



Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes * September 17, 2010

Members Present

Terry Glenn	VA Department of Corrections, Richmond
Doug Harris, J.D.	VA Department of Health (Commissioner's Designee), Richmond
Gregory Helm, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville
Page Melton	Caregiver, Richmond
Teresa Poole	Lakeview Blue Ridge, Blacksburg
Jim Rothrock (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	VA Department of Rehabilitative Services, Richmond

Members Absent

David Reid, Psy.D., Chair	Augusta Psychological Associates, Waynesboro
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Staff

Kristie Chamberlain	VA Department of Rehabilitative Services, CNI Program Staff
Patti Goodall	VA Department of Rehabilitative Services, CNI Program Staff

Guests

Mary-Margaret Cash	VA Department of Rehabilitative Services, CBS Services
Dulaney Collins	Virginia Aqua Massage, LLC.
Marcia DuBois	VA Department of Rehabilitative Services, CBS Services
Paige Hawkins	Maggie L. Walker's Governor's School RAMPS Club Faculty Sponsor
Fred Morton, IV	Maggie L. Walker's Governor's School Director
Megan McMahon	Maggie L. Walker's Governor's School RAMPS Club
Caitlin Paisley	Maggie L. Walker's Governor's School RAMPS Club
Claire Porte	Maggie L. Walker's Governor's School RAMPS Club
Susan Revere	Executive Director RAMPS & RAMPS Club Student Liaison
Polly Franks Sweeney	Special Advisor to the Governor on Disability Issues for the Workforce

The Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board met for a regular quarterly business meeting at the Department of Rehabilitative Services, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond. Page Melton, Acting Chair, convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period was held. There was no public comment given.

Page Melton requested that guests/presenters introduce themselves.

Approval of June 18, 2010 Minutes

Terry Glenn made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 18, 2010 meeting changing “Approval of December 4, 2009 Minutes” to “Approval of April 9, 2010 meeting minutes.” Teresa Poole seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of September 17, 2010 Agenda

Staff offered a slight modification to the agenda in light of the absence of the Chair, David Reid, not being present due to illness. Page Melton served as Acting Chair for the meeting. The agenda was approved, with this change.

Educational Presentation by Gregory Helm, MD, Ph.D. University of Virginia Medical Center: Neuronal Regeneration

Gregory Helm, M.D., Ph.D., Neurosurgeon at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville and a member of the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board, gave an educational presentation on the definition of neural regeneration, what scientific studies have been done in the areas of brain and spinal cord neuronal regeneration, and what next steps in this area of research are likely. This presentation was offered at the June 18, 2010 Board meeting after reviewing suggested priority areas for the next Option A Research on the Mechanisms and Treatment of Neurotrauma Request for Proposal. The next research RFP is currently on track to release in January 2011.

Educational Presentation by Dulaney Collins, Virginia Aqua Massage, LLC.

Dulaney Collins, President of Virginia Aqua Massage, provided an educational presentation on Aqua Massage, illustrating how it works (full range of adjustable water pressure, manual controlled or preprogrammed), benefits (e.g., relief of muscle pain and tension, stimulation of endorphins, increased energy, etc.), and testimonials of use in Virginia in public (e.g., military base) and privately owned settings. Ms. Dulaney offered to the Board that her organization hopes to apply for the next Option A Research on the Mechanisms and Treatment of Neurotrauma grant opportunity if the priorities fit further studies on the use of Aqua Massage among people with brain injury and spinal cord injury. The Board thanked Ms. Collins for her presentation.

Update from the DRS Commissioner, James Rothrock

- Commissioner Rothrock cited major growth in the Department of Rehabilitative Services’ Independent Living and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs due to infusion of stimulus funds (\$70 million dollars will help folks return to work). Fifteen million dollars is returning to the Commonwealth to match federal funds for the VR program.
- Disability Determination Services (DDS) adjudicates claims for Social Security (SSI and SSDI). DRS recently added 170 positions in DDS and received \$20 million dollars in new funds to process claims of other backlogged states. On average, DDS receives 90,000 claims/year for Social Security benefits and only 40,000/year are approved.
- Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) is still doing well and is sitting at 320-350 people on site per day. This is a substantial increase from last year at this time.
 - Next week the CNI Grant #07-062 to WWRC “*Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons with Severe Neurotrauma*” is starting its two-week substance abuse

treatment pilot program for people with spinal cord injury. The Commissioner offered that, unfortunately, due to the lack of Medicaid reimbursement and unsteady income of private pay, it will be hard to fund a new program like this with all of the staff requirements, building space/modifications needed, etc. The Commissioner suggested that Dr. Luck, Principal Investigator on the grant, present before the Board at the December meeting.

- Virginia's Secretary of the Office of Health and Human Services, Bill Hazel, is strongly interested in Health Reform. It is anticipated that in 2014 there will be between 250,000-425,000 new Medicaid recipients because of the loosening of the financial eligibility guidelines. Brain Injury Services (BIS) Programs will be serving at least some Medicaid eligible participants, so this is of interest to the BI community.
- In the last two weeks, Commissioner Rothrock was named Interim Acting Commissioner at the Virginia Department of Aging.
- There is a need for neurobehavioral services for Virginians with brain injuries and recently the Virginia Brain Injury Council released a "white paper" to Commissioner Rothrock on this topic "*Neurobehavioral Treatment for Virginians with Brain Injury*" - along with the Council's response to the white paper. As part of this call to action, the Commissioner requested that the CNI Board add a priority area into the next Request for Proposal for research that includes what a neurobehavioral facility should look like, how it will best operate, the best billing uses, where the best location is, etc. There is no money in the Commonwealth to operate such a facility at this time, but research showing a model neurobehavioral program would assist in the request for those funds in a few years when the Commonwealth's budget is steady. A proposal that would provide evidence of the effectiveness of neurobehavioral intervention for people with acquired brain injury within a treatment facility would be valuable information for the Commonwealth.

Financial Report

Kristie Chamberlain, staff to the Advisory Board, provided an overview of the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund finances. Since its inception in 1998 through August 31, 2010, total revenue into the Fund is \$15,529,912.89. The Trust Fund has awarded \$17,836,202.81 in grant awards (and \$704,091.74 in administrative services expenditures) since July 2003. The Fund currently has an obligated balance of \$2,306,289.92 (obligated funds are revenue minus grant awards to date), with an available balance of \$386,396.52 (available balance is revenue minus expenditures to date). Staff reviewed that FY '10 revenue into the Fund averaged \$96,181.42. FY' 2011 revenue into the Fund (two months into the fiscal year) is averaging about \$93,737.50.

By-Laws Revisions

At the June meeting, there was a motion made to review the by-laws in their entirety for any suggested revisions (in addition to known items such as the Chair term length) and report back at the September 17, 2010 board meeting. As such, Staff provided suggested updates to the Board for the by-laws to bring them into compliance with the most recently updated Commonwealth of Virginia Administrative Regulations of the Fund. The Board reviewed the minor changes and discussion ensued on additional suggested edits. **Doug Harris made a motion to accept the by-laws as provided with an addition of the words "per biennium" within the budget**

amendment per 22VAC30-50-120. It will now read “...the Commissioner of DRS may reallocate up to \$500,000 per biennium.” Additionally, the Board added, “The Commissioner will provide a report at each Board meeting on the Commissioner’s intent to award – or currently funded - research projects under this amendment.” Terry Glenn seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Staff will make those changes and provide the Board and the website with updates by the December meeting.

VETS in College Grant Request to Expand Referral Pool to include PTSD Diagnosis

Staff reviewed a request from the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Grant #10-176 “*Preparing Veterans with BI and SCI for Post-Secondary Education: Development and Implementation of a Mobile Supported Education Model*” to Virginia Commonwealth University’s Rehabilitation, Research & Training Center (RRTC) on Workplace Supports to expand their referral pool to include a limited number (up to 5) of veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnoses (exclusive of SCI and/or TBI). The grantee felt that support needs of veterans diagnosed with PTSD are in many ways similar to veterans with TBI. This expansion would help to ensure that the grantee is able to recruit sufficient numbers of program participants. Staff reviewed their annual report from Year One and reminded the Board that upon award, the Board requested the grantee expand their initial referral pool to BI as well as SCI. Discussion ensued. **Doug Harris made a motion to allow for the expansion of the referral pool as long as the grantee demonstrates the similarities and parallel benefits to the Commonwealth of working with veterans with PTSD (could be a dual diagnosis of PTSD and BI, may be undiagnosed BI among those with PTSD, etc.) along with individuals with BI and SCI. Teresa Poole seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.**

Update: Brain Injury Services Case Management Software Request for Proposals Review

Staff updated the Board on the Request for Proposals (RFP) #10-327 *Development of a Web-Based Brain Injury Services Case Management Software System* that was re-released in the spring of 2010. The intention of this RFP is to assist the state-funded Brain Injury Services (BIS) Programs in managing and operating their programs, as well as to improve DRS’ ability to provide general oversight of the contracts. The web-based Brain Injury Case Management Software (BICMS) System will provide a consistent approach to collecting, using, and reporting data. The nine state-funded Brain Injury Services (BIS) Programs will use the system to enhance the daily operation of their 12 programs and to prepare reports for DRS and for their own use. The statewide application will store each organization’s data and will provide a web interface for displaying and entering staff and organizational data. Data for each organization is accessible only to that organization, and to DRS.

The Review Committee is still in the review process for the thirteen applications received. As part of the review process, the Review Committee invited three of the applicants to do demonstrations to give them a greater ability to score those proposals. The entire review process has been delayed slightly because the Commissioner has indicated that awarding a grant under this RFP is challenging right now because of Secretary Hazel’s new directive that any information technology (IT) programs undergo a thorough review by a specified roundtable of IT state agency executives. Due to this vigorous review, if the RFP is submitted, we are not sure what the outcome of the ability to award under this RFP will be. Staff will update the Board at the December meeting.

Presentation--Maggie L. Walker Governor's School RAMPS Club

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School RAMPS club student co-presidents: Claire Porte, Caitlin Paisley and Megan McMahon offered a dynamic presentation on the history of the RAMPS club, their student body make up, and their goals for this next year. Additionally, in support of their program, Fred Morton, IV, Director of Maggie L. Walker; Susan Revere, Executive Director of RAMPS and the RAMPS club student liaison and Paige Hawkins, the Faculty Sponsor at Maggie Walker, spoke of the club's success and drive to make a difference in the community. The co-presidents rounded out their presentation asking for the Board to support their program with a grant for \$50,000 (\$35,000 for the building of ramps & \$15,000 for other items). The club builds on average two ramps/month for a total of 36+ ramps/year for individuals who are at most urgent need for getting out of their homes. The RAMP club currently holds a wait list of over 50 applicants. The Board thanked the students for their very professional presentation. **Doug Harris made a motion to commend the Commissioner's endorsement of the concept of the RAMPS club, recognizing that it does not fit the purview of the CNI Trust Fund's original intent, but noting that the Board would like to see the program supported in some other fashion through the Department of Rehabilitative Services if possible. The motion also requests that the Commissioner report back to the CNI Trust Fund Board members at the December meeting on the progress of funding the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School RAMPS club initiative using another funding stream. Terry Glenn seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.**

Future Meeting Dates

Staff reviewed the future quarterly meeting dates with the Board members:

- Friday, November 5, 2010-Meeting Summit for Chairs of DRS Boards/Councils (**this is only for the officers of boards/councils*)
- Friday, December 3, 2010-DRS Central Office (FULL Board meeting)

Page Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.