



Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes * March 11, 2022 * 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Electronic meeting, pursuant to Item 4-0.01 of the 2020 Appropriation Act.

Quarterly CNI Advisory Board Meeting. This meeting was held electronically using the Zoom video teleconferencing platform. This meeting was recorded and was also streamed, real time, to YouTube for public viewing.

Members Present

- Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner, DARS
- Joshua Sloan, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Sportable
- Richard Bagby, Executive Director, United Spinal Association of Virginia
- David Reid, PsyD, Neuropsychologist, Augusta Psychological Associates
- Heather Funkhouser Board, Virginia Department of Health
- David Cifu, MD (Chair), VCU Department of PM&R

Members Absent

- Raighne (Renny) Delaney, JD, Bean, Kinney & Korman PC

Staff

- Wanda Allen (staff), CNI Trust Fund Program Specialist, DARS Brain Injury Services Unit

Guests

- Chris Miller, Director, DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit
- Carolyn Turner, DARS Division for Community Living, Director for Disability Programs
- Marcia Dubois, Deputy Commissioner, DARS Division for Community Living
- Donna Cantrell, Federal Grant Program Specialist, DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit
- Dr. Amol Karmarkar, Virginia Commonwealth University/Sheltering Arms Institute
- Dr. Amma Agyemang, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Cindy Noftsinger, Executive Director, Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley
- Jen Duvon, Clinical Director, Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley

Welcome and Introductions

David Cifu, MD, Chair, called the meeting to order and Wanda Allen completed roll call attendance.

Approval of December 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes and Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Minutes stand as written without objection or changes and approved by consensus.

Agenda adopted by consensus as written without objection or changes.

Public Comment Period

No public comments.

Financial Report

Wanda Allen, staff to the CNI Trust Fund Advisory Board, provided a financial report. Grant payments for the last quarter (Nov 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022) were \$166,340.75 and DARS administrative payments were \$70.00. Total expenditures for the quarter were \$166,410.75.

Revenue received last quarter was \$171,471 and interest was \$2,155.36 for a total of \$173,626.36. Total revenue minus expenditures was \$7,215.61.

The Trust Fund balance as of the end of the quarter was \$3,164.196.

Revenue from DMV fees averaged \$62,375.19 per month, an increase of 7,539.95 from last year at this time.

Trust Fund Balance beginning 7/1/2021 was \$2,910,133. Net activity through January 31, 2022 was \$254,064.34 leaving an ending balance of \$3,164,196.

Grantee Presentations

1. Amol Karmarkar, Primary Investigator (PI) and Amma Agyemang, Co-PI, VCU, gave an update on their CNI projects.

Dr. Karmarkar outlined the next steps for their DARS/VCU TBI Model Systems Collaborative Grant which is currently on a No Cost Extension.

- Dissemination: Publications and Data Plan
- Webinar: Using Data to improve outcomes: Sharing experiences with Brain Injury Data (March 15, 2022)
- Data Forum & Data Summit: April 8, 2022 (8-noon & 1-5PM)
- Data plan for Brain Injury: July 2022

Dr. Agyemang gave an update on their newly funded CNI Project “Transitions and Disparities in Care and Outcomes (TDCO) for Neurotrauma”.

The project will evaluate transitions across care settings for Virginians with spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury from hospitalization to community based care, disparities between public versus private health insurance and evaluate outcomes at 30 and 90 days post hospital discharge.

Dr. Cifu commented that a number of the members from the US Department of Veterans Affairs research central office will be attending the upcoming Data Webinar in which Dr. Karmarkar is presenting his work on using data from multiple sources. Data Summit. The Advisory Board thanked Dr. Karmarkar and Dr. Agyemang for their work.

2. Cindy Noftsinger, Executive Director, and Jen Duvon, Clinical Director, Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley (BICSV), gave an update on their CNI Project “Looking Out for Little Brains-Comprehensive Pediatric Case Management”.

During the project BICSV hired a full time Pediatric Case Manager and conducted extensive outreach in the community. They discussed how the COVID pandemic impacted their ability to work in the schools and in home with parents of children with a brain injury.

Since the project ended they have decided to train all their Case Managers in Pediatric Case Management to better cover their service area. They also were able to support legislation that broadened the definition of special education services for children with brain injuries.

The Advisory Board thanked BICSV for their presentation and all their amazing work despite the challenges and obstacles. They acknowledged this as kind of work CNI hopes to continue to support.

3. The Advisory Board advised staff that they would like progress reports to be formatted for consistency. They would like progress reports to include progress made toward goals and objectives, successes and any published materials. Once a grantee has completed their project they should complete a final report that summarizes the project activities, published materials and plans for continuing their work and they should make a brief presentation to the Advisory Board. They also request introductory presentations from all new grantees. Staff will develop materials and scheduling to meet these requests.

Services RFP Update

Procurement department has indicated that they have hired a consultant company to work through the end of summer. Wanda and Chris are meeting with a member of the consultant team on March 14th to discuss release of the CNI Services RFP sometime in April.

Update on current grantees:

Organization	Principle Investigator	Project Name	Update
VCU	Trost	Virginia SCI Outreach	• Maintain the VASCI website with all pertinent updates and news releases relating to the SCI community. • Successfully connected 150 Virginians with SCI to needed resources including: adaptive sports, adaptive gyms, mental health resources in the community, and peer support resources. • Currently working to develop updated infographics for distribution to partnering agencies, on the website, and to members of the community.

VCU	Groah	Project Achieve: Support Technology	• Final recruitment push in the fall semester of 2021 resulted in 8 additional participants, 4 of whom enrolled between November and January 2022. Intakes, initial assessments, and delivery of iPad have been completed for all new participants. • Follow up with 13 of 14 active participants at the start of the spring 2022 semester. Two participants graduated December 2021, with one gainfully employed part-time while also pursuing self-employment as an artist. The second graduate is currently investigating graduate school options. One student participant spoke at NATCON 2022 and was awarded Student Veteran of the Year. • Research staff presented at Assistive Technology Industry Association 2022 Conference in January, 2022 with the presentation: Apps to Support Women Veterans with Disabilities Pursuing Higher Education. • Research staff has submitted a proposal, titled: Meeting the unique needs of women with traumatic brain injuries pursuing postsecondary education in Virginia, to Building Resilient Communities Virtual Conference. • Research staff will be representing Project Achieve during participation at VHEAP conference in March, 2022.
VCU	Armstrong	Enhancing Parenting Skills	• Held two parenting workshops virtually and cancelled three workshops given insufficient participant registration. • To expand and sustain the availability of the training, we are recording video, podcast sessions that will be housed on the Department's website, BIAV, and YouTube. Online material will include informational recordings, participant handbook, and a registration for receipt of the parenting books. • Virtual Train the Trainer session on Friday March 11, 2022 with 16 participants registered. Trainers will receive a guide, participant handbook, and the parenting books (copies provided). They will also have access to recordings of the training once completed. • Produced a total of 10 Fact Sheets in 2021 across a variety of topics including Attachment; Couples Cohesion; Depression; Emotions; Family Activities & Attachment; Family Activities; Family Strong; Loving Rituals; PTSD; Sleep Deprivation. • Tip Sheet topics in 2022 included: Conscientiousness and Consistency; Faith as a tool for understanding and appreciating
BICSV	Wagester/Noftsinger	Pediatric Case Management	Presented final report to Advisory Board at today's meeting (March 11, 2022)
VCU	Karmarkar	TBI Partnership Grant	Presented update to Advisory Board at today's meeting (March 11, 2022)

Current Grantee Update

Caitlyn Berry, Sportable, presented a request for a change to their project, “Developing and Testing Efficacy of Targeted Wellness Training in Children and Adults with SCI, TBI and Other Trauma Related Disabilities Participating in Sports Programs.

They propose to replace the proposed YMCA program curriculum with an established, evidence-based wellness program, MENTOR (Mindfulness, Exercise, and Nutrition to Optimize Resilience). NCHPAD (The National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability) will train Sportable staff on this program. While the initial training would have taken three months to develop, the new program is available immediately and will take 40 hours to prepare for implementation.

Dr. Cifu made a motion to approve the variance as written. Dr. Reid seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passes unanimously. (The vote cast by Board Member Josh Sloan was not counted as he is an employee of Sportable).

CNI Meeting Schedule

The Advisory Board agreed to move the June 10th meeting time to 9:30AM begin time to allow the Chair, Dr. Cifu, to attend. The two remaining meetings will stay the same (no change).

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:19 AM