



Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes * December 9, 2011

Members Present

Doug Harris, J.D.	Department of Health (Commissioner's Designee), Richmond
Gregory Helm, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville
Teresa Poole	NeuroRestorative Virginia, Blacksburg
David Reid, Psy.D., Chair	Augusta Psychological Associates, Waynesboro

Members Absent

Terry Glenn	Department of Corrections, Richmond
Page Melton	Family Member/Caregiver, Richmond
Jim Rothrock (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Department of Rehabilitative Services, Richmond

Staff

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

Guests

Christina Marmarou, Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University
Dena Schall	Department of Rehabilitative Services, Richmond
Dong Sun, Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University

The Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board met for a regular quarterly business meeting at the Central Office of the Department of Rehabilitative Services at 8004 Franklin Farms Road, Richmond, VA. Dr. David Reid convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period was held; no public comment was offered.

Approval of September 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Doug Harris made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 16 meeting; Dr. Helm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of December 9, 2011 Agenda

Dr. Reid informed the Board that Patti Goodall & Kristie Chamberlain would be providing the Commissioner's update because the Commissioner could not make the meeting. The agenda was approved with the aforementioned change.

Updates from the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS):

- The Secretary of Health and Human Resources, William A. Hazel, Jr., MD, sent communication confirming that a new agency would be created due to the work of

Governor McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring which was established by Executive Order (EO) No. 2 (2010). As a result of EO 2 Objective: "Identify opportunities for creating efficiencies in state government, including streamlining, consolidating, or eliminating redundant and unnecessary agency services, governing bodies, regulations and programs", the new agency would involve the functions of: Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS); Virginia Department for the Aging (VDA); Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH); and Units within the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) that offer community based services to adults (Adult Services and Adult Protective Services).

We do not yet know the name of the new agency (likely effective July 2012 with DRS, VDDHH and VDA and in July 2013 with VDSS) or how the creation of one new agency will impact current employees of each agency.

- Two of the CNI governor appointed Board members will be finishing their terms on June 30, 2012. The opening governor appointed positions: (1) "one person licensed to practice medicine in Virginia experienced with brain or spinal cord injury" and (2) "one Virginian with traumatic brain injury or a caretaker thereof" were discussed. Staff asked the Board to please contact DRS if they knew of any potential candidates for the slots. Dr. Helm of the University of Virginia, currently serving in the "licensed to practice medicine in Virginia" slot, recommended that CNI look to fill this opening with a representative from MCV/VCU (e.g., allowing the two major research universities to alternately serve terms on the Board). Doug Harris also suggested Eastern Virginia Medical School as an option. Staff will make an effort to recruit for candidates from all of the major hospitals and teaching / research centers, as has been done in the past. Staff noted that it is not dictated in the code that any one medical school should inhabit that position. Staff also indicated they would take Dr. Helm's idea back to the Commissioner and the Governor's office on appointments.
- As a result of the Governor eliminating boards and councils, the Board was asked how they would feel about the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board changing from Governor appointed to Commissioner appointed. The Commissioner was considering introducing this change to assist with the Governor's efforts to streamline boards and councils. Discussion ensued. The Board felt that they were not in a position to make a motion on the subject at this time and that the Board functioned well as a Governor appointed body managing the original intentions of the Fund put into place by the late Senator Emily Couric. The Board hopes to discuss with the Commissioner at the March meeting.
- The Board was notified that due to the decline in Revenue the last few years, administration costs for the Fund have exceeded the five percent allowed in the Code of Virginia for administration of the Fund. The Board was asked about their thoughts on either approaching the General Assembly to increase the five percent to seven or ten percent in the Code of Virginia for administration of the Fund, OR taking out the percentages all together that dictate 47.5% to be spent on research grants and 47.5% to be spent on rehabilitative based grant programs with 5% to be spent on administrative costs. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed that they need more time to reflect on this change

and would need to see specific proposed language changes before being able to vote on their agreement or disagreement. Overall, the Board felt that it should be addressed so the Fund is not out of compliance; however, they were not in favor of removing the dictated percentages entirely and would like to see exact language and discuss this change with the Commissioner of DRS.

Grantee Report: “Alterations of Sodium Channel Sequestration in Traumatic Axonal Injury following Experimental Diffuse Traumatic Brain Injury”, Christina Marmarou, Ph.D. (VCU)

Dr. Marmarou, the Principal Investigator for the research grant “Alterations of Sodium Channel Sequestration in Traumatic Axonal Injury following Experimental Diffuse Traumatic Brain Injury” presented her research findings to the Board as well as plans to apply for National Institute of Health (NIH) funding in the near future to continue grant studies. Dialogue ensued with Drs. Helm, Marmarou & Sun regarding some of the outcomes of Dr. Marmarou’s CNI funded studies. Dr. Marmarou asked Dr. Helm to be a reviewer on her pending published articles. Theresa Poole inquired about ongoing clinical trials for treatment of TBI. Dr. Marmarou briefly described the use of the synthetic oxygen carrying treatment called "Oxycyte" now in clinical trials head by Dr. Ross Bullock at the University of Miami. Dr. Marmarou explained that she has also used this in her laboratory to study reduction in axonal injury.

Grantee Report: “Human Neuronal Progenitor Cells Isolated from Neurosurgical Resection Tissue as a Cell Source for Brain Repair Following Trauma”, Dong Sun, Ph.D., VCU

Dr. Sun, the Principal Investigator for the research grant awarded to Virginia Commonwealth University: “Human Neuronal Progenitor Cells Isolated from Neurosurgical Resection Tissue as a Cell Source for Brain Repair Following Trauma” gave a detailed review of her grant processes and findings. Dr. Sun left the Board with the information that although the grant did not have the outcomes she anticipated, they are now working to find ways to improve the survival of adult human NS/NPC’s for post-injury transplantation. Discussion between the Board and Dr. Sun ensued.

Financial Report: Kristie Chamberlain

Kristie Chamberlain, staff to the CNI Trust Fund Advisory Board, provided a review of the current financial status of the Fund. Since its inception in 1998 through November 30, 2011 total revenue into the Fund has been \$16,703,766.99. The Trust Fund has awarded \$17,781,962.94 in grant awards (\$789,803 of which is administrative services) since July 2003. The Fund currently has an obligated balance of \$1,078,195.95 (obligated funds equal revenue minus grant awards made to date). Staff reviewed monthly expenditures of grantees during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012 for September, October & November, versus monthly revenue into the Fund for the same period as well as compared revenue for State Fiscal Year 2012 to State Fiscal Year 2011.

Staff reminded the Board that they are still receiving carryover requests from year two to be used at the close of year three. Staff is responding that if approved, carryover will not be available for expenditures until FY’13 (July 1, 2012) through a no-cost extension (NCE), per the decision at March 2012 Board meeting. At this time, one grantee has been given full carryover approval and a second carryover request was partially approved based on the large amount of the total request. There are two other grantees who have requested carryover as well. Those requests were all tabled until January 2012. Staff recommended that the Board support staff continuing to table the carryover requests until the March 2012 meeting to give the Board and staff a clearer idea of

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how revenue will come into CNI for the months of December, January & February. The balance of that grantee's carryover request was tabled until early 2012 when the Board will have a better idea of Fund's fiscal status based on revenue in FY'12.

Staff reviewed and discussed the letter the Commissioner sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Richard Holcomb, as requested in the September CNI Board meeting. The Board & staff discussed the response from DMV, noting that revenue could very well continue to be low based on their data and insight.

Staff reminded the Board that the community-based grantees currently finishing their third year of funding will finish year three on June 30, 2012. At that time, the Fund will have at least two confirmed grants operating on no cost extensions. The length of time of the no-cost extensions has not been received, reviewed or approved by the Department of Rehabilitative Services, but staff anticipates this could occur in early spring. Staff felt that they needed to see how revenue was coming into the Fund prior to approving time allotment with the carryover requests.

Patti Goodall reminded the Board members of their prior discussions to provide funding for a one-year contract with VCU's Survey Evaluation & Research Laboratory (SERL). SERL will conduct a statewide brain injury needs & resources assessment as part of the required cash match to the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services Federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) grant. A cash match is required for Virginia to be eligible to pull down the federal funding. The SERL contract would begin April 1, 2012, the fourth (and last year) of Virginia's Federal Grant.

Future Meeting Dates

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

- Friday, March 9, 2012
- Friday, June 8, 2012
- Friday, September 7, 2012
- Friday, December 7, 2012

Dr. Reid adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.