

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

**November 24, 2009, 3:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Pam Akers, Bob Hardesty, Ted Johnson, Cathy Reed, and Carla Walker

**Members by Telephone:** Clifton Clark

**Members Absent:** Jamie Bailey (unexcused); Terry Dilcher (excused); Paula Mieczkowski (unexcused) and Jo Ellen Zacks (excused)

**Guests:** None

**Staff Present:** Clarice Hausch, Linnie Simiryman, and Barbara Criner

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Ms. Reed noted that the meeting dates for next year need to be set.

***Motion: Ms. Reed moved that the September 12, 2009, minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hardesty. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.***

A follow-up item from the September meeting was discussed. Ms. Hausch noted that the bylaws state that WVA is to have a legal policy but currently does not. She added that she would like to discuss this with appropriate staff and discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Johnson noted that this would be followed-up at the January meeting. Members of the Legal Policy Committee include: Mr. Clark, Ms. Zacks, and Stuart May.

**Program Director's Report**

Ms. Simiryman referred to #5 of the Board mailing. She asked for any questions or comments. Ms. Reed noted that the report was very concise.

**Finance Committee**

Mr. Clark reported that the Committee had met on October 26. John Galloway was present to discuss the audit process. The Committee reviewed the unaudited financials through September 2009. There was nothing to note in the October financials. Mr. Clark requested that Ms. Hausch give an update on the PAIMI program.

Ms. Hausch stated that due to costs associated with the site review and legal work performed, PAIMI's carryover was not as large this year as in prior years. She stated that immediate action had been taken to ensure the availability of funds until the 2010 grant funds are received. She

noted that the steps included: Monitoring at the state hospitals has been reduced from twice a month to once a month. All I&Rs have been put on hold until funds are received. Some staff moved to other program work. Completion of the PPR has been delayed until funds received. We have received Continuing Resolutions for the DOE programs and PADD program. Ms. Hausch added that we will continue to spend cautiously in PAIMI throughout FY 10.

#### PAIMI Advisory Council

Ms. Reed reported that no meeting was held in November as a quorum of members was not present.

#### Executive Director's Report

Ms. Hausch referred to #4 of the Board packet. She noted that auditors from Gibbons & Kawash and spent approximately two weeks with accounting staff.

Ms. Hausch reported that we continue to be involved with the Northwood situation and have been in regular contact with OHFLAC.

Mr. Hardesty asked if we would be in a position to file a friend of court amicus brief to the court. Ms. Hausch noted that if this was going to court, this might be a very appropriate role for the agency.

Ms. Hausch gave a brief update on the Employment Conference scheduled for April 22 at Stonewall Resort. She noted that Kathleen Martinez, President Obama's appointment as Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, will be a key note speaker. Gary Guller, motivational speaker will also appear. There will be no registration fees and WVA will provide lunch. The Fine Arts Department at UCED will display art and hopefully some of the artists will appear. An assistive technology room will be set up. There will be a college fair and a couple of in-state colleges and out-of-state colleges will be present. Breakout rooms will be set up to discuss ADA, self-employment, and customized employment.

Mr. Hardesty asked about advertising this event. Ms. Hausch noted that we have ordered 'save the date' cards which will be sent to all school systems in West Virginia. The goal is 300 attendees and the targeted audience is schools.

Ms. Hausch reported that we have also scheduled a WrightsLaw Conference to be held in Morgantown on April 20-21, 2011. All libraries in the state have been mailed copies of the WrightsLaw books.

#### Unfinished Business

A discussion followed concerning proposed changes to the by-laws regarding the directors' term of office. Mr. Johnson read both the current and proposed language. He noted that an individual can serve no more than six years. The language in the by-laws states that if a member is elected outside the start of the fiscal year, this is considered a full two year term. The proposed revised wording is to change the language to 3 two-year terms with one appointment. This information has been reviewed by the Executive Committee.

***Motion: Ms. Reed moved that the proposed bylaws changes for directors' terms be approved. Seconded by Ms. Walker. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.***

New Business

A discussion was held concerning Board meeting dates for 2010. It was noted that Saturday meetings are inconvenient for some members and might be a barrier in recruiting new Board members. It was decided that meetings would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of odd numbered months.

Mr. Johnson noted that Scott Finn, a reporter for the Charleston Gazette, will be moving to Florida as he cannot obtain services for his child in West Virginia. He noted that Scott was instrumental in helping us with Northwood. Mr. Johnson suggested writing an appreciation letter to him.

***Motion: Ms. Reed moved that the Board prepare a letter of appreciation to Scott Finn. Seconded by Ms. Akers. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.***

Ms. Reed distributed information on the Disability Caucus which will be held July 26-28, 2010.

Ms. Hausch stated that Bill Byrne had notified her that WVU has approved the summer intern. Sometime in February, Ms. Hausch and the staff attorneys will meet students who are interested.

Ms. Reed discussed the census. Ms. Hausch agreed we may need to get staff involved in getting out information why the census is important with persons with disabilities.

Ms. Reed noted the Families First Conference will be held in Canaan Valley on April 16-18.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Transcribed by Barbara Criner