

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

January 19, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

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

Members by Telephone: Clifton Clark and Terry Dilcher

Members Absent: Jamie Bailey (unexcused); Paula Mieczkowski (unexcused); Carla Walker (unexcused) and Jo Ellen Zacks (excused)

Guests: None

Staff Present: Clarice Hausch, Linnie Simiryan, and Barbara Criner

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. As Mr. Clark would not be available for the entire meeting, Mr. Johnson asked that he present the Finance Committee Report.

Finance Committee

Mr. Clark noted that the Committee had met and reviewed the Board's September 2009 motion involving a one-step increase to staff if funding did not decrease. He reported that we have now received Notice of Grant Awards (NGA) from all programs with the exception of PADD/PAVA.

Motion: Mr. Clark moved that if WVA receives Notice of Grant Awards from PADD and PAVA with no decrease in funding for 2010 that the one-step increase be processed retroactive to 10/1/09. Seconded by Mr. Hardesty. Discussion followed. Ms. Hausch stated that we had received some slight increases in programs. ***Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.***

Mr. Clark asked Ms. Hausch to discuss the current financials. Ms. Hausch stated that plans had been put in place to help spend down the large carryovers in both the CAP and PABSS programs. Both she and the Program Director have met with staff concerning these plans which will include TV spots and PSAs with the goal to create interest in the employment programs.

Mr. Johnson added that the budget analysis and summary were also reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Johnson asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion: Ms. Reed moved that the November 24, 2009 minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Ms. Akers. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.

A follow-up item from the November meeting was discussed. Ms. Hausch noted that the committee for the Legal Policy Committee was to write a policy for the external corporate counsel. Ms. Reed noted that the members of the Legal Policy Committee include: Mr. Clark, Stuart May, and Ms. Zacks. Mr. Clark would contact members to set up a meeting.

Program Director's Report

Ms. Simiryan referred to her report, #5 of the Board mailing. Ms. Simiryan stated that we had become aware of abuse and neglect activity not being reported by management at Potomac Center. These have been run through Intake as PADD cases. OFLAC has been investigating the incidents. Ms. Hausch added that she was pleased that our system worked and we could alert OFLAC to the situation. She added that the Potomac advocate does not have access to the investigation. In order to create a firewall, the investigation has been assigned to another advocate.

Mr. Johnson asked that all employees that worked on the Work Folder project receive special thanks from the Board.

Nominations Committee

Mr. Hardesty reported that the Committee had interviewed Sam Benson from Parkersburg. He noted that Mr. Benson stated that he likes to 'make waves and challenge the establish authority'. Mr. Hardesty felt that Mr. Benson would be a good board member would fill the slot for an individual with a disability (TBI).

Motion: Ms. Reed moved that Sam Benson be elected to serve on the Board. Seconded by Ms. Akers. Motion carried; none opposed; no abstentions.

PAIMI Advisory Council

Ms. Reed noted that the Council met in December to work on the PAIMI PPR. She noted that the meeting went well and the job was accomplished. She added the Council would not meet in April or in July.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Hausch referred to her report, #4 of the Board mailing. She stated there had been no change in the Judge Bloom matter since she had written her report.

Ms. Hausch reported that the Social Media work group is now working on a draft policy. Mr. Johnson asked that drafts of the policy are sent to the Executive Committee.

A discussion followed concerning the Employment Conference to be held April 22 at Stonewall Resort Center. Mr. Johnson asked what groups are being targeted. Ms. Hausch replied transition age students, 16 years plus, and any adult with a disability that has an interest in employment. She noted that some school counselors have expressed interest and we will cover travel costs for counselors to bring children. Mr. Johnson suggested gas cards could be used. Both Ms. Reed and Ms. Akers volunteered their services to help with registration at conference.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Transcribed by Barbara Criner