

# The Connecticut Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2008

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Committee Members Present: John Sanford, Gary Allen, Lynn Topper, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Susan Werboff, Sara Lourie, Dan Bannish, Bethany Hamilton, Lauri DiGalbo, Charles Lyons, Julie Peters, Carrie Kramer, Effie Morris-Ferguson, Dorian Long, Sage Cochran

Guests: Attorney Sharon L. Pope

- 1.0 The minutes from the January 15, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed and approved with two changes: the addition of Dorian Long and the spelling of Lauri DiGalbo's name.
- 2.0 Attorney Sharon L. Pope presented information about Special Needs Trusts. Attorney Pope is a faculty member at the University of Hartford and has a private practice specializing in people with disabilities and the elderly. Materials were disseminated at the meeting.
- 3.0 Susan Werboff from the Office of Protection and Advocacy updated the group on the TBI HRSA Grant, as well as other happening at OPA. Handout included: OPA's Annual Report, an OPA agency brochure, and OPA informational posters and flyers. OPA provides advocacy and legal rights services, not direct services. Ms. Werboff explained that there has been no litigation thus far solely around brain injury. There is a new referral hotline administered by the Hospital for Special Care for veterans. OPA remains involved with the Office on Veteran Affairs.
- 4.0 Committee Reports
  - 4.1 Minimum Standards Committee:
    - 4.1.1 Tunxis Community College will be creating a TBI Institute as a part of their continuing education curriculum. It will focus on traumatic brain injury not acquired brain injury. Ms. Gafford-Alexander will be attending their planning meetings.
  - 4.2 Coordination Committee:
    - 4.2.1 The group reviewed their goals, which are to strengthen the linkages between the people at this table in order to initiate more concrete and cohesive service delivery. The group feels more formal documents or agreements between project partners regarding collaborations should be created.
    - 4.2.2 The group would also like to see members of the Advisory Committee receive specific training about brain injuries.
  - 4.3 Screen Committee:

- 4.3.1 Mr. Bannish is still moving the pilot project forward at Manson. They have screen four inmates due to their behaviors and all have had histories of brain injuries.
- 4.3.2 A question about the implications of institutionalized treatment was asked and it was explained that it is being presented in terms of CO safety. The need for a balance of services both within the correctional setting and outside of the correctional setting during re-entry was discussed.

5.0 By Law changes were discussed and items 1.1 through 1.3 were approved unanimously.

6.0 There was a brief discussion about recommendations for the future direction of the Advisory Committee due to changes in funding, which will occur on March 31, 2009. DSS has permanent funding to work on TBI; however, the new coordinator will work on both TBI and domestic violence.

7.0 Additional agenda items were tabled until our next meeting.

8.0 Motion to Adjourn was accepted unanimously.

9.0 Next meeting: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 in the OPA Conference Room