

**Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission**  
2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-416 Atlanta, GA  
Commission Meeting  
March 28, 2019

**Minutes**

**Commissioners attending in person:**

Chase Jones (CJ), Cheryl Harris (CH), Lisa Dawson (LD).

**Commissioners attending via teleconference:**

Randy Owens (RO), Gwen McKee (GM), Susannah Kidwell (SK), Bob Bauer (BB), Hank Fielding (HF), Tim Wall (TW), Andrew Dennison (AD), Jane Warnock (JW).

**Commissioners - Absent:**

Raj Gandy, Barbara Means-Cheeley.

**Staff:**

Craig Young (CY), Leslie Berry (LB), Tyimeka Brown (TB), Diana Ballard (DBd), Dionne Braxton (DB), Kenisha Tait (KT).

**Guests:**

Leona Rittenhouse.

**Chairman's Reports**

CY – A quorum of 10 Commissioners are present.

CJ – I call the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

A quorum of 10 Commissioners are present.

**1. Motion:** to approve the March 7, 2019 draft Commission minutes.

**Motion by:** BB **Second by:** GW

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Executive updates:**

CY –

1. The Governor's office is very prompt in attending to the approval of our distribution grids.
2. The DCA draft appendix for adding Habitat as a contract administrator is attached for your information.
3. Senate Appropriations bill had an added line item for directed grant funding for the Trust Fund. At last review early today the item remains in the conference committee budget. CJ – the item is for directed funding that would go the Side by

Minutes taken by: CY

Minutes approved on: 4-25-19

Side Clubhouse for brain injury services; Side by Side has not discussed this measure with the Commission.

BB – hope that the Commission will include Side by Side in the Commission strategic planning session. CJ – this is probably not the right forum, perhaps they would like to address the Commission at our next meeting. GM – it would be good to get their perspective.

CY – we can create an agenda item if appropriate.

HB576 CJ - was introduced by Rep. Williams to move the Commission up in the partial payment priority list. We will be go to the Capitol later today to discuss the bill with the sponsor.

4. The MOA for the TBI grant between the Commission and DHS has been turned in to DPH legal office. Kenisha is drafting 2020 contract action requests for DPH so we can have everything ready when the next budget year begins. DPH has yet to submit the Commission's Prior-Year amendment for funds for FY2019 and has yet to ok the Commission office supply order that has been awaiting approval for months.

CJ – what is the law enforcement perspective on the GA Supreme Court ruling on the implied consent rule for the breathalyzer refusal? HF – state police no longer read the statement regarding refusal will be used against them in a court proceeding. That is no longer allowed.

LD joins the meeting.

**Distribution committee:**

TW – The applicant grid for March has 9 applicants with requests amounting to \$90,782. Staff did their usual excellent job in processing the applications. Any questions? None.

A quorum of 11 Commissioners are present.

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

**Motion by:** Distribution committee **Second by:** GM

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Finance and Collections report:**

LC – March 2019 collections to date were \$101,908. Commission actual expenses were less than budgeted for the quarter.

**Communications update:**

DB – we have received notice that Digital Services will begin the Drupal 8 upgrade for our website. The server migration will not impact our ability to receive applications.

**TBI Grant Update**

KT – traveled to Washington D.C. for the ACL/Congressional TBI committee meetings held in conjunction with Brain Injury Awareness month. There were agenda-filled days of meetings and we met many of our partner states. I

presented along with Joe Sarra of the GA Advocacy Office on the collaboration of the state grantees with the Protection and Advocacy grantees. I was joined at event with a Georgia TBI advocate who provided moving testimony regarding her accident and recovery. She is interested in joining the Advisory committee.

**New Business**

CY – met with a former BSITFC Commissioner Dan Roach, formerly with Public Safety, at the DOAS Sexual Harassment training yesterday. He spoke about how rewarding his service on the Commission was to him.

CJ – the Governor’s state strategic goals have not yet been released so it might be best to delay our strategic planning meeting to the May Commission meeting. Has anyone conflicts with such a change? No response. We will make that change then.

**The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday April 25, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Commission offices at 2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-416.**

**The meeting is adjourned by motion (BB) at 11:12 a.m.**