

Virginia Brain Injury Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes DRAFT
October 22, 2010

Members Present:

Jeffrey Barth, Ph.D., ABPP-CN	University of Virginia School of Medicine
Susan Elmore	Virginia Dept of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
Lisa Garver	Brain Injury Services, Inc.
Tori Harding	NeuroRestorative
Patricia Goodall	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Martha Mead	Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
Anne McDonnell (Immediate Past Chair)	Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Carole Norton, Ph.D. (Chair)	Mary Buckley Foundation
Debbie Pfeiffer, Ed.D., CED	Virginia Department of Education
Gerald Showalter	Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
Brian Shenal, PhD	Salem Veterans Administration Medical Center
Mark Salisbury	Family member
Chuck Walsh	Middle Peninsula Community Services Board
Kelli Williams Gary, Ph.D. (Vice Chair)	Survivor
Leigh Wion	High Street Clubhouse
Michelle Witt	Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers
Jason Young (Secretary)	Community Futures Foundation

Members Absent:

Heather Board	Virginia Department of Health
Nancy Bullock	Virginia Department of Health
Jeff Carpenter	Survivor
Terry Miles	Survivor
Michelle Nichols	Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
Linda Redmond, Ph.D.	Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Jeff Sherman	Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Services
Lynn Forsyth	Family Member
Paul Sharpe	Virginia Dept of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services
Barbara Seymour	Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
Alan Towne, MD, MPH	Virginia Commonwealth University
Jenny Toth	Brain Injury Association of America
Julie Triplett	Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

Others in Attendance:

Helen Butler	Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia
Kristie Chamberlain (Staff)	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Marcia Dubois	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
Joann Mancuso	Mary Buckley Foundation
Dena Schall	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services

Participation via Teleconference:

James Rothrock	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
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CONVENING OF THE MEETING

The Virginia Brain Injury Council meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Carol Norton, Ph.D. Members and guest introduced themselves.

Meeting agenda:

Carole Norton, Ph.D., Chair, indicated one change in the agenda: Commissioner Rothrock's comments would be made via phone at 2 pm. **Mark Salisbury motioned to approve the amended agenda, Kelli Gary seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the July 23, 2010 were distributed and reviewed. Jeffrey Barth, Ph.D. noted that he was left off the “Members Absent” list. **Anne McDonnell made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of Dr. Barth in the “members absent” list, Mark Salisbury seconded; motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment:

A public comment period was held. Helen Butler, Executive Director of Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia, encouraged the Virginia Brain Injury Council to implement a teleconferencing option for Council meetings to make them more accessible to the general public. Kristie Chamberlain, staff to the Council, responded and offered to talk with the Department of Rehabilitative Services’ Office of Policy & Planning Director to get further guidance on the options the Council has for accommodating the request.

New Business:

Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers - Legislative Agenda

Michelle Witt, Chair of the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers (VABISP or Alliance) gave an update on the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers’ legislative agenda for the General Assembly in 2011. The Alliance and the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) are collaborating to present two statewide brain injury budget amendments in the upcoming General Assembly session. The first budget amendment, patroned in the House by Delegate Harvey Morgan (no Senate Patron at this time), is to restore the 5% cut (\$194,931) taken by the 2010 General Assembly session to brain injury services program contract funding. The second budget amendment which totals \$546,854, is lead by Delegate Robin Abbott in the House and Senator Ralph Northam in the Senate, addresses the fact that several state-funded programs are currently funded below the state’s recommended minimum funding level of \$150,000/program. This amendment would also provide funding for core services in certain areas of state (Hampton, Charlottesville, Roanoke) that are identified as underfunded / underserved.

Ms. Witt also indicated that the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers sent a letter to William Hazel, M.D., Secretary of the Office of Health and Human Resources (OHHR), the Commissioner of the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), and the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) addressing concerns over the lack of progress of the “crisis” workgroup being headed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. At the time of the meeting, Ms. Witt had not received a response.

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia offered that the annual Brain Injury Awareness Day at the General Assembly has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 2nd, 2011.

Unfinished Business:

Nominations and Elections Committee

Lisa Garver, Interim Chair of the VBIC Nominations and Elections Committee, gave an update on the work of the Committee since the July meeting. Ms. Garver presented the slate of officers on behalf of the Nominations and Elections Committee: Mark Salisbury for the two-year officer position of Chair, effective January 28, 2011 and Leigh Wion for the one-year (with option to renew for one year) officer position of Secretary. **Ms. Garver requested that the Council accept the slate of new officers for the Virginia Brain Injury Council. Carole Norton called for a vote of the slate. Leigh Wion and Mark Salisbury abstained from the vote. The slate was adopted unanimously.**

Federal TBI Grant Update

Dena Schall, the Department of Rehabilitative Services Federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Grant Program Specialist, gave an update to the Council on the Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Grant that the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) administers. She discussed the intended use of carryover funds from Year One to Year Two of the grant in the amount of \$60,000, and a brief update on a Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund grant (which serves as the State’s cash match to the Federal grant). The CNI grant was awarded to Virginia Commonwealth University to work with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Services to screen youth entering the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for the presence of brain injury. Anne McDonnell, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of

Virginia, also gave an update on the Brain Injury Association of Virginia's role on the Federal grant (one of two subcontractors). The Brain Injury Association of Virginia distributed a copy of their grant report update for 2nd Quarter of Year 2 of the Federal TBI Grant (also can be found at the end of the minutes).

Comments from the Commissioner of Rehabilitative Services, James Rothrock

Commissioner Rothrock participated via teleconference.

- Commissioner Rothrock stated that he is preparing the agency's response to the Governor's directive for 2, 4, and 6% budget cuts in the upcoming fiscal year.
- The Commissioner also updated the Council on Secretary Hazel's "Blueprint for Livable Communities" initiative set for 2013.
- Rebecca Wilkens, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, provided a brief update on the recommendations being presented by the Human Services Transportation Coordinator Group that could affect the disability community with. Commissioner Rothrock also stated that he is currently serving as the interim director for the Department of Aging and he is working on how he can make the disability and aging communities work together more collaboratively.
- Commissioner Rothrock asked Anne McDonnell, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, to update the Council on the meeting with the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) Assistant Commissioner John Pezzoli over the lack of progress on the crisis intervention services workgroup headed by DBHDS. Anne reported that DBHDS stated that there is not a mandated responsibility to focus on individuals with brain injury and that the Department of Rehabilitative services (DRS) is the appropriate lead agency for brain injury services. That being said, Mr. Pezzoli indicated that DBHDS would include the brain injury community with the current cross disability crisis workgroup.
- Commissioner Rothrock stated that the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Advisory Board will be meeting December 3rd and will be discussing the possibility of a targeted request around the neurobehavioral issue to be included in the next Request for Proposal (RFP) release.
- The Commissioner gave thanks and presented awards to the outgoing officers, Carole Norton, Ph.D. and Jason Young, for their services to the Virginia Brain Injury Council as Chair and Secretary, respectively.

Unfinished Business Continued

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia is getting ready to initiate a letter writing campaign encouraging survivors or caregivers to write a letter to the legislator during Nov 15-Dec 15 2010 to talk about the needs of the brain injury community. The Brain Injury Association of Virginia will be providing a template and other information to assist those writing letters. The template will be e-mailed to Council members from BIAV in the coming weeks. Kristie Chamberlain, staff to the Council, reminded the Council that they cannot lobby as a member of the Virginia Brain Injury Council, but members can lobby as individuals.

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia annual conference will be Saturday, March 12, 2011. Chris Nowinski is going to be the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Barth gave a synopsis of Chris' history relative to sports concussion and highly encouraged that everyone to attend.

Future meeting dates in 2011: January 28, April 22, July 22, and October 21, at DRS Central Office unless otherwise noted (check website for details <http://www.vadrs.org/vbic.asp>. Carole Norton adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

“Closing the GAP” BIAV Grant Report
Year 2 – 2nd Quarter

Target Group #1: Juveniles with brain injury committed to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Data Collection

- Screening instrument has been pilot tested, tweaked, and is now in the early stages of being implemented.

Education

- Collaborating with DJJ to determine if training program can be inserted into their existing training system.

Outreach

- Have begun discussing target audiences and materials needed.

Targeted Group #2: Persons with Low Socioeconomic Resources

Systems Change

- Neurobehavioral Committee submitted response to ‘white paper’;
- Met with Del. Harvey Morgan to request the Joint Commission on Health Care conduct a study on the availability of neurobehavioral services for individuals with brain injury;
- Met with John Pezzoli, Assistant Commissioner of DBHDS, to request the reconvening of the TBI/Behavioral Health Workgroup;
- Scheduled meeting with DMAS regarding the number of people with brain injury in nursing facilities.

Data Collection

- DRS IT staff has been granted access to data directly from VSTR at VDH; a protocol for outreach to the individuals reported to VSTR has already been established.

Education

- Provided I&R services to 202 survivors/family members; 64 reported themselves as belonging to a minority population; 118 reported barriers indicative of “low socioeconomic status”.

Outreach

- Developed “Professional’s Guide” to instruct professionals working with individuals with brain injury;
- Mailed sampling of brain injury brochures/tip sheets to the 117 local DSS offices;
- Translated 3 documents into Spanish: Mild TBI, Pediatric TBI, and TBI/Domestic Violence;
- Developing letter writing campaign to encourage individuals to contact legislators prior to the 2011 GA session.

Targeted Area: Infrastructure Expansion

Systems Change

- DRS primarily responsible for meeting goals.

Education

- Conducted ACBIS training for 32 Department of Education professionals (teachers, speech therapists, psychologists, etc.); 27 received certification;

Outreach

- Provided BIAV brochure, Professional’s Guide, and domestic violence tip card at DV conference for clergy and individuals who are involved in a DV situation; consulted with conference organizer on the intersection of DV and TBI;
- Posting information on Facebook as appropriate;
- Family Ombudsmen have been attending and are actively engaging in required meetings;
- Serving as the ‘brain injury’ representatives on the Virginia Injury Community Planning Group;
- Continued participation in the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.