

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission
2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-416 Atlanta, GA
Commission Meeting
September 26, 2019

Minutes

Commissioners attending in person:

Chase Jones (CJ), Hank Fielding (HF), Rebecca Dugger (RD).

Commissioners attending via teleconference:

Jane Warnock (JW), Randy Owens (RO), Bob Bauer (BB) Susannah Kidwell (SK), Andrew Dennison (AD), Gwen McKee (GM), Lisa Dawson (LD), Cheryl Harris (CH), Raj Gandy (RG).

Commissioners - Absent:

Tim Wall (TW).

Staff:

Craig Young (CY), Tyimeka Brown (TB), Leslie Collins (LC), Diana Ballard (DB), Keisha Zachary (KZ), Dionne Braxton (DB).

Guests:

Leona Rittenhouse, OPB.

Chairman's Report

CY – A quorum of 10 Commissioners are present.

CJ – I call the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. We will take a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. GM – typo needs editing.

A quorum of 12 Commissioners are present.

1. Motion: to approve the August 2019 draft Commission minutes.

Motion by: BB **Second by:** JW

Vote: Approved unanimously.

CJ – Please welcome our new Commissioner appointee from the Georgia Department of Community Health - Rebecca Dugger. Please tell us about yourself and your work with DCH. RD – I am the Director of Program and Community Supports (Medicaid waivers) for DCH. I have prior experience working at Grady Hospital in their Emergency Department for fifteen years.

CJ – I would also like to take this time to thank Cheryl Harris for all of the outstanding work she has done on behalf of the Commission. Your contributions have been notable and we wish you all the best.

Executive updates:

CY - updates:

1. IGA with DPH, DHS and BSITFC has been signed. DHS will invoice DPH for funds and make payment to BIAG on quarterly basis starting September 30, 2019.

MOA for office space lease (\$15,000 annually) is similarly working its way through the DPH process.

2. DPH budget – currently we do not have an assigned budget analyst to approve our budget expenditures. DPH is revising its process for handling BSITF accounts payable and budget. We have reviewed an initial draft and made comments/edits.

3. Kenisha is still in Kansas City for the NASHIA conference. We will be presenting on a discussion panel regarding Self-Directed programs.

4. I submitted our current legislative status for the 2020 General Session to the Governor’s Office. HB576 (attached) was introduced last year by Rep. Williams of Milledgeville (145th). This bill was to move the Commission up in the priority list and carries over from last year.

Submitted our SFY2020-2024 Strategic Plan to OPB. Will receive feedback at some future time.

5. Thanks again to Cheryl Harris who is retiring on September 30th. I am so appreciative of your service to the Commission and your caring professionalism. You will be missed by us and so many others at 2 Peachtree!

6. The Distribution grid for September will be >\$120,000.

Distribution committee:

DB – The applicant grid for September 2019 has 11 applications with requests for \$126,000 in grants. We only had discussion regarding one applicant and the age of a vehicle to be modified. Does anyone have any questions regarding the September grid? None.

A quorum of 12 Commissioners are present.

2. Motion: To approve the September 2019 distribution grid as submitted.

Motion by: Distribution committee **Second by:** SK

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Finance and Collections report:

LC – Collections of \$121,000.00 for August. \$15,000 more than July last year. Working with John Sartain to come up with new processes that will make DPH financial reporting more transparent. The Treasury 2306 account has been closed as it was redundant. All donations to that account will now be deposited in our 2154 Treasury account for unappropriated funds.

Communications update:

The committee selected a theme for the next annual report – “New Opportunities” (thanks to Paige for the tag-line). CJ – we should report on our participation in the NASHIA conference on our website, annual report, etc.

TBI Grant Update

CY – met with our counter-parts at NASHIA including ACL officials. Approval for the year 1 carry-over grant budget has been reviewed and final hurdle is the finance review. Presented to the conference on Self-Directed and Direct Services for Individuals with TBI. Q & A centered on categories of grants and vehicle modification consideration. Very well-attended conference of 190 members.

New Business

CJ – does anyone wish to nominate (or self-nominate) for the Commission officer positions of Treasurer or Secretary? None. CJ – I will be calling you....

The meeting is adjourned at 11:20 p.m. by BB.

The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday October 24, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Commission offices at 2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-416.