

Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund

**Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2008-FINAL**

Members Present

Doug Harris, J.D.	State Health Commissioner Designee, Richmond
Teresa Poole	Lakeview Blue Ridge, Blacksburg
David Reid, Psy.D., Chair	Augusta Psychological Associates, Waynesboro
Jim Rothrock	Department of Rehabilitative Services, Richmond

(Ex-officio)

Members Absent

Richard Bendall, Jr., M.D.	Monelison Family Physician, Lynchburg
Gregory Helm, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville
Terry Glenn	Department of Corrections, Richmond

Staff

Kristie Chamberlain	Department of Rehabilitative Services, CNI Program Administrator
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Guests

Karen Backus	Department of Rehabilitative Services
Gail Brothwell	Program Recovery
Karen Brown	Brain Injury Services, Inc.
Mary-Margaret Cash	Department of Rehabilitative Services
Page Melton	Caregiver, Richmond, VA
Anne McDonnell	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Bill Rhodenheiser	Department of Rehabilitative Services
Barbara Seymour	Department of Medical Assistance Services
Michael Zuckerman	Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing
Kristin Beale	Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing
Rhonda Beale	Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing
Shayna Heeter	Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing
Cendy Heeter	Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing

The Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Advisory Board met for a regular quarterly business meeting in Conference Room 101 at the DRS Central Office, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive in Richmond, Virginia 23229. David Reid, Psy.D., Chair, convened the meeting at 10:21 a.m. with introductions of meeting guests and board members.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period was held. Anne McDonnell, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, offered public comment to the CNI Advisory Board. Ms. McDonnell distributed copies of a letter being mailed to Captain Janie Martin-Heppell the Program Officer who is in charge of writing the guidance required for the HRSA Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act Implementation Grants of which DRS and BIAV have been recipients

since 2002. Ms. McDonnell notified the Board of changes to the requirements for cash match for the 2009 Traumatic Brain Injury Act Awards. The block grant may become more competitive thereby decreasing the number of grants awarded, however, the dollar amount awarded per grant will increase. The increase in funding will also come with requirements for a 50% match from the state (\$125,000). Relaxed guidelines will allow states to tap into non-government entities for match. Ms. McDonnell expressed concern over meeting the \$125,000 match requirement and noted a few of the positive accomplishments the grant has allowed to occur in the Commonwealth.

Approval of March 14, 2008 Minutes

Teresa Poole made a motion to approve the minutes; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June 13, 2008 Agenda

Commissioner Rothrock made a motion to adopt the agenda as distributed; the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation from Michael Zuckerman, Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (WAS)

Michael Zuckerman, Executive Director of Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (WAS), two of the participants in the WAS CNI grant funded peer mentorship program and their caregivers presented to the Board on the status of their grant in the second year of funding. Additionally, Michael Zuckerman requested \$8,300 in April, 2008 via a letter to the Board in additional funding for the third and final year of the grant to cover funding costs of the group's trip to the Hartford Ski Spectacular in Breckenridge, Colorado. During the actual presentation, Mr. Zuckerman increased his request to \$13,800 (up \$5,800) due to the unforeseen continual rising fuel costs which will directly impact airline and transportation costs for all eleven individuals attending (participants, mentors and their caregivers). When the grant was initially awarded, they had not factored in the cost for caregivers to attend the conference with participants or mentors and requested additional funds from the Board at the close of year one to cover the expenses for years two and three. At the time, the Board only approved additional funds for year two asking Mr. Zuckerman to return to the Board with an update on the grant at the close of year two. At that time if WAS felt like they needed additional funds at the close of year two before year three began, they could make a formal request to the Board. The Board thanked Michael Zuckerman and the group for their time.

Presentation from Karen Brown, Executive Director of Brain Injury Services (BIS) Inc. and Gail Brothwell, Program Director for Project "Program Recovery"

Karen Brown, Executive Director of Brain Injury Services (BIS) Inc. and Gail Brothwell, the Program Director for the *Program Recovery* program funded through the CNI Trust Fund provided a grant update to the Advisory Board on the status of their grant initiatives. The grant was funded to develop a collaborative model with INOVA Health Systems in Northern Virginia to work with a wing of young adults with brain injuries currently residing in an INOVA nursing home. The goal is to get them back out into the community into a lesser restrictive setting while increasing the quality of their lives. Karen Brown and Gail Brothwell discussed many successes

and obstacles they are encountering, but remain optimistic that the program model will be successful in time.

Neurobehavioral Services Educational Presentation

At the request of the CNI Advisory Board, Barbara Seymour, Health Care Compliance Specialist from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) provided an informational presentation to the Advisory Board on neurobehavioral services in Virginia. Ms. Seymour concentrated on the neurobehavioral needs in Virginia, current capacity in the Commonwealth to accommodate individuals who should be in a neurobehavioral facility and the forecast for the future of neurobehavioral services in Virginia. DMAS is researching the best avenue to pursue a brain injury waiver to accommodate the neurobehavioral needs of survivors of brain injury and their families within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Comments from the Commissioner of DRS

Commissioner Rothrock gave a brief update:

- Secretary Tavenner shared with agency heads recently that the Governor has a list of priority items that he will review in the next eighteen months. One of those items is the brain injury waiver.
- Michelle Whitt, Executive Director of Crossroads to Brain Injury Services (a case management provider), has approached the Commissioner for funding to research outcome measures (working with James Madison University Speech Pathology Department as the researchers) on brain injury services. They will be on the agenda for the fall CNI Advisory Board meeting to come and talk with the Board about their proposal and outcome measures within brain injury programs.

Dr. Reid asked the Commissioner for an update on the Department of Veterans initiative mentioned at the March meeting that will respond to the needs of returning veterans who have problems with post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injury, mental health issues including depression and substance abuse. The Commissioner informed the Board that he is sitting on the review panel for the Executive Director position overseeing the new initiative. By fall of 2008 the Department of Veterans hopes to have 3-4 regional coordinators who will be charged with working with the Afghanistan/Iraq veterans, and their families on brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse and mental health issues. The coordinators will focus on planning and case management coordination and direction of available services in the brain injury community. Effective July 1, 2008 there will be 2 million in State Fiscal Year '09 (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009) for these services and 2.5 million in State Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) for these services.

Financial Report

Kristie Chamberlain, staff to the Advisory Board, provided an overview of the CNI Trust Fund finances. Since its inception in 1998 through February 29, 2008, total revenue into the Fund is \$12,313,760.77. The Trust Fund has actually awarded \$14,615,108.30 in grant awards (including \$435,327.16 in administrative services since July, 2003). The Fund currently has an obligated balance of \$1,970,902.53 (revenue minus grant awards), with an available balance of

\$1,324,515.72 (revenue minus expenditures). The current monthly average in fees and interest into the Trust Fund in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 (began July 1, 2007) is about \$103,121 per month.

Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (WAS) Request for Additional Funds in Year Three

Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing requested an additional \$13,800 to cover funding costs of the group's trip to the Hartford Ski Spectacular in Breckenridge, Colorado, which is a major goal in the grant. When the grant was initially awarded, they had not factored in the cost for caregivers to attend the conference with participants or mentors, nor had they realized that individuals with disabilities would be required to stay on the slope which requires a significantly higher cost in lodging. WAS requested additional funds from the Board at the close of year one to cover the expenses for years two and three. At the time, the Board only approved additional funds for year two asking the Executive Director to return to the Board with an update on the grant and at that time requesting the needed additional funds at the close of year two before year three began (July 1, 2008). Discussion ensued on whether to allow additional funding and the concern over setting a precedent for requesting additional funds. **Teresa Poole made a motion that the Board approve the request for additional funding in the amount of \$13,800 for the third and final year of the grant. Doug Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** The Board requested that staff make a special note to the Executive Director of Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing that an annual request for additional funds after a grant award is made is not common practice, and they hope not to see that type of request with any future awards.

Release of Request For Proposals (RFPs) in 2008

Discussion ensued on whether to release any Request for Proposals (RFPs) in 2008.

Commissioner Jim Rothrock made a motion that the Board alert relevant organizations as soon as possible of the Board's intention to release an Option B community based services request for proposal (RFP) in January, 2009 with anticipation of awards being made so new grantees could begin their first year of funding as of July 1, 2009. Doug Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Board Member Appointments

Staff reviewed for the Board that at the last meeting, Gregory Helm, M.D., Ph.D. expressed an interest in serving a second 4-year term and stated he had notified the Secretary of his interest. Recently, Dr. Helm informed staff to the Council that he was reappointed for a second term which will begin July 1, 2008 and end June 30, 2012.

Page B. Melton, a caregiver, will be appointed to the position of "*Individual with a brain injury or caregiver thereof*". Her first four year appointment will begin July 1, 2008 and will run through June 30, 2012. Page attended the meeting for informational purposes, and Dr. Reid and Commissioner Rothrock welcomed her to the Board.

Future Meeting Dates

The next two meeting dates for the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund are Friday, September 26, 2008 and Friday, December 5, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Richmond at the DRS Central Office.

David Reid, Pys.D., Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.