

## Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Annual Board Meeting

August 28, 2015

Present: Justine Ashokar, Mary Ohman, Ron Sasso, Glenn Schumacher, Doris Schumacher, Mary Tommeraasen, Koral Olson (Mental Health Counselor from the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center)

Absent: Denise Johnson and Karen Brokenleg

Last year's board minutes from 9/20/14 were reviewed and approved.

The Treasurer's Report from Karen was reviewed. The balance was \$2,381.25.

Karen was not present but had written a message about the 501c3 status: That tax person told her that it is not unusual to take up to 18 months. A discussion took place regarding what to do next. Mary O. will contact Karen to clarify it all and then go to our representatives Kristi Noem, John Thune, or Mike Rounds with the information.

Denise was not present, but wondered about a plan for Brain Injury Awareness month in March. Doris shared that a woman came to her Brookings Support Group and mentioned she might be willing to write something regarding brain injuries. Ron mentioned the news articles, being interviewed, and writing up information. Mary O. asked if anyone knew any TV or newspaper people, or if anyone had any connections to people with these roles. Doris did tell of doing a taping a radio interview for someone as he had read the article about her Glenn and his own son had a brain injury. Ron mentioned if we write an article regarding brain injury statistics it is best to send it in March. The CDC or BIAA had the accurate statistics. Mary O. thought she could ask her husband to donate ads again. Mary T. mentioned that maybe someone through the Large Work Group would be willing to help with connections. Doris told of how Glenn was advertising for Career Advantage through the United Way video in their area.

Ron reported that there were 426 Facebook "Likes". Doris wondered if someone could be responsible to check the comments and we could learn from them. There were some updates for the website and Ron planned to handle that for the group.

Doris reported on Sunrise Villa. Kari Severson, the Social Worker there, reported there were still 8 people there. Nothing has changed and there is still a waiting list. They held the Annual Fundraiser and Beth reported there were 18 riders to ride 15 or 30 miles. They raised \$3500 and bought a couch, recliner, and TV console. It is usually held the second weekend in July. We wondered if they were community people or family members that raised that money, and whether they signed up to ride and then gathered donations. We will keep Beth as the contact person when we can raise money.

Doris left a message for Ron Hoops to get an update on the Aberdeen Brain Injury Support Group. She will try another number and email him.

Doris was wondering how to contact Denise to obtain her information regarding Lifescape.

Doris asked about the updates for the brochure that the Large Work Group is putting together. Mary T. told her they are in the process of being updated and printed.

Glenn shared that he had been using Luminosity and had printed his progress with improvements suddenly at the end—maybe due to music therapy and maybe due to a med to assist him in concentrating. Good work!

Doris mentioned her support group works with ILC. For the ADA anniversary a suggestion was made for a display at the library—Schneider Family Book Awards—two books on TBI were there: one about a war veteran, and one who had been hit on the head and was in a public school setting—Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am and Girls Like Us.

Mary T. handed out some of the Sioux Falls Area Brain Injury Support Group brochures. She shared a printout of the PowerPoint presentation from the webinar in which she had participated. The Large Work Group had shared the time and date of the presentation. It was “Resource Program Model” by the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington. Ron noticed they had some funding through a state contract. They had a TBI Fund that collected \$2 from every moving violation, which added up to approximately \$2 million annually. Ron stated that Ron Hoops had presented the idea at one time and our state dropped the idea right away. We agreed it sounded like a good idea since we have an 80 mph speed limit now.

Mary T. also shared that the Large Work Group from the Center for Disabilities is interested in working together for the citizens with a TBI in SD. The BIASD group agreed it would be good to work jointly. All agreed that the next BIASD meeting would still take place on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 1:00 CT. We will Skype from Sioux Falls (maybe Denise’s day service location at 49<sup>th</sup> and Louise) and The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Rapid City.

Mary T. shared an email from Gabrielle Guetta of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She is a clinical research coordinator at their Brain Injury Research Center and she was recruiting individuals for two studies: TBI and Health in Adults—an Exploratory Study, and Online Group Treatment of Emotional Dyscontrol in Adults with TBI. Individuals do not have to go to the center to participate.

Justine had members sign the Conflict of Interest papers again.

Mary O. was going to give the Annual Report to Laurie, our Lawyer, once we knew the officers for the year. There is a \$25 fee for filing.

Justine, Mary O., and Doris gave checks to Mary T. to give to Karen for membership.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.