

Minutes for the Governor's Council on Spinal & Head Injuries  
Public Meeting held February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

A public meeting of the Governor's Council on Spinal & Head Injuries was convened on February 2nd, 2011 at 1:00pm at the Disability Empowerment Center, Statewide Independent Living Council Conference Room located at 5025 E. Washington St., Suite 214, Phoenix, AZ 85034. Council members present in person or via teleconference were: Robert Bohm, Javier Cardenas, Tim Flood, Gary Frandino, Kathy Levandowsky, Greg Lewis, Laura Nelson, Pat Padilla, Sharon Phillips, Sydney Rice, Paula Seanez, Steve Zaccari. Council staff present were: Lisette Camacho, Aurora Gonzales, and Ann Tarpay. Guests present at the meeting were: Mattie Cummins, Paul Mortensen and B.J. Tatro. Absent: Christine Vegara, Bryan Longie, Carolyn Mitchell and Mary Lu Bushnell.

**1. Council Business**

- Council Chair remarks and acknowledgments
  - o Ms. Phillips asked for an update on former Council member Bill Scott's health. Mr. Zacarri stated he is back at home and continues his recovery.
  
- Establish meeting dates for the remainder of calendar year 2011
  - o Based on survey results, Ms. Phillips advised that the dates selected to replace the October and December meetings dates are: Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. September will be for strategic planning. It is uncertain at this time if the Council will have a half or longer day for that meeting. Ms. Phillips suggested we wait to decide until after the first legislative session is held. Council staff will identify locations for the meeting, including checking for rooms at the Disability Empowerment Center.
  
- Strategic Planning Retreat follow-up – Facilitated discussion of “Results”: for the Key Directions
  - o At the Strategic Planning Retreat in October 2010, the Council suggested that we consider adding a section to the Key Directions and Strategies that demonstrates the impact of the Council's work on each Key Direction. Dr. Tatro was here today to facilitate a discussion that will begin the conversation that will result in creating indicators of success for our strategic plan. A handout for the discussion had been sent to the members prior to the meeting that included the current activities of the Council for each Key Direction.
  - o Dr. Tatro reviewed the handout and asked the Council members to provide feed back on the following questions for each Key Direction
    - How will we know if we've been successful?
    - What would success look like?
  - o The Council members reviewed and discussed the current Council activities and provided a number of suggestions for each Key Direction. Dr. Tatro will populate the handout with the information shared by the Council members today and provide a document for their review and next level of discussion.
  
- Review and approve Council minutes from 10/1/10 and 12/1/10
  - o The Meeting Minutes for 10/1/10 & 12/1/10 were sent to the Council members prior to the meeting for review.  
Motion and vote:

Sharon Phillips called for a motion to approve the minutes for 10/1/10 & 12/1/10. Paula Seanez so moved; Dr. Laura Nelson seconded the motion. All were in favor. No objections. Motion carried. Meeting notes stand as approved

- Council member updates
  - o Ms. Levandowsky reported on the status of the Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA) Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Order of Selection/waitlist. The number of cases identified as TBI seemed low. Council members discussed the issue and it appeared that there was some misinformation being provided to potential clients and their families about the wait list and whether to apply or not. Ms. Levandowsky reinforced that prospective clients should continue to be referred to and apply to VR and go through the eligibility determination process. Consumers are pulled off the waitlist based on their application date it is important that prospective clients apply as soon as possible to begin the process and determine eligibility. Council staff also will work with RSA staff to review the data and determine if there are more TBI and SCI clients. Ms. Levandowsky advised that they hope to have all of those on the wait list pulled off by the end of June 2011. As RSA is hiring more staff, the hope is that those applying in July of this year will only have a one month delay.
  - o There were no other Council member updates.

## **2. Council Office Business**

- Update and discussion of SFY 2011 budget expenditures  
Ms. Camacho, Business Manager for the Council discussed the expenditure document sent to the Council members prior to the meeting for their review. Ms. Camacho has been in contact with the VR TBI Specialists and the Independent Living Rehabilitation Services (ILRS) counselors to discuss their current and projected levels of spending. It is projected that the Council will fully spend their budget. Ms. Camacho will continue to closely monitor expenditures and provide reports at each Council meeting. Council members recommended that if it appears there may be under-spending in any area, that we consider allocating those funds to the U of A project that had to be stopped in 2008 due to budget reductions and sweeps of the SHIF. Ms. Tarcy advised that the ISA with the University had been amended so we could add a budget. Ms. Levandowsky and Ms. Tarcy advised that based on information available at this time, no additional budget reductions are expected.
- SHIF Income and Interest Report
  - o Ms Camacho discussed the Income and Interest document that was sent to Council members prior to the meeting for their review. The SHIF is projected to accumulate enough to meet the demands so no shortfall is anticipated. Ms. Camacho will continue to monitor and report on the SHIF.
- Preliminary SFY 2012 budget information
  - o Based on the Governor's preliminary budget for SFY 2012, the Appropriation will be the same as SFY2011, with the same budget reductions and excess balance transfers.
- Review and discuss draft language for VR TBI Specialist Program agreement
  - o A draft of the VR TBI Specialist Program Agreement was sent to the Council members prior to the meeting for review.

- Ms. Tarpay reviewed and discussed the agreement with Council members and requested feedback from the Council. Once the document is finalized, the Council will vote to approve the document. The document must then be signed by the RSA Program Administrator, Council Chair and Council Executive Director. The Council members offered the following suggestions:
  - Adding a section for ILRS
  - Since Council members would be voting on a contract, it might be helpful to have an independent legal review of the agreement once the members have agreed on final language
  - Assure that the issue of dual diagnosis (e.g. TBI/SCI, TBI/mental health condition) be addressed.
- Ms. Tarpay will revise the draft document to include the ILRS Program. The next draft of the agreement will be ready for the Council to review at the May meeting.

- **Reports from BIAAZ & AzSCIA**

**AZSCIA**

- AzSCIA is having a Peer mentor training on February 23, 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>. The training on the 25<sup>th</sup> is the Community Based Outreach (CBO) portion in which community organizations and agencies will have the opportunity to learn about AzSCIA, the Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation and their Quality of Life grants available to community programs. Contact Paul Mortensen if interested.
- Mr. Mortensen reported on the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Spinal Cord Symposium – Bench-to-Bedside 2010 – held on December 10-12, 2010 at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort in Chandler, AZ and shared the Program and Abstracts. The Association was a co-sponsor of the event and provided staff support. The Symposium brought together all of recipients of their research grants and persons with spinal cord injuries to review and discuss the implications of their studies. The Symposium provided an excellent opportunity for dialogues between the researchers and those living with spinal cord injury.
- The twelve (12) week course – “Charting a Course for Consumers: Empowerment Training for individuals with spinal cord injury” starts tomorrow (February 3, 2011) with forty-eight registered so far.
- AzSCIA was instrumental in assisting the state of Washington to establish an association.

**BIAAZ**

- Since November BIAAZ has done 19 exhibits, reaching approximately 3000 people and 15 education sessions.
- Currently most of the educational sessions are geared toward professionals but they are planning educational sessions for families and survivors based on topics from the Rays of Hope Conference. These sessions will start in April 2011.
- The Rays of Hope Conference will be held March 4<sup>th</sup>. Council member, Paula Seanez, advised that they are working on providing support for the conference. Some new sessions include:
  - Driving after brain injury
  - Pain management after brain injury
  - Sleep issues after brain injury
  - How to continue rehabilitation after funding ends.
- The Association is also a co-sponsor of the new conference that the Council is doing through the TBI grant. Managing the S.E.A.S. of Transition – a conference for parents of youth with TBI

will be held on March 5, 2011 at the Desert Willow Conference Center. Information for Rays of Hope and S.E.A.S. are available on the BIAAZ website.

- BIAAZ has extended their I&R program to hospitals. They now have all level-one trauma centers in Phoenix area on board and are averaging about 60 referrals a month from these hospitals.

### **3. Other Items for Discussion**

No other items for discussion

### **4. Next meeting date and tentative agenda items**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for ~~May 4<sup>th</sup>~~ **June 22nd at 1pm**. The Council is working to identify space at the Disability Empowerment Center. Some tentative items for discussion will be an update on the SFY 2011 budget and a proposed SFY 2012 budget based on available information, an update on the agreement with RSA for the VR and ILRS program and a review of the work done by the Council on the strategic plan.

### **5. Call to the public**

Ms. Phillips recognized the passing of Pat Harrington and acknowledged the support he provided to the Council.

### **6. Adjournment**

Ms. Phillips called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Bohm so moved. Dr. Laura Nelson seconded the motion. There were no objections. Meeting adjourned.