**Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission**

2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-416 Atlanta, GA

Commission Meeting

September 24, 2020

Teleconference

**Minutes**

**Commissioners attending in person:**

None.

**Commissioners attending via teleconference:**

Gwen McKee (GM), Susannah Kidwell (SK), Chase Jones (CJ), Lisa Dawson (LD), Rebecca Dugger (RD), Paula Gumpman (PG), Jane Warnock (JW), Andrew Dennison (AD), Randy Owens (RO)

**Commissioners - Absent:**

Bob Bauer, Chuck Stone, Stephanie Stallings, Tim Wall.

**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 (OPB), Jane Jackson (BIAG).

**Chairman’s Report**

CY – A quorum of 9 Commissioners are currently present.

CJ – I call the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. First order of business is to approve the minutes from our August Commission meeting.

A quorum of 9 Commissioners are present.

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| **1. Motion:** to approve the August 2020 draft Commission minutes.  **Motion by:** RO  **Second by:** JW  **Vote:** Approved unanimously. |

**Executive committee report:**

CJ – there was no Executive committee meeting in September. We are taking nominations for Commission Vice-Chairman as Gwen has fulfilled her two-year term and must rotate off. We will accept self-nominations from the floor today or next meeting. The Treasurer and Secretary positions on the Executive committee each have one more year available but must re-nominate. Officers will be approved at the October 2020 Commission meeting.

**Executive Director updates:**

CY – Staff continues to work via telework and in-office as needed. Currently there are 72 applications on staffs’ desks. Submitted applications for 7-1 through yesterday are 79. Also, nine home mod grants with DCA. There are two applicants on the wait list.

**Distribution committee:**

DB – Is there any discussion or questions/concerns regarding the September 2020 Commission Distribution grid? AD – question regarding BELT0343; has the applicant been apprised that by accessing in-network services they will have more funds available to them for other needs? DB – Yes, staff routinely presents how this might impact remaining funds (if eligible). Services for this applicant were recommended by their neurologist; the applicant’s insurance will not pay for these services. JW – sometimes we are faced with providers who do not “get” TBI and we must find alternatives who are understanding of TBI issues. LC – consumer choice is supported but I do counsel applicants on this issue when the vendor management form is processed. JJ – TBI is not always well understood by providers. Insurers often do not cover needed services in my opinion.

DB – any other questions about the grid? None.

A quorum of 9 Commissioners are present.

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

**Collections and Finance report:**

LC – Through August all accounts are in-balance with revenue exceeding costs. The collections report shows that for FY21 August collections were $110,262. For September we have collected thus far $113,580 with six days left.

Any questions? None.

**Communications committee:**

CY – the Communications committee had a quorum and good discussion. Topics included items for the upcoming annual report, cover story and secondary stories.

The committee discussed social media opportunities. Paige Havens provided a number of items to consider for a social media campaign included a marketing professional who could assist with recovering our Facebook account and has experience with Google ad placement. I contacted Magnolia Media Group and they will send media campaign suggestions and quotes for their services. CJ – good to re-establish social media and use to reach more stakeholders.

CY- Central Registry letters going out this week to ~1,600 inpatient with TBI/SCI.

**Advisory committee and TBI Grant Update:**

KT –

-State plan workgroup met on September 8 & 15 to work on goals and objectives for the annual plan.

-Craig & I are on the financial resource’s subcommittee for the Advisory Board workgroup and met with them on September 14.

-Children and Youth Committee meeting held on September 17, 2020. We discussed the state plan &membership for advisory committee. Also discussed the virtual care survey: 41% well checks, 30% chronic illness, 24% acute needs, and 21% mental health. Patients seem to prefer virtual care.

-Virtual NASHIA Conference being held September 22-29. Jane Jackson and Lorraine Barr are attending as state partners for the grant as well as Craig and myself.

-The Brain Injury Learning Collaborative resumed on September 17 & 18.

-Workgroup Updates: Workgroups are meeting during the NASHIA Conference. Updates will be available for next month’s meeting.

**New Business:**

AD – new resource for people with TBI and SCI called Georgia RSVP Clinic. It will help low income or Medicaid-funded outpatients with free services. Will also assist with BSITF grant applications. JJ – BIAG’s virtual TBI Camp went very well.

CJ – thank you to all for your attendance today.

The meeting is adjourned at 11:23 a.m. by motion - CJ.

**The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday October 24, 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**