

Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Board Meeting

June 24, 2016 at 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM (MDT)

Present: Doris Schumacher, Glenn Schumacher, Mary Tommeraasen, Karen Brokenleg, and Denise Johnson in Sioux Falls; Mary Ohman, Justine Ashokar, Ron Sasso, and Koral Olson in Rapid City; Kari Severson, Program Director at Sunrise Villa in Irene [Kari ended her call at 11:05 AM (MDT)]

Doris called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken.

Kari reported on Sunrise Villa:

There are eight beds, and all are currently filled. There is a waiting list for admission. The length of stay is dependent on each individual's treatment plan for rehabilitation, and the intent is not for Sunrise Villa to be a long-term care facility. Six individuals have been discharged within the past year to nursing homes or assisted living facilities. For admission, an individual must have a documented brain injury, sustained after age 22, and meet the following criteria: be able and willing to participate in speech therapy, physical therapy, and cognitive therapy; work at ACS in one of four paid jobs (paid by the part); and must be Medicaid eligible. Referrals are reviewed and approved by the State of South Dakota. The State provides a list of names of individuals receiving Medicaid benefits who are being served in other states, and these individuals are given preference over those already residing in South Dakota. Sunrise Villa currently receives individuals from MN, ND, NE, IA, MT, and OK. Sunrise Villa will not be having a bike fundraiser this year, but will be selling raffle tickets. Attempts are being made to partner with local events related to brain injury in order to raise awareness and sell raffle tickets.

Justine reported on The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center:

There have been several new admissions recently. TBIRC is working on long-term services for those who have completed the program, with hope that this program will be implemented within the next two months. Justine is recruiting speakers for the March 10, 2017 conference. Pictures of the poster contest winners from March are posted on the TBIRC website, and TBIRC is planning to host this contest again next March.

Denise reported on LifeScape:

LifeScape has three locations for residential long-term care, with 13 people currently receiving residential and day services. LifeScape has recently had staff turnover, hiring a new employment specialist and a new instructor for cognitive services. Five staff will be going to upcoming training.

Support Group Updates:

Aberdeen – Karen received an email from Ron Hoops, and he reports that the group is still meeting.

Black Hills – Koral reported that the group continues to meet, and there have been some new participants during the past few months.

Brookings – Glenn reported that the group typically has 5-10 people in attendance. The hospital where the group meets has been under construction, so they are looking for a new meeting place. Independent Living Choices has a new Director, Kelley Winger, with whom group has gotten acquainted. Kelley is also the Director of Heels for Combat Boots, and she is experienced at fundraising. Doris provided her with a brochure for The SD Traumatic Brain Injury Work Group and invited her to join the group. The Cranium Crunches Workbook was provided to the support group by Independent Living Choices to use both at-home and during support group meetings.

Sioux Falls – Karen reported that Sanford contacted her stating they would not be able to continue to support the group, but they have now agreed to continue with their support. Sanford had a social worker who was attending the meetings but is no longer with the hospital, and they are looking for a new representative to attend. A survivor from CO spoke at the April meeting. Mary T and Karen facilitate the group during the summer. There are typically 20-25 attendees, but this number is less during the summer. There have been some new additions to the group, as well as a few deaths of group members.

The SD Traumatic Brain Injury Work Group Update: Mary T reported that the group last met on 06/23/2016. Kerri Mohnsen, SLP met with Sarah Hansen to discuss her possible involvement with the group. The group is seeking new partnerships, and interested parties should contact Sarah Hansen. The group continues to reach out by speaking at events and sharing information. They are hoping to have a manual printed by December 2016. Rob Winningham offered information for the manual. Sara Hansen will facilitate a training on July 11-12 in Sioux Falls titled, "Brain Injury: Basics, Strategies, and Resources," which will include a panel discussion.

LifeScape will be volunteering at Jazzfest and has openings available for those who want to help on Thurs, July 14 – Sat, July 16. LifeScape will receive a portion of these proceeds.

Ron moved to accept the minutes from the 02/10/2016 Board meeting, and Doris approved this motion.

Board members need to send a current picture and bio to Koral for the BIASD website. Koral will email these to Ron to upload to website once all are received.

Karen will contact Senator Johnson for an interview.

Ron will draft a letter to legislators on behalf of the BIASD in attempt to increase awareness of the need for funding and services.

Denise reported that there is a need to first do a fundraiser before looking into the cost of rubber band bracelets.

Karen will email the Treasurer's Report to Board members. Great Western Bank sent a check for a \$165 donation. The balance as of the end of May is \$2551.25. Karen submitted the 2016 tax. Doris has a bill for printing 100 BIASD brochures. There is a \$200 credit available for any publishing done for those with non-profit exempt status. Karen first has to establish an account for BIASD, and then a form can be completed to obtain this credit. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

The charitable contribution information provided by attorney, Laurie Bauer was discussed. Karen will create a receipt for use by the BIASD. A receipt and a thank-you note will be mailed in response to contributions over \$250 received, and emailed if under \$250. Karen will write a thank you letter and receipt to Great Western Bank.

Mary O reported that Tradition of Caring Grant applications will begin being reviewed in October 2016. The award is sponsored by Avera and applications are available on the Kelo Land website. Justine will complete an application for the BIASD.

Doris proposed that the BIASD consider creating a paid position to answer and responds to phone calls and emails, using fundraising to pay for this. The group voiced opinions against this, reiterating that the purpose of the BIASD is to assist people to connect with available resources.

Mary O proposed that the Board expand openings for new members, preferably those with legal and/or accounting experience. Ron proposed inviting someone with fundraising experience. The Board agreed to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

The annual Board meeting will be held in-person on 09/23/2016 at 12:00 PM (CST) in Chamberlain.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Koral Olson, BIASD Secretary