

Officers

Chairperson:
Diane Bogdan

Vice-Chair:
Jim Vyhnač

Secretary:
Position Vacant

TBI Staff:
Adèle Edelman,
Erin Weaver,
Glen McClintock

TBI Steering Committee
June 5, 2008, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Present: Glen McClintock, Diane Bogdan, Ted Stachulski, Erin Weaver, James Vyhnač, Sheila Tourangeau, Maureen Mayo, Marsha Bancroft, Al Urpsis, and Heidi Goodrich.

I. Introductions/Announcements

The meeting opened at 1:04 p.m. Marsha announced that Vermont won three awards at the the 11th Annual Federal TBI Program State Leadership Meeting in Bethesda, MD last week (April 2 -4, 2008). A Press Release titled 'Vermont Programs Receive Federal Recognition for Collaborative Efforts to Serve Vermonters with Traumatic Brain Injuries' was distributed on Friday, April 11, 2008 from AHS. Protection and Advocacy received two awards – "Most Popular Product" submitted by a P&A on the technical assistance website (TBITAC) and "Collaboration Award". The State TBI Program also received an award, "Collaborating and Coalition Building".

II. Admission/Discharges

Glen reviewed the new guidelines discussed at the last Steering Committee - Admissions/Discharges will now be approved by the State TBI Program and more complex cases will be brought to the Steering Committee for consultation. Members asked, however, that the state review admissions with the Steering Committee to better understand the population being served.

III. Minutes

The committee looked over the minutes from last meeting (03/06/08) and approved.

IV. Trust Fund and TBI Conference Update

Marsha read an email from Trevor regarding the Trust Fund, stating: "We were not able to move beyond initial testimony for H.273 in the House Human Services committee. There are a number of reasons for that. We have since tried to attach the motor vehicle surcharge to the "Fee Bill" when it crossed over to the Senate Finance committee. Although there was some sympathy for our cause this has not been a good year for adding fees or increased funding. We did eventually get S.367 into the Senate Health and Welfare committee though the efforts of Senator Flanagan. We had held off on doing this until we saw that the house bill wasn't going anywhere this year. Unfortunately, it was a little late. We may still get a chance to give testimony in the Senate committee and this will be helpful in looking toward next year. In my conversations with particular lawmakers I

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believe we may have a better chance (assuming these individuals get elected) next year. We have picked up some supporters that should be instrumental next year.” Both bills are for an Act Relating to Services for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury.

V. TBI Conference Update

Marsha then passed around a schedule of topics for the 2008 TBI Conference. Members made suggestions which will be brought to the planning committee by Steering Committee members involved in planning.

VI. Leadership Meeting

Glen McClintock, Adele Edelman, Erin Weaver, Ted Stachulski and Marsha Bancroft attended the 11th Annual Federal TBI Program State Leadership Meeting in Bethesda, MD took place from April 2 – 4. Attendees discussed their experience of the Leadership Meeting from their different perspectives. Both Vermont Protection & Advocacy, Inc (VP&A) and the State TBI Program receive funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau to provide services and education to individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Every year the Federal TBI Program holds a Grantee Leadership conference where we hear about new TBI research, best practices and the good work our fellow grantees are doing for the TBI community. Three awards were given to two Vermont agencies (see ‘Announcements’). Glen noted that he had heard at the conference that the Federal Government will be limiting their grants to only 20 states which will make the grant process more competitive.

VII. Goals and Objectives of Steering Committee / Advisory Board and Outreach for new board members plan

Glen passed around a draft for “Traumatic Brain Injury Statewide Advisory Board/Council Wellness’ for reference and an outline for future plans for board development. Plans were discussed and Glen will develop next steps and create an action plan. Current ‘Operating Guidelines’ were passed around for review and Glen noted that a sub-group will be working to develop more comprehensive bylaws to replace the current Operating Guidelines. Glen also suggested that to provide additional structure to the Advisory Board meetings that Robert’s Rules would be followed and the Steering Committee concurred. Glen also gave everyone in the committee the most updated Advisory Board member list and asked Steering Committee members to contact other members that have not been present recently to invite them to the next meeting.. Suggestions were also made from members regarding who/what

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agencies should be contacted for future members.

VIII. Identifying Roles and next steps

It was suggested that the board be rejuvenated before deciding roles. Diane announced she would be stepping down from Chair once more members and a possible candidate is established.

IX. Public Comments

Jim brought up a question regarding guidelines. There should be an established and clearly set up guidelines to follow when there is a question of a caller's safety. Erin suggested APS, Diane suggested MH Crisis line. All decided to bring it to the Advisory Board next month.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting is the Advisory Board meeting which will be held on May 6th from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at Stanley Hall, Room 107, Waterbury State Complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bogdan
Chair