

**THI/SCI TRUST FUND
QUARTERLY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
August 8, 2013**

Attending Board Members: Carol Harbo, Ken Alexander, Dr. Paul Harch, Anne Olivier, Mark Martin, and Andrew Kuyoro.

Agency Staff: Alicia Smith, Valencia Roberts, Sherlyn Sullivan, Kim Sullivan.

Public: BIALA's Tommy Lotz.

Call To Order. The meeting was called to order by Carol Harbo.

Introductions. Board members and everyone else in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes. Everyone took a short time to review the minutes from the last meeting held on May 9, 2013. The Board agreed that there were no changes to be made. Ken Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Paul Harch and approved.

Resource Center Updates – Tommy Lotz.

BIALA's Executive Director, Tommy Lotz gave updates on the Resource Center. Updates included handouts with information on the helpline call logs from May – July 2013, community outreach activities from May – July 2013 and the Resource Center Marketing Plan for September 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014. There were also other handouts regarding articles and information on sports medicine, concussions, and surveillance for TBI related deaths. Tommy also brought copies of the Resource Center manual and information on the Christopher Reeves Foundation. The marketing plan includes SWOT Analysis – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; digital information via the website; and primary & secondary targets by region. Tommy mentioned that the web master has put surveys on their website and they are tracking "hits" for the trust fund program on the web.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Financial Report and 2014 Budget – Alicia Smith and Sherlyn Sullivan.

Operating Expenses/Contracts include the computer system that is to be built through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), which is the \$80,000 difference on the report and can be moved to another area in the budget if need be. Ken asked what can be done to protect that money and if can we contract with someone else other than ULL, since we've been informed that it will be a few years before ULL can work on our computer project due to numerous projects ahead of ours. Ken suggested contacting Henry Yenni with Comtec; and he will send the information to Alicia and/or Anne. Alicia and Anne will check into this and find out if we can proceed with another contractor.

There has been \$0 reported in deposits from municipalities. Dr. Harch mentioned that we need to find out which municipalities have not been sending in their monthly payments.

Mark Martin mentioned that when he was the Program Manager over the trust fund, there was a problem with Jefferson Parish sending their payments in. Carol suggested that if possible, we also find out why they have not been sending the funds in.

Program Update – Alicia Smith.

Currently, there are 627 clients actively receiving services through the THSCI program. There are 219 individuals on the waiting list and 23 applications received in the last quarter – 7 applicants with a traumatic brain injury, 15 with a spinal cord injury and 1 with both injuries.

Proposed Rule Changes – Alicia Smith.

Carol has a concern with the area of the program not paying for “recreation”. She questioned what the definition/terminology of recreation is considered to be. She gave an example of someone needing an exercise/physical fitness membership or therapy and asked if that is considered recreation. Alicia stated that goods and services to increase an individual’s level of functioning and gaining independence in the community is not considered recreation and the program does pay for those goods/services. She also commented that as stated in the statute, the true intent of the program is to bring individuals back to a reasonable level of functioning and independence in life. Carol disagreed with the interpretation of the intent that is stated in the statute. Alicia followed up by explaining that’s the reason there are appeal rights if a client disagrees with a decision to deny goods/services.

Kim Sullivan explained the next step in the procedures for the rule changes is that it will get published in the Louisiana Register that comes out on the 20th of each month. The Louisiana Register has a website and there are paper copies on which the public can both view and comment. She also advised that if there are any changes to be made to the statute, the best time to do so is in January when the Legislature begins.

Election. The Board nominated Carol Harbo to be the Chair, in which she accepted. Alicia’s input was that Henry Bateman be the Vice Chair and the Board agreed. Ken made a motion to close the nominations; Anne seconded and it was approved.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Advisory Board Appeal Hearings. The Board voted to go into Executive Session.

Adjourn. Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Harch and approved.

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS
November 14, 2013 and begins at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr.,
Baton Rouge, LA 70806.**

Respectfully submitted,
Valencia Roberts, Admin. Prog. Spec.

2013 Dates for TH/SCI Trust Fund Board Meetings*
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

January 31, 2013
May 9, 2013
August 8, 2013
November 14, 2013

***PACE, located at 7436 Bishop Ott Dr, Baton Rouge 70806. Conference room has been reserved for all 2013 meetings.**