

BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE OF SD  
Annual Board Meeting

December 14, 2013

Members Attended:

Ron Sasso, Justine Ashokar, Mary Ohman all from Rapid City area  
Denise Johnson, Mary Tommeraasen from Sioux Falls area through Skype

Lori Sletten asked to resign prior to the meeting

Not in attendance:

Karen Brokenleg

Also in attendance due to the Sioux Falls Brain Injury Support Group being held in conjunction with the BIASD annual board meeting: Mike Smith, Doris Schumacher, Tom Schumacher, Glenn Schumacher, Robert Watkins, Stan Peterson

Meeting notes taken by Mary Tommeraasen, who was also trying to inform the individuals from the support group of the discussions in the meeting and what it all meant. She apologized upfront as her notes may not be complete for this reason.

Mary Ohman noted there was no word from the lawyer yet regarding the status of the 5013c.

Justine noted we will not be joining the National BIA due to the large amount of money expected for being a member.

Justine stated she will try another week to go and talk to people about having us involved in tracking registries for individuals who have sustained brain injuries.

Ron approved and Mary O. seconded it.

Board members were up for re-election for the next 2 years. Justine Ashokar was nominated for president and it was seconded and approved. Denise Johnson was nominated to continue on the board and it was seconded and approved.

Ron explained that the board meets 4 times a year usually in central locations—Chamberlain, Pierre, Sioux Falls, or through technology as we were that day. The board is to advocate for those with brain injuries and to see that services/needs are being met. The board is working on the 5013c status for flexibility with the group. The meetings are not long and it is not demanding, but we have a passion to educate people on brain injuries and help connect them to services.

Doris Schumacher, mother of Glenn Schumacher who was also in attendance, explained her son had a near drowning incident in Indiana. She had been a special education teacher at a middle school and left to assist her son. Glenn is involved with Vocational Rehabilitation and is employed part-time job at the university. It is not his main goal to work there, but he has employment.

Both Doris and Glenn were nominated to be members to the board for a 2 year term, it was seconded and approved. Justine was nominated to be president again, and Mary Tommeraasen was nominated to be the secretary to replace Lori Sletten who had resigned. Both were seconded and approved.

New Business:

The Black Hills Brain Injury Conference will be held May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Rapid City, SD and will focus on wounded warriors. Our board has met at the conference in the past.

The next meeting will be in February. Disability Awareness Day in Pierre at the capitol will be Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Disability Awareness Day. Our board will plan to meet that day, also, to prepare for March—Brain Injury Awareness month. Someone will be in touch with Shelly Pfaff regarding a place to meet in Pierre for the board meeting. We will plan to discuss what we want to do for March and for the year.

Denise explained that the women's group home is up and running. The state helped make the necessary changes. In February, Denise will be meeting up with Sanford Hospital. She is to explain about their program at Achieve and will be incorporating our SD information. They were actually sought out by a podiatrist while she was on maternity leave so is planning on meeting in February.

There is a conference being held January 28/29 in Rapid City. It is "Life Ways—Reclaiming the Brain" with Dr. Lester coming to present. He will present on the teenage brain and personality disorders. There is a fee for providers, but a free night for parents. Schools, parents, and other providers are invited. Ron will put it on our website.

Ron reported they are working on housing and that they plan to build accessible housing on their property in the future.

The meeting ended and people were thanked for attending.