



Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes * June 16, 2023 * 9:00 a.m. to 9:43 a.m.

Members Present

- Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner, DARS
- David Cifu, MD (Chair), VCU Department of PM&R
- David Reid, PsyD, Neuropsychologist, Augusta Psychological Associates
- Raighne (Renny) Delaney, JD, Bean, Kinney & Korman PC
- Heather Funkhouser Board, Virginia Department of Health
- Joshua Sloan, Bankruptcy Analyst, Truist
- Richard Bagby, Executive Director, United Spinal Association of Virginia

Staff

- Jacole Thomas (staff), CNI Trust Fund Program Specialist, DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit

Guests

- Chris Miller, Director, DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit
- Carolyn Turner, Director, DARS Office of Disability Programs
- Noel Anderson, Anderson Music Therapy Services

Welcome and Introductions

David Reid, PsyD (acting chair for first half of the meeting, filling in for Dr. David Cifu), called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All Advisory Board members were present, quorum achieved.

Public Comment Period

No public comments.

Approval and Adoption

The March 17, 2023 meeting minutes were approved. The June 16, 2023 meeting agenda was adopted.

Grantee Presentation

Noel Anderson from Anderson Music Therapy Services presented on her recently awarded project: Music Therapy for TBI & SCI Survivors. Music therapy is an evidence-based allied healthcare profession that provides a unique and effective approach to meet the complex needs of children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with TBI and SCI. Through songwriting, musical improvisation, lyric discussion, and re-creating familiar songs, a board certified music therapist assists individuals with various needs to achieve rehabilitation in key areas related to cognitive, motor, communication, social, and emotional needs. Progress and achievements to date include:

- Served 21 individuals w/ TBI and 2 with SCI
- ran 3 music therapy groups for TBI and SCI: cognitive goals executive functioning, social awareness/communication, emotional processing. Served 17 PEOPLE
- Hired MT in February and have another joining team in July- to make sure we have enough therapists to cover services
- *Three music therapists got certified as neurologic music therapists – 30 hour training to understand deeper how music impacts the brain and learn standardized music therapy techniques for rehabilitation in cognitive, speech, and sensi-motor domains.*
- challenge finding LOCAL facilities that serve TBI and SCI clients.
- *NeuroRestorative -2 x week group and individuals*
- Have not started caregiver group, but have recently had a lot of interest –originally envisioned this being parents of children, but most of our clients have been adults. Will be reaching out to current clients and getting interest and feedback from them regarding group time/day.
- At NueroRestorative 2 times a week, 2 groups, and two individuals. Increased group from 1 x month to weekly at Sevita. This has been helpful to increase engagement and therapeutic value.
- **Challenges:** Many people have been receptive and interested, but given the nature of TBI sometimes the follow through is missing perhaps due to memory, depression, anxiety, etc.

Other Business

Other Business was moved up on the agenda as Heather Board had another engagement at 10 a.m. The Advisory Board was advised at the September 15, 2023 Board Meeting the Board will need to vote on proposed amendments to the Bylaws. This is in relation to the Board Chair position as the Bylaws are a bit out of sync from Code. Dr. Cifu and Renny's terms are ending in June 2024 so it may be advisable to vote for a chair that will be on the Board for the duration of the chair appointment. As the Bylaws state reelection happens in September annually.

CNI Update

The Board agreed to a release of a dual RFA (Research and Services) to go live approximately September 1, 2023. It was shared with the Board that the CNI Triennial report is due October 1, so staff will continue working on that report.

Financial Report

Waiting on the close of the fiscal year to generate appropriate and meaningful data. Staff informed this information will be shared during the September 2023 quarterly meeting.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.