

**Traumatic Brain & Spinal Cord Injury (TBSCI) Trust Fund Advisory Board**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**November 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Office of Aging and Adult Services**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Andrew Kuyoro, the Chairperson of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Present: Dr. Andrew Kuyoro; Gary Matherne; Dr. Bern G. Lee; Senator William “Bill” Wheat, Jr.; Dr. Beverly Gladney; Roxane E. Bingham; Gearry T. Williams

Board Members Not Present: Dr. John Fanning; Dr. Elizabeth N. Morgan; Yvette D. Pacaccio; Dr. Jason Cormier; Representative Lawrence Bagley; Melissa Bayham

Agency Staff Present: Tonia Gedward, Ebony Thomas, Valencia Roberts

Other Attendees Present: None

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Kuyoro noted that Representative Bagley was present at the August 7, 2025, meeting, contrary to what was recorded. The minutes were corrected accordingly.

- Motion to approve the corrected minutes: Gary Matherne
- Second: Gearry Williams
- Motion passed

**IV. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**a. Program Updates**

**i. TBSCI Financial Report**

The TBSCI Trust Fund Program Manager, Tonia Gedward, presented information on the program’s financial report, which included the budget and expenditures. Tonia stated that the client intake increased due to an increase in applicants being made eligible for the program, but everything is on track so far. She reported that previously, there were 270 applicants on the waiting list, but as of 11/13/25, there are now 172 applicants on the list, with applications dating back to 2023. In June, the program removed 88 applicants from waitlist status to eligibility determination review status. This includes 2022 and some of the 2023 applicants who were on the waitlist. Of the 88 that were removed from the list, 57 applicants are now eligible to receive services. Gary Matherne made a motion to adopt the financial report as presented. Gearry Williams seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

**ii. TBSCI Program Status**

**1. Program Summary**

- 610 eligible participants: 397 with traumatic spinal cord injuries, 213 with traumatic brain injuries
- 172 applicants remain on the waitlist (down from 270)
- 88 applicants moved from waitlist to eligibility review; 57 approved for services

- 156 requests for goods and services received in the past three months
  - 134 Purchase Authorizations issued
  - 251 payment requests processed
2. **Louisiana Municipal Association** – Tonia Gedward reported that the LMA declined the program’s request to present at the Mayor’s Court this year, suggesting it may be considered next year. Flyers were not permitted this time. Board members expressed concern about the reluctance, but no explanation was provided.
  3. **Participant Concerns: Reimbursement Policy** – A participant requested reimbursement for a \$10,000 massage chair. The program explained that reimbursements are capped at \$1,500, with larger purchases required through approved vendors. The policy was established to prevent fraud and ensure accountability. The Board commended the program’s handling of the situation and agreed that the policy should remain unchanged.
  4. **Proposed Increase for BIALA’s Contract** – Kimberly Hill of the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana (BIALA) requested an additional \$10,000 to supplement the current \$50,000 annual contract. The program considered increasing the contract. However, Revised Statute 46:2634 caps the disbursement at \$50,000. The Board requested a detailed financial breakdown before considering legislative action to increase the cap.

**b. BIALA Update:**

- In Ms. Hill’s absence, Tonia Gedward summarized updates:
  - BIALA received the 2025 Award of Excellence for Visibility from the Brain Injury Association of America
  - Partnership established with Tulane University’s Department of Theatre and Dance, Documentary Theatre Class
  - Awarded a grant from the Craig H. Nielson Foundation to expand outreach statewide, with emphasis on rural areas
  - Received a grant from the Christopher Reeve Foundation, increasing attendance at virtual support offerings
  - Recent activities included adaptive yoga, mindfulness, and adaptive bowling.
  - Upcoming offerings include music therapy and holiday trivia.
  - BIALA’s 17th Annual Conference will be held March 27–28, 2026, in Kenner, Louisiana. Advisory Board members were invited to attend.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Medical Eligibility Form (MEF): Updated, pending finalization
- Personal Care Attendant (PCA) services: Covered by the TBSCI Trust Fund program
- Application availability: Will be printed and added to board binders
- Board member term limits: No time limit; Governor-appointed members require reappointment
- 2026 meeting schedule:
  - February 12, 2026
  - May 14, 2026
  - August 13, 2026
  - November 12, 2026

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Dr. Andrew Kuyoro adjourned the meeting at 10:42 AM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026.