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# THSCI Trust Fund Advisory Board

## MINUTES

November 9, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. | Office of Aging and Adult Services

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

Andrew Kuyoro, the Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

### II. ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Dr. Andrew Kuyoro, Melissa Bayham, Dr. Bern Lee, Gary Matherne, Senator Franklin Foil, Melinda Richard, and Rep. Lawrence Bagley

Not Present: Robert Chatelain, Stephanie Fletcher, John Fanning, Yvette Pacaccio and Rep. Lawrence Bagley

Agency Staff: Tonia Gedward, Ebony Thomas, John Korduner, and Ayanna Wilson

Other Attendees: Kimberly Hill

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes from the meeting held on August 10, 2023. A motion was made by Dr. Kuyoro to approve the minutes and other board members seconded the motion. **Motion Passed**

### IV. ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### 1. THSCI Trust Fund Program Financial Report

Tonia Gedward, the THSCI Trust Fund Program Manager, presented the program's financial report which included the program's budget and expenditure information. She noted the increase in deposits and stated the previous municipality outreach facilitated the increase in revenue. She stated that, with the increase, the program would be able to open more cases and remove additional applicants from the waitlist. Dr. Andrew made a motion to accept the report. Several board members seconded the motion. **Motion Passed**

#### 2. THSCI Trust Fund Program Manager's Operational Report

Tonia Gedward presented the program's operational report which included a summary of the program's day-to-day operations, quarterly performance, and statistical information. She mentioned that there were 561 program participants and 193 applicants on the waitlist. She also reported on other daily tasks such as requests for goods and services, payments to vendors, annual assessments and caseload changes.

Tonia discussed the program's current efforts to work with the support coordination agencies on their contractual obligations to ensure they are working effectively and efficiently. She mentioned that she trains her contracted support coordination agencies at least once a year. Mendy also the overall efforts of OAAS to improve the way the agency delivers training to support coordination agencies across Louisiana. Mendy also mentioned that OAAS was awarded some federal relief funds which provides additional relief to address the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, and various sectors. She proposed that some of the funds could be used to assist applicants on the THSCI Trust Fund waitlist. She asked Tonia to

brainstorm ways that the program may be able to use the funds and follow up with her (Mendy) after the meeting.

Lastly, Tonia asked the board to review the application packet and provide feedback on how to improve the application as well as the Medical Eligibility Form. She stated that the board will discuss the suggestions at the next board meeting.

### **3. THSCI Trust Fund Program's Resource Center Report**

Kimberly Hill, the Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana (BIALA), presented the resource center's report which included a summary of the center's day-to-day operations and accomplishments. She stated, "Through the first year of the program, their membership has increased by 20%, especially in rural areas. Kimberly said BIALA continues to educate medical facilities around the state about the THSCI Trust Fund program and shares applications. She also talked about the upcoming annual BIALA conference.

Kimberly informed the board that BIALA was awarded the Excellence in Programs and Services award for small affiliates by the Brain Injury Association of America. She added that they met the deliverable requirement for the Craig H. Nielsen grant and as a result, BIALA was granted funding for an additional year.

Kimberly added that BIALA created a new program called Craig Cares. The new program resulted from a generous donation and provides up to \$500 grants to help individuals with spinal cord injuries obtain necessary equipment or help with needs that insurance doesn't cover. She stated on behalf of the board of directors and staff of BIALA, they would like to thank the board for their continued support. Because of the support, BIALA will continue its mission to be the statewide resource for people impacted by brain and/or spinal cord injury.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

### **2024 THSCI ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS:**

February 8, 2024

May 9, 2024

August 8, 2024

November 14, 2024