

Traumatic Brain Injury Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

March 19, 2009

Utah Department of Health (Room 201)

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Minutes

Committee Members Present

Elaine Pollock, Ron Roskos (via phone), Nita Smith, Adina Zahradnikova, Troy Roper

Committee Members Excused

Kari Peterson, Sandy Brooks, Sara Sanders, Breanne Berg

UDOH Staff Support

Kevin Condra, Trish Keller, Missi Leak

Welcome

- Nita welcomed committee to the meeting.

Approval of January Minutes

- Correct the spelling for analyst.
- Minutes approved with change mentioned above.

Legislative Issues

- Status of fund:
 - Nita felt it would have been a mistake to lobby for additional funding for the fund because it would harm other items on the Department of Health list.
 - No new money was received but the legislators voiced their support and it was determined that there is non-lapsing authority for the existing funding.
 - There is still a long haul ahead of for next year, since the budget picture will probably be worse.
 - Committee members should be pleased with what has been accomplished thus far but make plans for next year now.
- Budget impact on other agencies:
 - Department of Human Services
 - Out of 161 people in DSPD, 51 will lose their jobs.
 - It was made clear this session that whatever was put back in budget cuts still came out somewhere else.
 - The legislators were not allowing programs to be cut and the money comes out of the staffing, if programs are not cut.
 - Committee members need to communicate their appreciation to the Legislators for keeping this fund going.
 - Troy shared that he invited Senator Dan Lindquist to come to his facility and see what they are doing to help those with traumatic brain injuries get back into jobs, etc.

- A lot of kudos to Nita, Joyce, Chris who were really good to go and make it a point to be in the meetings – laying the ground work.
- Do something for Legislators during the Interim to show what the TBI Fund is doing for people – similar to what Troy is doing with Senator Lindquist.
- Adina suggested that traveling to those legislators farthest away in the State and meeting with them face to face would be a worthwhile project so they would understand the needs and the Fund.
- A suggestion was made to have BIAU send an email that says something like “please contact your legislature, and here is how to do it effectively”...
- Another suggestion was made to consider a legislative training at the BIAU conference.
- There is a sunset clause on this committee; it expires unless otherwise approved for continuation by Dr. Sundwall. The Committee members will need to be appointed by Dr. Sundwall in June for the new year starting July 1, 2009.

Status of Contracts

- Contracts are finally moving forward since State Finance determined that the funds are non-lapsing so contracts can extend through June 30, 2010 or until the money runs out.
- The contracts are currently upstairs with the UDOH Attorney for legal review.

Update from Sub Groups

- New funding
 - Due to legislative session, efforts have been put on hold.
 - Now the committees will pick up where they left off.
 - Groups:
 - Neuro-Psychs Form / List
 - Resource committee (looking for funding)
 - It was suggested to add a Legislative Subgroup.
 - Nita discussed the Utah CEO Magazine – the current issue was all about partnering with a non-profit organization.
 - Example: Grocery stores asking if people would like to donate towards non-profit organizations.
 - The Committee doesn't want to take from the BIAU group but wants to do fundraising with other groups to get more money for the TBI Fund.
 - Do fundraising collaboratively, communicate on who each group is approaching for funds to avoid duplication.
 - Look at productive and effective ways to raise funds.
- It is important to strike while the iron is hot.
 - Just recently an actress Natasha Richardson was killed skiing due to TBI.
- Elaine suggested that we target ski resorts that are looking for good PR.
- Social networking contact will be more effective than big corporations.
- It was suggested to do an interview about TBI in Utah on Classical 89.1 on their “Thinking Aloud” show, or KBYU, or MPR.
- Also suggested was putting a story in the Salt Lake Tribune. Ron announced that he interviewed with the Deseret News and KSL and they are running an article/interview

on Natasha Richardson's TBI death, and are showing that you may bump your head and show any symptoms immediately, but that it doesn't mean that everything is fine...

- Ron will send the Utah TBI Fact Sheet to the interviewers.

Discussion of New Members

- Ron suggested Cindy Whilmhurst – TBI survivor
- Sarah suggested Natalie Watalc – Community Service Broker for DSPD, daughter has a TBI.
- Nita suggested Dr. Corgiat in Ogden and Mr. Hensley who is a parent of a TBI survivor.
- A small bio on each person is needed for submission for consideration by Dr. Sundwall.
- Other parent suggestions are Kathleen Berkley & Pat Allen.
- Before this time next week, committee members are to get Kevin the contact information and a brief bio for people that are interested.
 - Make initial contact and if they are interested have them call Kevin.
 - Nita contact Mr. Hensley and Dr. Corgait.
 - Ron will contact Pat Allen.
 - Kevin will contact Kathleen Berkley.
 - _____ will contact Cyndi Wilhurst.
 - _____ will contact Natalie Watalc.
- Keep others on a waiting list so that if anyone drops out they can be replaced quickly.

Neuro-Psych Evaluations

- Kevin passed around the form.
- The forms will be filled out by those being funded; they will document that all other resources have been expended and make sure that this is the last resort for those applying. Form will be submitted to make sure that things are ok to continue to a review committee at the Health Department. Members of the current committee will be staffing it.
- Form is mandatory for all organizations.
- Two Priorities for service:
 - Our number one priority is people who we believe may be eligible for services, but that don't have a neuro-psych for documentation. (Eligibility)
 - Secondly, people that are currently receiving support, but the exam is still necessary to understand better what type of services they need.
- Resource facilitator has to confirm that they have used every option.
- Need to include on form the resources that were tried but refused (denied).
- Elaine asked the question: If everyone filling out the resources tried will focus in on the different type of resources?
- There will be a learning curve for those filling out this form - will be a trial and error process.
 - People who are certified in Nita's office will be the ones working on this in her office.
- Mark Fox with IHC also has resources to help with this in his office.

- Next meeting we should go through the database – this way we will be able to walk through the whole process and clean up any problems before a real person will be asked to enter information.
- Janice Pompa said it would be two to three weeks on a waiting list for a neuro-psych exam.
 - She agreed to offer the reduced rate.
 - Kevin will email her and ask what would a reduced cost neuro- psych exam include?
 - Students would do the exam, and she would sign off on it.
 - Janice would do a more thorough exam.
- Mention of Mark from IHC doing neuro-psyches.
 - Kevin contacted him and is waiting to hear back from him.
 - Mark will use Ann Russo.
 - Elaine will check to make sure Janice and Ann are doing something similar.
- Elaine asked if Janice will have summer students.
 - Kevin will make sure, but he asked and is thinking that she has year round students.
- Ron asked if there will be a backup for the neuro-psyches. Are there going to be a couple people to refer to that could do it?
- Being a State Agency contract, it is necessary to think of whom we have alliances with.
- Some of the Mental Health County Programs do contract with neuro-psyches.
 - It would be a good idea to get names.
- If the client is on Medicaid / Medicare they are coming from a Psychological Evaluations.
- Kevin / Trisha will ask a person in Medicaid – who is doing psychological evaluations?

Other Business or Announcements:

- Erin Bigler (from BYU) is presenting at the National Brain Injury Association.
 - Nita forward email to Kevin to distribute to committee with all the information.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Run through the process on the database.
- Follow-up with neuro-psyches.
- Welcoming new members / introductions, etc.

Next Meeting

May 21, 2008
 Utah Department of Health
 288 North 1460 West
 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm