

**Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission**

2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-426 Atlanta, GA

Commission Meeting

January 26, 2017

**Minutes**

Commissioners attending in person:

Chase Jones (CJ), Lisa Dawson (LD), Tim Wall (TW), Hank Fielding (HF),  
Barbara Means-Cheeley (BC).

Commissioners attending via teleconference:

Bob Bauer (BB), Gwen McKee (GM), Randy Owens (RO), Jane Warnock (JW),  
Cheryl Harris (CH), Susannah Kidwell (SK).

Commissioners - Absent:

Kate Brady, Andrew Dennison.

Staff:

Craig Young (CY), Leslie Berry (LB), Tyimeka Brown (TB), Dionne Braxton (DB),  
Keisha Zachary (KZ).

Guests:

Charles Lamb (CL).

**Chairman's Reports**

CY – A quorum of 9 Commissioners are present.

CJ – call the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Welcome!

CJ – Our first agenda item is approval of last month's minutes.

A quorum of 9 Commissioners is present.

**1. Motion:** to approve the December 2016 draft Commission minutes as submitted.

**Motion by:** BB **Second by:** TW

**Vote:** Unanimously approved.

BC and JW join the meeting. A quorum of 11 Commissioners are present.

Executive committee - update:

CJ – The Executive committee has no recommendations for the Commission to consider.

The Commission's FY2018 AOB budget figure included in the Governor's Budget was incorrect. The surcharges total from 2015 were listed again instead of the proper 2016 surcharge collection total of \$1.42 million. We have contacted OPB and spoken with our analyst, the HHS division chief and received verbal assurances from the head of OPB that we would be allowed to get the additional funds due the Commission via the FY2018 supplemental budget appropriation. These funds will be available in March 2018. (Note: CJ and CY met with House and Senate budget offices to let them know about the error and how this will be rectified.)

Other updates:

1. CY – teleconference with AG's office regarding the litigation with Raymond Shields, LLC. Answered questions for our attorney. No other information about the status of the suit.
2. Commissioner Kate Brady from Voc Rehab will be leaving the agency at the end of the month. A request for a new Commissioner from the agency has been made.
3. Annual report should be ready by next week for final approval.
4. Talking points and Public Policy External Communications policy has been provided for Commissioners to refer to.
5. CY meeting next week with GTA staff to discuss a new web site for the Commission.

#### **Appeals committee:**

Charles Lamb, Chairman reviewed the appeal of applicant Ster7253 who was denied a grant for a modified van by the Commission at the November 2016 Commission meeting. The applicant provided additional documents from vendors who described the current modified van as unmodifiable. Safety concerns were also raised.

After speaking with the applicant the Appeals committee voted to recommend to the Commission that it reverse its decision and fund the grant for a modified van as requested by the applicant.

The Commission held a wide-ranging and lengthy discussion regarding the applicants' request, focusing on current policy which states that the Commission will not fund replacement vehicles to a household that currently has an accessible vehicle. The applicant has used their current modified van for three years. Though the current van isn't ideal it is still considered accessible for the applicant. Discussion also occurs around safety considerations but Commission Distribution policy does not warrant the safety of grants for goods and services and has no policy on the topic. The Commission is not responsible for the safety/road-worthiness of the applicant's current van and is not therefore a consideration.

A quorum of 11 Commissioners is present.

**2. Motion:** To reverse the prior decision to deny and approve the grant request for Ster7253 for a modified van.

**Motion by:** Appeals committee **Second by:** GM

**Vote:** Yes – JW, GM, RO, SK. Abstain – BB, BC. No – CH, LD, HF, TW, CJ.

**Motion Fails:** The denial of the grant for Ster7253 is upheld.

**Distribution committee:**

CJ – our thanks to Tim for assuming the Chairmanship of the Distribution committee.

TW – The applicant grid for January has no denials. Any questions regarding the January grid? None.

A quorum of 10 Commissioners are present. SK left the meeting.

**2. Motion:** To approve the January 2017 distribution grid as submitted.

**Motion by:** Distribution committee **Second by:** HF

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Collections update:**

LB – collections down again, under the same month prior year but up from last month. BB – we are about \$15K down from last year.

**Public Policy committee:**

CY – the committee met early in January to review early submitted bills. Nothing impacting the Commission or our stakeholders thus far. Please let me know if you see any bills in the legislative hopper that might be of interest to the committee or Commission.

**New Business:**

CJ – any new business? None.

The meeting was adjourned by motion (TW) at 11:39 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be on **Thursday – February 23, 2017** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Commission offices at 2 Peachtree St NW Suite 26-426 Atlanta, GA 30303 in the conference room.