**THI/SCI TRUST FUND**

**QUARTERLY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**November 27, 2017**

**Attending Board Members:** Andrew Kuyoro, Mark Martin, Hazel Odom, Anne Olivier, Gary Matherne, Ken Alexander, Larry Bagley

**Agency Staff:** Ayanna Wilson, Anastasia Webb, Sherlyn Sullivan, Ryan Romero, Rebecca Clement

**Contractors:** Karen Roy

**Public:** None

**Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Andrew Kuyoro.

**Introductions.** Board members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

**Minutes.** Everyone reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on May 11, 2017. Ken Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Gary Matherne and approved.

**Resource Center Updates – BIALA** Karen stated that she would like to thank everyone for advocating for BIALA to keep the contract with the Trust Fund. Karen stated that she and Kim have been on Capitol Hill advocating regarding a Legislation that was being presented for people with spinal cord injuries. Karen stated that BIALA is promoting an Unmasking Brain Injury initiative through United Spinal. BIALA is a state partner for Unmasking Brain Injury, which is a national organization that educates and raises awareness regarding brain injuries. The brain injury survivors create and paint masks to express the emotions they feel about having a brain injury. The masks become a traveling art display that is displayed across the state of Louisiana. The masks will be on display at the capital during the upcoming Legislative session. BIALA has a program called Peer Mentoring and they currently have 13 peer mentors for people with spinal cord and brain injuries. BIALA developed Friends of BIALA Giving Circle and hosted an Inaugural dinner in September of 2017. BIALA receives 30 calls a month on the hotline and the website is continuing to receive a lot of traffic.

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

**Program Status –** Sherlyn Sullivan

Currently the Trust Fund is serving 627 individuals, has a wait list of 185 individuals and received 7 new applications in the last quarter. Of the new applicants; 4 have a TBI and 3 have an SCI. In the last quarter the Trust Fund did not have any denials for services.

Sherlyn asked if anyone had any questions. Mark stated that he doesn’t know if this is the appropriate time but he does want to talk about AWARE. AWARE is the mechanism the Trust Fund uses for maintaining fiscal information on all clients. In 2010 the Trust Fund was located under Louisiana Rehab Services (LRS) and then moved to Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). The Trust Fund have been using the AWARE system free of charge since 2010. Mark stated that the price he quoted of $552.00 a year was incorrect. Mark stated that he will send an invoice to Sherlyn with the correct amounts. Ken asked how far back the Trust Fund will have to pay and Mark stated that the Trust Fund will only have to pay for the upcoming year.

**Financial Report –** Sherlyn stated that the Trust Fund collected $396,000 and spent $313,000 through September. Sherlyn stated that she is hoping to open cases from 2015 in the spring of 2018.

**Other.** Ken stated that he would like to thank Tara Leblanc for advocating to keep the BIALA contract. Sherlyn stated that Kimberly Hill did her part as well and that it was a group effort.

Sherlyn mentioned that it has been extremely hard getting a quorum for the THSCI Board Meetings. Andrew suggested that the meeting invite go out a month early to make sure everyone will be available to attend the meeting. Karen stated that BIALA does a range of dates for the week of the meeting in order to accommodate schedules. Ken asked Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) legal if the Trust Fund would need a quorum in order to meet since in 2012 it was changed to an Advisory Board. Sherlyn asked if the meeting can be held by phone for the ones who cannot attend. Ryan Romero stated that the Open Meeting Law will not allow either request. Ken asked if needing a quorum was established in state statue or is it in Rule. Ryan stated that it’s established in state statue and it applies to all state boards, not just THSCI. Andrew asked what day is the next board meeting, and Sherlyn replied and said February 8, 2018. Ken stated that he is scheduled to be out of town on that day. Anne asked if changing the meeting to a different week will help. Sherlyn asked the board members if February 1, 2018 will be a good day and the majority in attendance agreed. Sherlyn asked LDH Legal if we can discuss what days’ work best for the board members at each meeting and Ryan stated that the Public Meeting Law requires the dates of the meeting be posted at the beginning of the calendar year in which they are held. Therefore, we will meet on February 1st and keep the other dates that were originally set for now. See schedule on the next page.

**Public Comment.** None

**Adjourn.**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT TH/SCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS**

**February 1, 2018 and begins at 10:00 a.m. held at PACE, 7436 Bishop Ott Dr., Baton Rouge, La 70806**

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Webb

**2018 Dates for TH/SCI Trust Fund Board Meetings\***

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**February 1, 2018**

**May 10, 2018**

**August 9, 2018**

**November 8, 2018**

**\*PACE, located at 7436 Bishop Ott Dr. Baton Rouge, La 70806. Conference room has been reserved for all 2018 meetings.**