduce the number of board seats, or maybe creating new districts in which they come from. Dr. Chavetz mentioned again that the name of the program is a pet peeve for him. He suggested changing the name of the program from Traumatic Head & Spinal Cord Injury to Traumatic Brain & Spinal Cord Injury.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Program Status – Tonia Gedward

- Waitlist Update
 - Currently the Trust Fund is serving 614 participants with 187 on the wait list and 26 new applications received last quarter (April through June).
 - As stated before, the waitlist applications are being reviewed in phases.
 - Phase 1 (complete)
 - There were 52 applications. Of the 52 applications, 25 were approved and 27 were denied for various reasons. We are still receiving appeals where applicants are submitting previously requested documents.
 - Denial Reasons

○ APPL-Decline Service	2	7%
○ Application Denied	5	19%
○ APPL-Non Cooperation	10	37%
○ Death	1	4%
○ Failure to Cooperate	1	4%
○ Medically Unstable	2	7%
○ Other	1	4%
○ Unable to Locate/Contact	4	15%
○ APPL-Will Not Improve	1	4%
 - Phase 2 (Starting on Phase 2 this month)
 - Approved 02
 - Denied 00
 - Pending 25
 - Phase 3 and 4 (slight delay due to the magnitude of Phase 1)
 - 44 applications remaining in 2015

- Future Waitlist Applications
 - 2016 – 63 applications
 - 2017 - 48 applications
 - 2018 - 32 applications as of 8/9/18
- Program Highlights
 - We continue to have bi-weekly meetings with the THSCI case managers, which helps with process improvement. It also gives the THSCI case management agencies an opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions.
 - We completed training for THSCI Case Managers, OAAS Waiver Case Managers, and OCDD Waiver Case Managers during this last quarter. Tonia printed a copy of the PowerPoint training for the board to review.
 - Tonia has developed a tracking system for Participant Services Plans. Since January 1, 2018, the THSCI staff have received and reviewed 269 plans and processed over 610 payments.
 - Internal processes were streamlined to better manage participant file information. Communication has improved with participants as well as case managers. We are receiving fewer participant complaints as the case management directors and supervisors are now receiving most of the complaints and quickly responding.

Tonia went over the training packet with the board. Kimberly asked at what point we think the applications will be caught up. Sherlyn stated we are working on it. She stated Tonia is working on having all the 2015 applications done by the end of this year. Sherlyn stated there were fewer cases in 2016 and 2017, therefore we are hoping to finish opening those cases by the end of 2019. She stated we will still be about two years behind versus three years and six years when we first took over this program in 2010. She also stated as the case managers have been trained the process is going a lot faster. Andrew stated we need to address the immediate need of the participants to get their life together. Sherlyn stated we are working on getting rid of the waitlist because we don't have the manpower to prioritize the waitlist and statute would have to be changed as it says first-come first-served. Andrew asked what obstacle we could use to expedite the applications faster. Sherlyn stated we would need more staff.

Other – Kimberly Hill of Brain Injury Association of Louisiana (BIALA) stated because BIALA lost a little funding this past and current fiscal years, they have

been focused on finding other revenue sources. Due to them being able to find other revenue sources, she asked to increase her hours from 20 to 30 hours a week starting in April. She uses the extra 10 hours to do outreach. Since April, she has met with over 500 people around the state. She has done in-services at Rehab hospitals and hospitals around the state educating them about the Trust Fund and other programs. When visiting the hospitals she speaks with the Case Managers giving them packets with information about BIALA and the Trust Fund. This way they will have hands on information for the patients and their families. Kim has gotten a lot of feedback about the Trust Fund and the waitlist, she reassures them how great of a job Tonia is doing with the program and that the program staff are working extremely hard to get the applications processed and the waitlist down. She stated that this makes them more motivated to share the information with patients. She stated the hotline has been busy. She has been talking about the Trust Fund a lot on the hotline. They have the THSCI application on BIALA's website, and she has mailed and emailed applications to those who request them. BIALA did an advocacy day at the Capitol in May. Kim mentioned that Karen Roy and herself travels with United Spinal Association every year to Washington DC and participates in an event called Roll on Capitol Hill. She mentioned they go to Capitol Hill and meet with lawmakers. They met with eight Representatives and/or Senators and staff this year. They were able to help one of the Representatives re-write one of the Bills. Kimberly stated once she explained to them how it will actually save the government money and having Karen there to tell her story, they convinced one of the Representatives to change his vote. She stated on a national level they know about BIALA and the Trust Fund. Kim explained to the Board that the Unmasking Brain Injury is part of a National Organization to raise awareness about brain injuries. She informed the Board that she bought some of the masks to view. The masks were painted by brain injury survivors around the state. The masks are painted to express the emotions they feel about having a brain injury and then they write an explanation of those emotions. There are currently 75 masks displayed at the University Medical Center and the traveling display is booked through June 2019. "The Advocate" did an article on the mask exhibit. Kim stated other types of outreach have included the radio and she will be speaking to the Rehabilitation Counselor students at LSU this Fall. She stated they are trying to get into other avenues to spread the word about BIALA and the Trust Fund. She has started working on the BIALA conference which will be held in March, 2019. She stated the conference is growing each year.

Public Comment – None

The meeting was adjourn at 11:13 a.m.

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

November 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.