

West Virginia Advocates, Inc.
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Charleston Office, Charleston, WV

July 11, 2009, 1:15 p.m.

Members Present: Terry Dilcher, Ted Johnson, Stuart May and JoEllen Zacks

Members by Telephone: Pamela Akers, Clifton Clark and Terri Roberts

Members Absent: Jamie Bailey (unexcused); Robert Hardesty (excused); Paula Mieczkowski (unexcused)

Guests: Carla Walker

Staff Present: Clarice Hausch and Barbara Criner

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. He asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Additions included a bylaw change to be voted on at the September meeting and appointment of a Visioning Committee. There were no follow up items from the May meeting.

Motion: Mr. May moved that the May 9, 2009 minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.

Program Director's Report

Ms. Hausch referred to the report in the Board packet. She reported that both she and the Program Director had been deposed on the Payne death investigation which had been conducted by WVA staff. She asked for any questions.

Finance Committee

Mr. May reported that the Finance Committee had met and recommends the approval for a merit bonus for FY 08-09 to eligible employees.

Motion: Mr. May moved that approval be given for a 2.5% merit bonus for FY 08-09 to eligible employees. Seconded by Ms. Zacks. Discussion followed. Mr. May noted that the Board had previously approved the merit bonus contingent upon final funding notices for FY 09. The Finance Committee had discussed final funding for FY 09. ***Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.***

Mr. May reported that the Committee had also reviewed the final FY 08-09 budget reflecting the final FY 09 Notice of Grant Award amounts and recommends approval of the budget.

Motion: Mr. Clark moved that the final FY 08-09 budget be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. May. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.

Membership Committee

Mr. Johnson reported that Carla Walker and Cathy Reed had been interviewed for membership to the Board.

Motion: Mr. May moved that Carla Walker and Cathy Reed be appointed to the Board. Seconded by Ms. Zacks. Discussion followed. Mr. May noted that Ms. Reed seems to be knowledgeable of issues and has served on a number of committees. Mr. Johnson noted that Mr. Hardesty, Ms. Hausch and he had interviewed Ms. Walker. He noted that she was extremely knowledgeable about the issues faced by the Board and has a daughter with a disability.
Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.

PAIMI Advisory Council

Mr. Johnson reported that the Council had met. The Council voted to train individuals to provide training on psychiatric advance directives. Approximately 20 people have registered for the training which will be held August 20 at the Wingate Inn in South Charleston. David Sanders and Ted Johnson will provide the training. Ms. Hausch noted that she wants WVA staff assigned to the hospitals to attend this training.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Hausch referred to her report in the Board packet. She noted that the final draft of the Priorities and Objectives (P&Os) has been completed and the Board will vote on the P&Os at this meeting.

A discussion followed concerning the P&Os. Mr. Johnson stated that he had attended the public forum and participated in the committee meeting. He noted that we are in the second year of the 3-year cycle and not a lot had changed. He requested that Ms. Hausch discuss the changes.

Ms. Hausch stated there will be an increase in the monitoring at Sharp and Bateman. A new training for the federal law IDEA and two individual IEP clinics have been added to the Education P&O.

Mr. May asked about the Adult Protective Services (ADS) doing death investigations. Ms. Hausch stated that APS cannot do an investigation if a death has occurred. There is no state mandate for investigation of the death of an adult or child.

Ms. Hausch stated there will be much more emphasis in the upcoming year in exercising an individual's right to vote. Two advocates are developing a voting program for the state hospitals.

Mr. Johnson noted that once the Board approves the P&Os they will serve as the foundation for the agency until next year. He asked for any questions. Ms. Zacks asked about the ventilator care P&O. Ms. Hausch noted that WV state law prohibits this in the state and people are sent to Ohio.

Motion: Mr. May moved that the Priorities and Objectives for 2010 be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dilcher. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Mr. Johnson provided notice to the Board that a change in the bylaws would be voted on at the September meeting. The change concerns Board terms.

Mr. Johnson then appointed directors to committees.

Quality Assurance Committee: Terry Roberts, Pamela Akers and Cathy Reed. Ms. Hausch will be the staff representative and Mr. Johnson will attend the first meeting.

Legislative Education Committee: Stuart May, Robert Hardesty and David Sanders (PAIMI Advisory Council).

Visionary Committee: Ted Johnson, Stuart May, Robert Hardesty, JoEllen Zacks and Carla Walker. Ms. Hausch and Tovli Simiryan will serve as staff representatives.

The meeting went into executive session at 2:30.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 2:45p.m.

Transcribed by Barbara Criner