**Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission**

2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-416 Atlanta, GA

Commission Meeting

March 25, 2021

Teleconference

**Minutes**

**Commissioners attending in person:**

None.

**Commissioners attending via teleconference:**

Gwen McKee (GM), Susannah Kidwell (SK), Chase Jones (CJ), Jane Warnock (JW), Andrew Dennison (AD), Bob Bauer (BB), Randy Owens (RO), Lisa Dawson (LD), Tim Wall (TW), Paula Gumpman (PG).

**Commissioners - Absent:**

Stephanie Stallings, Rebecca Dugger, Chuck Stone.

**Staff:**

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

**Guests:**

Leona Rittenhouse (LR) – OPB, Jane Jackson (JJ) – BIAG.

**Chairman’s Report**

CY – A quorum of 9 Commissioners are currently present.

CJ – I call the meeting to order at 10:41 a.m. We will address the quorum items first for this meeting.

A quorum of 9 Commissioners are present.

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| **1. Motion:** to approve the February 2020 draft Commission minutes.  **Motion by:** BB  **Second by:** TW  **Vote:** Approved unanimously. |

**Distribution committee:**

TW – The Distribution committee briefly discussed one applicant’s request for an exercise bike. The bike requested did not come with a recommendation from a physician or therapist so the amount of the award was reduced to $1,000 as it is a non-DME item. The applicant was informed of the change. Are there any other questions/concerns regarding the March 2021 Commission Distribution grid? None.

A quorum of 9 Commissioners are present.

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| **2. Motion:** To approve the March 2020 grid as submitted.  **Motion by:** Distribution committee  **Second by:** JW  **Vote:** Motion is approved unanimously. |

**Executive committee report:**

CJ – the main topic was the state employee bonuses that were a part of the AFY2021 budget signed by the Governor. All state employees earning under $80,000.00 were to receive a $1,000.00 bonus. As the Commission does not receive additional funds for this the Executive committee voted to follow the AFY instructions and make available this bonus to all BSITF staff. GM – very deserved. JJ – staff are great to work with! Thanks to the Commission from staff.

**Executive Director’s updates:**

1. Currently there are 56 applications assigned and being processed by staff.

2. Chuck Stone has left the employ of GVRA and I am awaiting a new replacement for Chuck from the GVRA Director.

**Advisory committee update:**

KT – the Advisory committee meeting did not take place due to lack of quorum and is rescheduled for March 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The March Brain Injury Month ACL webinars continue through April 6th. I presented for our workgroup Sustainable Partnerships, and our current relationship with the State Ombudsman program and the Protection and Advocacy program. Many activities to come. I have had a meeting with GVRA and we will continue to meet to find ways to collaborate with our mutual stakeholders with TBI and SCI. Also will hold a training with BIAG for GVRA staff counselors who advise their clients on resources in the community.

The ACL FOA has not yet been released, will let you know when it becomes available.

**Collections and Finance report:**

LC – Through January all accounts are in-balance with revenue exceeding costs. The collections report shows that for FY21 February collections were $135,372. March collections are $112K with four more business days to process. Any questions? None.

Commissioner Lisa Dawson joins the meeting.

**Communications committee:**

CY – The Communications committee met and reported that the annual report is completed, printed and delivered to the General Assembly. Need your input to postings on the Commission’s Facebook page. LD – I can provide information around injury prevention topics. JW – motorcycle safety is a good candidate. CJ – also GOHS. CY – great ideas.

**Public Policy update:**

CY - The Committee did not meet due to lack of quorum. The General Assembly is in session and we are on legislative day 38. HB511 has passed the Senate, engrossed and returned to the House where we expect the Governor to sign it after sine die.

**New Business:**

JJ – Brain Injury Awareness month continues with many local and national activities.

**The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday April 22, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**