

Minutes for the Governor's Council on Spinal & Head Injuries

Public Meeting held September 14, 2011

A public meeting of the Governor's Council on Spinal & Head Injuries was convened on September 14, 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: Bryan Longie, Greg Lewis, Sydney Rice, Tim Flood, Gary Frandino, Sharon Phillips, Steve Zaccari, Carolyn Mitchell, Javier Cardenas, Mary Lu Bushnell, Council staffs present were: Ellen Granillo, Lisette Camacho, Aurora Gonzales. Guests present at the meeting were: Mattie Cummins, Paul Mortensen. Absent: Laura Nelson, Katherine Levandowsky, Robert Bohm, Paula Seanez.

1. Council Business

Council Chair remarks and Acknowledgements:

The Council acknowledged the following council members:

- **Bryan Longie:** participated on the evaluation committee for the Consultant Pool RFP; **Mary Lu Bushnell:** was actively involved in the planning, conducting, and success of the Warrior's Journey conference on July 23, 2011. She was instrumental in bringing the Keynote speaker – Dr. Cynthia Boyd from DVBIC in San Diego, securing speakers from the Phoenix VA for some of the sessions, and being support throughout the day; **Javier Cardenas:** provided presentations at the 2011 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families on June 6, 2011 – “Best Practice in Assessment and Treatment of TBI”; “Coping with Pain” at the Warriors Journey conference on July 23, 2011; The Council: **The Council** was a co-sponsor of the Symposium and the Council purchased a conference service through the contract with BIAAZ for the Warrior's Journey conference on July 23, 2011; We created a military version of the “Are You Worried About Your Head or Brain” for the conferences and other military-related educational conferences. They are available through the BIAAZ. Sharon commented that we are very proud of our Associations and all the work they do.
- **Review and approve Council minutes from June 22, 2011**
The Meeting Minutes for 9/12/11 were sent to the Council members prior to the meeting for review.
 - Motion and Vote: Mary Lu Bushnell made a motion; Steve Zaccari seconded the motion and all were in Favor.

2. Council Office Business

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DES/DERS/RSA/VR/ILRS and GCSHI signatures from Kathy Levandowsky (RSA Administrator), Sharon Phillips (Council Chair) and Ellen Granillo (GCSHI Executive Director).
- **Finance SFY2011 & Vote to Approve SFY2012**
 - o SFY 2011 Expenditures: Lisette Camacho, Assistant Finance & Budget Manager reviewed the SFY2011 Council expenditures documents sent to the Council members prior to the meeting for their review. She reviewed expenditures and unpaid authorization balances to date, these are client services from 2011. Any unpaid authorizations will be cleared by May 2012.
 - o SFY 2012 Budget: Ms. Camacho reviewed the SFY 2012 Council budget, discussing and explaining, below and above the line categories. Ms. Camacho and Ms. Granillo are consistently in communication with this budget. We are on track at the beginning of the year, having planned a quarter of the budget.
 - o Income and Interest for FY2011 - we accumulated enough to meet the demands of the SHIF, the balance will remain in the trust fund.
 - o Income and Interest for 2012 – it's very early in the fiscal year, at this point we only have data for July income. These numbers were reported to the Council. Ms. Camacho and Ms. Granillo will be meeting with CJEF [Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund] end of this month. The purpose of this meeting is to get information on the trust fund and what type of income we can expect for this coming year. Ms. Camacho will have a 2012 forecast at the Nov. 9 Council meeting. Ms. Phillips posed the question pertaining to sweeps. Ms. Camacho clarified sweeps may occur. Mr. Frandino inquired on whether the sweeps would occur now or after SFY 2014. Ms. Camacho responded there may be sweeps in 2014, however they may not be the same amount this year.
- **Report from VR & IL Services**
RSA provided a report to Ms. Granillo to report to the Council on VR [Vocational Rehabilitation] & IL [Independent Living] services. This report contained data on TBI [Traumatic Brain Injury] VR open cases; TBI VR applications

received; cases currently in OOS [Order of Selection] and priority status; TBI IL open cases; TBI IL applications received for 7/1/12 to Present. This report is made available upon request only to current Council members.

- **Reports from Brain Injury Association of AZ (BIAAZ)**

Mattie Cummins, Executive Director for the Brain Injury Association of Arizona (BIAAZ) reported out on BIAAZ SFY Stats and other council and HRSA funded projects.

SFY11 - Ms. Cummins reminded the council of the contract change that took place in November 2010 adding Community Education, Exhibits and conferences as new services.

- Information & Referral: Ms. Cummins did a comparison on the stats from SFY 2010 to SFY2011. There was a significant increase in SFY 2011. In October 2011, BIAAZ will launch their new resource database on the BIAAZ website. BIAAZ has revamped their information and referral packets to be more “journey” driven.
- Exhibits and Education: Between November 2010 through June 2011, BIAAZ reached 15,353 individuals through 109 Outreach events. They provided 41 community education events.
- Evaluations: Ms. Cummins presented Information and Referral evaluation information overall responses were ranked in the high 90’s.
- SFY12 - Ms. Cummins reported out on the July 23rd Warrior’s Conference and shared it was a great relationship building event. Ms. Cummins announced upcoming Seas of Transitions conference scheduled October 15 designed to be an experiential event for youth with TBI, assisting parents through the youth transition journey. Ms. Cummins shared her experiences from the Kamp Kan Do event (BIAAZ funded). BIAAZ has formed a committee to assist the association in identifying quality, information and referral providers. The committee has determined qualifications for those that will be on the BIAAZ referral list. New providers are also required to attend a one (1) hour resource orientation to help them understand the full-circle connection with the provider, survivor and the association. A system is in place to ensure the database will only contain current provider information.

- **Reports from AZ Spinal Cord Injury Association (AzSCIA)**

Paul Mortensen, Executive Director for the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association (AzSCIA) reported on SFY2011 AzSCIA council activities. Mr. Mortensen reviewed each service providing evaluation feedback

- Empowerment Course – Attendees provided feedback on the following: (1) Likely to use information and (2) Improve Quality of Life, overall responses were ranked in the high 90’s.
- Wheelchair Skills Course - All attendees that provided feedback said they would: (1) Likely to use information and (2) Improve Quality of Life,
- Educational Conferences – Three different conferences were held. Attendees provided feedback on the following: (1) Likely to use information and (2) Improve Quality of Life. Overall responses were ranked between 80% and 100%.
- Educational Classes – 22 classes were held. Attendees provided feedback on the following: (1) Likely to use information and (2) Improve Quality of Life. Overall responses were ranked in the 90% category. A majority of the attendees rated the training and education as “excellent or very good.”
- Support Groups – attendees were asked to provide feedback on the following: (1) Increase in Self-Esteem; (2) Increase knowledge of SCI; (3) Increase knowledge of resources; (4) Increase Confidence; (5) Increase Strategies and (6) Improving Quality of Life. Overall ranked between 90 and 100%.
- Peer Mentoring – A majority of attendees rated Peer Mentoring as Excellent or Very Good.
- Social and Recreational Events – Attendees rated as Excellent or Very Good and Improving their quality of life.
- Information and Referral – 80% rated as excellent or very good.
 - Website – A majority of those providing feedback (1) found the information they needed, and (2) rated the website excellent or very good.

AzSCIA also provides transportation as a service. Of those providing feedback, all said they were able to participate in the community or keep appointments they would have otherwise missed and that the service improved their quality of life. A majority of those who responded rated the service as excellent or very good.

AzSCIA and a panel of consumers were involved in informing the Arizona Pool Builders on the new ADA requirement for public pools (hotels, apartment complexes, etc.) Part of the requirements are to have shade screens for Hoyer lifts and wheelchairs, and making public pools accessible. AZSCIA helped the pool builders understand these new requirements.

3. Other items for discussion

Council Member Updates

- Reappointments are in process. Existing Council members must submit their CV/Resume' to keep their information current. Due to other commitments, Christine Vergara and Pat Padilla have resigned from the Council.
- Council staff are in the process of updating the Council Member handbook. New Council member training [Orientation and Education] will be the next step.

4. Next meeting date and tentative agenda items

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2011 at 1:00pm. The Council will determine 2012 meeting dates in this meeting. Ms. Phillips asked Ms. Granillo to provide a brief overview on her training. Update on the Research SCI study from Carolyn Mitchell. Council's Strategic Planning Session is scheduled February 2012.

5. Call to the public

There were no calls or objections from the Public.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

Ms. Phillips adjourned the meeting at 2:22pm.