

## Officers

Chairperson:  
Diane Bogdan

Vice-Chair:  
Jim Vyhnaek

Secretary:

TBI Staff:  
Adele Edelman, Erin  
Weaver, Glen  
McClintock,  
Samantha Baraw,  
and Heidi Goodrich

### ***TBI Advisory Board***

May 6, 2008, 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Stanley Hall, Room 107, State Complex, Waterbury

Present: Aaron MacPherson, Esther MacPherson, Chuck Erickson, Charlie Erickson, Marsha Bancroft, Diane Bogdan, Maureen Mayo, Ted Stachulski, Al Urpsis, Heidi Goodrich, Glen McClintock, Erin Weaver, Betsy Lawrence, Todd Lefkoe, Clayton Clark, Carol McCay and Nancy Breiden.

#### **I. Call to Order (Introductions)**

Diane opened the meeting at approximately 9:05 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.

All members present looked over the minutes from the previous Advisory Board meeting. Glen made motion to accept, Marsha seconded the motion - all members were in favor.

All members present reviewed last months Steering Committee minutes. Maureen made motion to accept, Al seconded the motion - everyone agreed.

#### **II. Special Guest**

Erin introduced Chuck and Charlie from Riverview, Aaron and Esther MacPherson. Chuck Erickson described a brief overview of the services Riverview provides to their clients. He explained the equation of transition of a client's admission. Esther, Aaron's mother talked about Aaron's story before coming to Riverview. Chuck then read a report of Aarons' physical state before he arrived at Riverview'. Aaron's stated goal when he arrived there was, "I want to walk". Chuck read through Aaron's first assessments, including meal preparations, showers, ADL's, etc. Erin and Aaron discussed the changes from then and now, his advances, the job he is currently doing for a small local candy company. Aaron answered questions, and noted his upcoming move to live in his own apartment next door to Riverview. Aaron's story exemplifies the power of determination, hope, and a positive attitude in recovery.

#### **III. Announcements**

Glen passed out informational handouts including; 'Simplified Roberts Rules of Order' which future meetings will use to assure everyone has an opportunity for input. At the request of a board

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member, he also provided a list of emergency numbers including National Suicide Hotlines and local psychiatric emergency numbers. Glen passed around an updated TBI Resource List and requested that it be reviewed for accuracy and that additional resource information was welcomed. In answer to a question about 211 it was explained that the state TBI Program and the BIA-VT will be collaborating closely with 211 and the Area Resource Disability Centers to assure that information and referral is well coordinated across the state.

## IV. Partnership Updates

Glen described the State, BIAVT and Protection & Advocacy as a 3-legged stool. Erin reminded everyone that our awards are a direct result of this 3-legged stool collaboration and then informed everyone of Lorraine Wargo's recent promotion (April 11) to Director of the Division of Disability, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL).

- a) State TBI Program update: Erin gave us the update – 63 people currently on the TBI Waiver program, the TBI Waiver program currently has a \$239,000 surplus for the fiscal year of 2008 ending in July – this money will most likely be spent to increase our 24 hour care hourly wage and to add TBI clients to our waiver program (there are 6 people on our waitlist and 4 will be taken off this list shortly). Todd asked if there would be a change in the admission process, to only ask AID on more difficult cases. Erin informed everyone that the Shaken Baby Syndrome (ages 15-17 years old) has gone up significantly – currently 4. Diane asked how a TBI can be traced back to when/if the person was shaken as a child. Marsha informed us that these cases are already in the system prior to their TBI diagnosis. There have been a lot of corrections referrals for TBI and special case challenges with multiple diagnosis. Diane is working on bringing in new members from other sources (Corrections and Mental Health).
- b) P & A update: Marsha gave the following report - VP&A in partnership with the Disability Law Project of Vermont Legal Aid has presented their legal clinic for veterans with TBI to the National Guard Family Readiness Program staff and to veterans and guests at the FRP Center in Rutland. We had a table at the VA Hospital Education Day for clinicians in and also at the Military, Community and Family Network recent conference "Building Bridges", both in White River Junction. We will present to the VA Polytrauma Team on May 12<sup>th</sup> and have another

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- veterans' legal clinic scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> at the VA in Building #44 from 4:30 -6:30 PM. Marsha passed around a "Traumatic Brain Injury Free Legal Clinic" flyer.
- c) BIA – VT update: Marsha gave this report in lieu of Trevor. She told everyone that the BIA has moved from Shelburne to Waterbury (PO Box 482), which is a central location and is conveniently close to the State of Vermont TBI offices. Unfortunately, with this move the BIA VT lost Sheila Tourangeau, the Information and Referral specialist for the BIA. Fortunately Glen, Erin, Jessica, Marsha and Trevor will combine their efforts to make this a seamless transition until a new I & R specialist is hired.

Glen noted that due in part to the good work of the legislative committee; Senator Flannigan supported creation of State TBI fund of \$140,000 for Fiscal Year 2009. Glen passed around a copy of the bill that authorized this funding. It was noted that discussions would soon begin to determine the appropriate administration of funds.

## V. Strategic Plan

Glen and Diane noted that the Advisory Board was at a point of transition, and that efforts were currently underway to revitalize the Board and define our focus for the future. This will help prepare us for the process of developing a new state plan in 2010. As a part of this revitalization the Steering Committee will be reviewing membership, adding additional members as necessary, and updating bylaws

As a part of this revitalization process, the Advisory Board will also be revisiting its mission, vision, and values. Plans include focusing on developing a vision statement during today's meeting and rescheduling the next Advisory Board Meeting to create a full day retreat to review mission, vision, and values and begin to set goals for the coming year.

## VI. Vision Exercise

Glen led an exercise to begin the development of a vision statement. The Board was split in to three groups and each was asked to review questions that would help form some idea of how they would like services to look in the future. The full group then reviewed these ideas and noted familiar themes across all groups. The Board also



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reviewed vision statements from successful companies and was asked to form groups again and tasked to come up with a vision statement that incorporated those themes. The final drafts of these vision statements will be emailed to all board members for feedback).

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bogdan  
Diane Bogdan, Chairperson  
Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

Glen McClintock  
TBI Grant Manager