

# Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

## Officers

Chairperson:  
Marsha Bancroft

Vice-Chair:  
Anna King

Secretary:  
Clayton Clark

TBI Staff:  
Adèle Edelman  
Erin Weaver  
Glen McClintock  
Samantha Baraw  
Jane Culver



**Traumatic Brain Injury Program**  
Vermont Agency of Human Services

**TBI Steering Committee Meeting**  
**April 27, 2010**  
**Weeks Building, Waterbury, Vermont**

Present: Marsha Bancroft, Anna King, Maureen Mayo, Glen McClintock, Trevor Squirrell, Al Urpsis,  
Notetaker: Jane Culver

### **Introductions/Announcements**

- Anna King was introduced as the new Vice Chair of the Advisory Board.

### **Minutes from previous meeting approved and accepted.**

### **BIA-VT Update**

- Christy Opuszynski is the new ½ time office administrator and ½ time Neuro-Resource Facilitator in Washington and Lamoille Counties. She is working on updating the online resource directory.
- Larry Lewack is the Neuro-Resource Facilitator for Chittenden County
- Kellie Martin (formerly Patten) is the Neuro-Resource Facilitator in Rutland County is moving to ¾ time.
- Barb Winters is the Neuro-Resource Coordinator and Outreach Specialist.
- Still looking for a job developer.
- Also looking for another NRF person. Two areas need coverage – Northern Vermont and White River Junction down.
- The Veterans outreach position is open. Please let Trevor know if you have any ideas about possible candidates. Veterans Affairs officers who work directly with Vets may be a good place to start.
- Mark Halpern is volunteering to work with the BIA-VT 4 to 6 hours a week. He will work with Christy on the Resource Directory.
- BIA-VT 8<sup>th</sup> annual Walk for Thought event coming up on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Flyers have been mailed out. Independent contractor, Sue Tidd, is organizing the Walk. Information is available on the BIA-VT website.
- TBI Conference November 2, 2010 at the Sheraton. Kara Swanson is the Keynote speaker. The program is coming together with a good selection of workshops.

### **Disability Rights Vermont Update**

- Doing trainings around the state with Barb Winters of the BIA-VT.
- Barb and Marsha did a Probation and Parole training in Barre on April 28, 2010.
- Marsha and Barb will be part of a round table discussion at the VT Family Network Conference on May 13 at the Sheraton in Burlington.

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## TBI Grant Update

- DOL Earmark Grant officially started April 11, 2010 and is focused on employment and veterans.
  - The Grant will help support services while the BIA-VT continues to increase it's capacity with private funding.
  - The VA has not made a big push to reach out to area service providers and most Vermont Vets with TBI are being served by the Poly-trauma unit at the VA and the mobile unit in Colchester.
  - An employment focus will help the BIA-VT connect with the broader service system, particularly since there is a new "Challenges 4 Change" initiative that will consolidate all employment services under VR.
  - There is also an opportunity for the BIA-VT to earn extra income through Ticket to Work as a member of DVR's Employment Network.

## Setting Agenda for Advisory Board meeting

- Vote Bob Degeus onto the Board
- Give an over view of the Mission and Vision.
- Updates
- Additional speakers and topics of interest.
- Robert Williams will speak about 'Spreading PHAT in Vermont'
- Discuss the most important issues the Board wants to address and are interested in.

## Reaffirming goals and objectives for 2010

- Have speakers at Board meetings.
- Get more people involved in the Advisory Board. More consumer involvement like GMSA to get a real flavor for what is happening in the community.
- Move the Board toward becoming a free standing entity that provides support and advises the State and the BIA-VT. It could eventually become a Governors Committee.
- Needs Assessment. People need to buy into this before the process can go forward. It would need to be part of a team / committee of people who are really engaged in the process. It would be best to work on the energy of the board first so this can happen next year.
- The next Needs Assessment could be a partnership between the BIA-VT and the State; reaching out to the community to create a greater group of people to help move things forward.
- The Steering Committee will look further into the process and talk about it at the next steering committee meeting.
- Glen will get information from NASHIA about their guidelines around Needs Assessment.
- Develop leadership i.e. utilize the Parks and Recreation program that provides support and education to develop a leadership program for the Advisory Board.
- Explore possible grant to support the work of the Advisory Board.

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Meeting adjourned at: 11:23

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Culver  
TBI Grant Assistant

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**  
Tuesday, September 7, 2010 10 A.M. – Noon  
Weeks Building, 2A Porch