



**STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Suite 1, Room 311
410 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901
302-739-3621

The Honorable John Carney
Governor

John McNeal
SCPD Director

BRAIN INJURY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 6, 2020 – 2:00 PM

Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room, Smyrna, DE

14 in attendance of 24 **QUORUM PRESENT.**

PRESENT:

Linda **Brittingham**, ChristianaCare Health System/Delaware Healthcare Association (CCHS) (DHA); Megan **Coulbourne**, Director of Therapy Operations, Encompass Health; Tammy **Clifton**, DOL/ DVR, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and **BIC Chair** (obo Andrea Guest, Director); Nicholas A. **Duko**, Program Mgr., BCBS Highmark Health Options; Katie **Freeman**, Psychologist, DSCYF/DPBHS, (obo Robert Dunleavy LCSW Kristy **Handley**, Executive Director (Brain Injury Association of Delaware (BIAD); Kristin **Harvey**, DDC (obo Rick Kosmalski); Miguel **Marcos**, TCM Program Manager, Wilmington VA Medical Center; Dale **Matusevich**, DOE, ECE, Education Associate, Transition Services (obo Mary Ann Mieczkowski); Karen **McGloughlin**, Director of Women's Health (obo Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director); Dorothy **Prior**, Psychologist, (obo Marie Nonnemacher) (DDDS); Nancy **Ranalli**, Director of Community Outreach, Easterseals; Dr. Ron **Sarg**, DCVA/MOAA;); Carey **Swartzentruber**, Survivor; Karen **Tanner**, Psychologist, DSAMH (obo Elizabeth Romero); Tiffani **Taylor**, Nurse Navigator (obo George DeFarno, Director, Post-Acute Medical Rehabilitation Dover; and Jamila **Waigwa**, DHSS/DSAAPD.

ABSENT: (7)

Christine **Applegate**, Nurse Navigator, Neurosurgery, Bayhealth Neurosciences; Sybil **Baker**, GACEC (obo Wendy Strauss); Andrew **Burdan**, Brain Injury Advocate; Sue **Gamel-McCormick**, APRN, DHSS/DMS/Birth to Three; Jeffrey S. **Hysan**, Paralegal, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., Disabilities Law Program; Christina **Miller**, Insurance Investigator Supervisor, Department of Insurance/TBI Survivor; and Ann **Phillips**, Parent of a survivor.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: (Not able to vote or count toward quorum)

IN-PERSON – Dee Rivard, SCPD

TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS: John McNeal (SCPD);

CALL TO ORDER

Tammy Clifton called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. after a quorum of members arrived. Tammy thanked everyone for attending, welcomed new member Karen Tanner and requested everyone to introduce themselves for our new member's benefit.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Tammy inquired if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda mentioning one addition that she noticed herself which was the absence of the Survivor Input item. Ron Sarg made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Karen McGloughlin seconded the motion and voting committee members in attendance unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Tammy moved on to agenda item III asking if everyone reviewed the minutes of the November 4 meeting. Tammy called for additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes.

- Dee provided a correction to show the next meeting date as today's date.
- Ron Sarg requested corrections:
 - to the bottom of page 4 on the 6th line up to change the question mark to a period (.) following the phrase "JFC meetings";
 - on page 7 under Data Development Subcommittee (DDS) Update for the 4th burger dot relating to the number of TBI survivors. Following an update from Karen McGloughlin that the DDS believes the number may be significantly smaller the Committee decided to leave the statement as is since it correctly reflects what was said during the last meeting; and
 - on page 9 in the 2nd burger dot starting with the phrase "Then someone fabricated PTSD symptoms" to replace that phrase with "Ron advised"
- Ron Sarg made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/02/19 BIC meeting as amended, Carey Swartzentruber seconded the motion and voting committee members in attendance unanimously approved the motion.

SURVIVOR INPUT

- Survivor Carey told BIC members that although he missed last month's meeting the discussions struck a chord with him for the one young man discussed that rehabilitation facilities for his brain injury would not accept because he also has mental health issues. Carey would really like to meet the person discussed. Kristin provided an update advising that the gentleman is attending the LIFE Conference where Carey can meet him if he is interested. Carey advised members that he is dealing with not being able to see his children as much as he would like because of people's perception of his brain injury. Carey now has a different counselor who is a

neuropsychologist which is much better because they understand so much more and he doesn't have to try to explain everything to him. It is a very stressful situation and stress causes brain injury survivors to forget things. He inquired if anyone knew what his rights as a brain injury survivor are. Do we have rights or is it just that we have a lot of restrictions as to what we should be able to do? Tammy referred Carey to John McNeal to help understand his rights as a brain injury survivor who is also a father with children who because of his injury may forget things. John stated that this certainly sounded like an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and family court issue where education and training could help. However, Carey stated that it is not to the point of Family Court yet. Unless there is any type of child endangerment, having a disability does not put restrictions on anyone's ability as a parent. John offered to have a private meeting with Carey about this topic. Carey clarified that it is his family trying to limit the amount of time that he sees his children and that he did not understand why. Katie Freeman told Carey that if he is having difficulties with forgetting things and memory issues that his therapist can work with him on compensatory strategy skills. No one is perfect. However, it is his right as a parent to be able to see his children. Other members advised Carey to contact the Delaware Law Center and fully supported his reaching out to the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) stating that Laura Waterland is their Director. The DLP has an excellent team of lawyers who would be very interested in hearing from Carey. The DLP also has representation on the State Council for Persons with Disabilities. Our Council works with them on any number of policy and law issues, reviewing regulations, and promoting regulations and laws. Let's turn a problem into a solution.

- Kristy Handley advised that she has been in conversation with the Domestic Violence group about one of their concerns about some of the domestic violence survivors with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) not wanting to come forward for fear of losing their children or not being able to see them. This is a big challenge with them also trying to obtain true numbers of Domestic Violence victims with TBIs.
- John advised that depending on the situation, this type of knowledge by one parent can be weaponized against the other. It is a good reason to take a hard look at this situation. John advised that Family Court now has an ADA Coordinator who is developing an ADA Title II program.
- Tammy stated that this is one more area that we need to make note of in terms of our outreach and education. One more item to add to the growing list for legislation, education, and outreach.
- Kristin Harvey shared that the keynote speakers for the LIFE Conference are a couple who had to petition the state in order to get married and then again when they wanted to have children. They raised their child

successfully. People with disabilities have as much right to be parents as everybody else. There are probably a lot of people in the same situation.

- Carey shared that it has been frustrating and difficult for him and that it is the last thing that he wants to deal with. He didn't want to push the issue and then be wrong and not have people trust him. All the stress compounds the situation and makes it worse. Carey does not feel that it is bad enough to have to resort to taking it to court.
 - Ron Sarg suggested that the Brain Injury Conference to add a session in the future for a discussion and presentation of the rights and responsibilities of TBI individuals. What are their rights and responsibilities as survivors? He advised that there are things that all individuals have rights that they are entitled to. Whether or not this topic gets into the current conference or next year's conference. Karen suggested that it would be a good idea to have Laura Waterland or someone from DLP come to the next BIC meeting to share information.
 - John advised that he is on a panel discussion and that BIC members can feel free to send him questions to share. Tammy promised that the Brain Injury Association of Delaware (BIAD) will discuss Ron's recommendation during this evening's teleconference in consideration of adding it as a suggested topic for next year's conference. Kristin shared that the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is working with Planned Parenthood on the Healthy Sexuality Education and Resource Program. Kristin asked them to focus on what that entails, the rights and supports necessary for someone with a disability who wants to have a child because there are still sterilization laws on the books in Delaware.

OLD BUSINESS

Motorcycle Helmet Advocacy

Tammy stated that the Brain Injury Committee (BIC) members had quite a conversation last month concerning motorcycle helmet advocacy. There are a lot of different things that we want and need to be working on. The position was made clear that this needs to be a high priority topic. Tammy shared that she didn't know much about Representative Sean Lynn until she saw that he sponsored helmet legislation in 2016. Tammy visited the ABATE website and feels that we have a lot of work to do if we are going to go up against ABATE. The legislation and laws that they highlight on their website are laws that they are against and not necessarily laws that they support. They make it abundantly clear that they do not want to have a helmet law passed in Delaware.

- John advised that he was speaking with Rep. Lynn's administrative assistant to find out when they are going to resubmit the legislation that they previously submitted 2 years ago. John is hoping for a small contingency to meet with Representative Lynn

for dinner downtown Dover some evening once the Legislative session begins. The problem right now is trying to identify a Senate sponsor. John has a long relationship with Senator Ennis although he is probably not the person to ask because he is concerned about the large lobbying group to go up against. The main argument that we continue to hear about relates to the infringement upon their personal freedoms. This legislation will go to the Safety & Homeland Security Committee on the House Side and the Corrections and Public Safety Committee on the Senate side. Senator Nicole Poore is someone that we worked with on a regular basis in the past; however, we have stockpiled her this year with several different initiatives. John advised that he spoke with Kyle earlier about finding someone else to co-sponsor this legislation. John suggested that perhaps Senator Bryan Townsend who is being recognized in a few days during the LIFE Conference might be interested in being the Senate sponsor. Two things have to occur: (1) we need to change the whole concept of personal freedom because putting a helmet on doesn't infringe on anyone's personal freedom to ride a motorcycle; and (2) looking at the impact specifically on Medicaid of the cost of treatment for traumatic brain injuries or catastrophic injuries caused by motorcycle accidents. John shared that he repeatedly heard about the possibility of having a thousand motorcycle riders showing up to Legislative Hall when he spoke with Senator Ennis. Public safety and public interest should come first. Tammy advised that this is no different than when automobile seatbelt laws were passed or requiring that children ride in car seats because the intent is to help save lives. John shared that the typical response from committee hearings is that the proposed legislation received a lot of testimony from people from all around the Tri-state area; however, Legislators never provided an answer as to why helmet legislation is continually being denied.

- BIC members shared that they felt that legislators only care about money. Kristy stated that eye protection is required by law under the motorcycle laws; and inquired how they got that passed? Isn't that a personal right also? Why are we saving someone's eyes but not their brains or their lives? Kristen asked if anyone ever sat down with ABATE to find out why they are against helmet legislation in order to better understand. John mentioned the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) handout that Dee provided members with from the OHS 2010 report that indicates that there is committee dedicated to and called the Motorcycle Safety Committee. John tried but couldn't find any information on the committee and he thinks Senator Ennis is part of the committee. Is this committee open to the public and is BIC a member of the committee? He feels that it is time to become a part of the Motorcycle Safety Committee. These are the types of things that it is advantageous to know about and be a part of this committee. We need to find out where their meetings take place in order to participate and find out what they are all

about. Kristin once again encouraged respectful and open communication stating that “To get somewhere we have never been, we have to do something that we have never done” and she believes this starts with respectful communication. Karen felt that it could possibly be a civil rights issue — it is the concept that they are having their freedom taken away. Kristin would like to hear that from ABATE though and to hear that from them. Karen suggested that John or the SCPD Chair reach out to ABATE to see if they would be open to a meeting. All humans are more alike than different. Kristin and Tammy also volunteered to attend a meeting between SCPD and ABATE; however, Kristin stated that she wants to play the role of Switzerland ensuring that there is respectful communication and that everyone is heard. John advised that while ABATE is very strong in their beliefs; he is happy to learn more about their beliefs; although he does not know how much collaboration we can accomplish. John promised to reach out to them asking Dee to remind him before the next meeting. Kyle will continue looking for a prime sponsor in the Senate. John is hoping to obtain some figures from the Delaware Healthcare Information Network (DHIN) specific to Delaware in advance of a committee hearing; particularly, regarding Medicaid expenses. If we can show the impact of financial burden it speaks loudly. Kristin suggested that we need an actuary, someone who can predict future costs projections based on actual costs.

- Ron Sarg read Representative Sean Lynn’s email requesting to have the helmet legislation circulated for sponsorship. Unfortunately, the email did not contain a copy of the actual bill; however, Ron did ask for Representative Lynn to send a copy of the actual bill to himself and John. Ron is attending a District 31 meeting on Monday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m., at Westminster. Ron advised that Representative Lynn’s counterpart in the Senate is Senator Trey Paradee and he plans to discuss this issue with them both. The question surrounding motorcycle helmet advocacy that was on one of the handouts in section 17 – 25 have dollars and cents that substantiates for any committee past and future costs of TBI. Ron also advised that the true cost of TBI is that we don’t have advanced TBI care within the state. This is something that we should focus on and meet them where they are at by lining up our friendly objectives and focuses. Ron felt that having sat through numerous veteran ceremonies with the Buffalo Soldiers who were all wearing helmets that it would be good to get a couple of the Buffalo Soldiers to attend the committee hearings for the helmet legislation. If possible, we should also request representatives from the Blue Knights and the Red Knights motorcycle groups to support the legislation and send representatives to the committee hearings. The dollars and cents are the key issues that the committee needs to listen to. The new Peachtree facility opening in April is taking care of intermediary care patients but not the advanced care patients who are still being sent out of state

for treatment. What is the true cost? This counters rebuttals about not many motorcycle crash victims being admitted locally because the acute care patients are all routed to PA, MD, NJ, and VA because Delaware doesn't have an acute care TBI facility. Actuarial costs past, present, and future? Ron has a meeting later this month with Senator Ennis and plans to discuss the Motorcycle Safety Committee.

- Tiffani Taylor stated that her brain immediately goes to marketing. Rommel Harley Davidson and Honda dealerships sponsor a lot of motorcycle events and perhaps they might back us up since they sell motorcycle helmets and provide safety course when they sell motorcycles. Rommel Harley Davidson provides their safety course with mandatory helmet usage. What is the percentage of helmet sales contrasted against motorcycle sales?
- Katie inquired as to who is taking on the survey questions. Tammy found out that no BIC members submitted possible survey questions to Dee. Tammy took a few minutes and found the initial conversations from previous minutes and sent them to Dee who printed them out as a handout for today's meeting and this is where it remains. Representative Lynn is ready to take some initial action. Ron stated that the battle is obtaining sponsorship for the bill, getting a number for the bill, and then when the bill is assigned to a committee. Tammy was dismayed personally that no one submitted questions. We are not getting very far if we cannot decide how we are going to advance. Katie advised that she took the questions from the handout and developed a shorter list. Karen knows of someone from the Injury & Prevention Coalition Chair who is an EMS responder who stated that he is willing to distribute the surveys to his first responder group. The only thing we need are questions to compile that we can put in a survey form. We want some of it open ended that may allow us to obtain some stories in order to understand the full impact of motorcycle crashes on family members, first responders, emergency department personnel, and the state. She is not suggesting doing any interviews. We just need to translate the available questions, which are a great start, into some sort of survey that we tailor to the audience that we are sharing it with. However, there are questions that not everyone can answer. Kristy suggested using Survey Monkey while Karen suggested a multi-faceted approach ensuring that we also have paper surveys for people without access to computers or the time. Additionally, we need to input all the data into the same database so that we can poll information. Katie volunteered to start an Ad Hoc subcommittee for the sole purpose of doing the surveys if two other people would join her. Tammy volunteered as part of the Prevention and Outreach Subcommittee to join Karen and Katie to work on the survey questions because that was the original intent to work on education. This is information that we need. Karen shared that part of the campaign is to list the stories that we have heard. This is why it is important. It is costing \$83 million dollars in comprehensive costs. Kristin inquired if it would be beneficial to have a series of social media posts that share a story on SCPD that asks if their life was affected by a motorcycle

crash in order to get the data collection started? This would be a reasonably non-intensive way to get the collection of stories started. Ron asked Miguel to confirm that Veteran TBI injuries are not treated within the state but are rather sent to VA. He also asked him to correlate what it would cost to have a treatment center here in Delaware. Ron also shared that only 40% of veterans are utilizing the VA Healthcare system. Miguel confirmed and agreed to obtain cost figures on what it costs to send veterans to Virginia for treatment. Miguel advised that there is a TBI care facility located in West Virginia and another one in Richmond, VA. The Polytrauma Center in Richmond, VA also includes an employment component. If we could get something like that here in Delaware, we could save money. BIC members felt strongly that we need to get these centers in Delaware in order to save the state money and have survivors treated in the state. Miguel plans to reach out to others to obtain specific information. Tammy inquired what suggestions members have for holding ourselves accountable so that we are not still talking about it months from now. Kristin suggested adding an agenda item to receive the Ad Hoc ABATE luncheon suggesting the title of the "Effects of Switzerland Update." John will reach out to ABATE to schedule a meeting. Kristin advised that she can meet on the 16th, 17th or the 21st anytime. Dee will coordinate when she returns to the office. Tammy requested that everyone who volunteered to participate to please send their availability to Dee.

- Katie felt that the Ad Hoc Survey Subcommittee could have the questions for the survey together by the next meeting. Other members felt that finalized survey questions could be available within two weeks. Karen believes that it is not just taking the top 5 questions. What they need to do is determine who it is that we want to survey. First responders are one of the groups. Where do we obtain the financial data from? It's Medicaid but who specifically do we reach out to in order to obtain the data? What is the average cost of a TBI per year? Who would we go to for that? Nick stated that while they have access to the data, they would probably have to obtain permission to share the information. Nick promised to check into this possibility stating that their contract is with the State so they wouldn't want to share information that the State doesn't want them to share. Kristin questioned whether this information is contained in the Healthcare Benchmark Study recently released. John also agreed to send a broad question to Medicaid Director Steve Groff and Deputy Director Lisa Zimmerman to see if they can help with obtaining the data. Tammy suggested drawing from at least 3 different areas. Karen stated that we already spoke about surveying first responders, emergency departments, and obtain the Financial Costs in addition to motorcycle riders we should have a firm foundation. John stated that Medicaid can eat up hundreds of thousands of dollars per year treating brain injury issues.
- Karen mentioned the handout on Traffic Safety Facts from the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

(NHTSA) that is broken down by state for 2015. The actual cost is \$13 million dollars and if you add in lifetime ability and quality of life to get a job etc. and then it rises to \$83 million dollars. John advised that he sent a more specific data request to OHS that he will ask Dee to provide to the committee to obtain more specific demographics in Delaware over the last five years. Karen doesn't see if the cost is annual or if it is cumulative? Karen subsequently found where it stated that the costs are annual costs. Who reports this information to them? It is a Department of Transportation summary so presumably our Department of Transportation gets this information and provides it to them. John believes that it is per capita.

- John quoted the handout that he provided stating that 20 motorcyclists died in crashes in 2015 and in 2016, 15 motorcyclists were killed in crashes 4 of whom were not wearing helmets. What is the level of the survivor's injuries? What is the cost of the 12 survivors in Delaware? What was their level of injury? John stated that motorcycle fatalities are up again this year.

Nancy looked at the stats from the Delaware Trauma System Registries handout stating that motorcycle accidents are minuscule compared to falls. The motorcycle helmet law predates most committee members. John reminded BIC members that the purview of this committee is to provide information to the legislature details of what can be done to prevent brain injuries. Creating a fall law is something that we can't do; however, creating a helmet law is something that we hope that we can do. We have this before us now as opposed to falls. Let's focus our energies on what we have before us now. This is monumental to people who suffer brain injuries and other catastrophic injuries as well. Falls encapsulate other injuries as well. Perhaps this is something that the Prevention & Outreach Committee can sink their teeth into as well because falls happen at all ages. There needs to be more awareness about falls and recognizing the possibility of brain injuries.

COMMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- **TBI Fund Application Review Committee Update**
 - Nancy Ranalli provided an update on the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund stating this committee met just before the BIC meeting.
 - Nancy provided statistics on the TBI Fund for calendar year 2019 stating that there were 26 inquiries and applications. The committee approved and funded 12 of the applications.
 - Based on John's information from the last meeting regarding perhaps expanding eligibility for the fund. The TBI Fund Committee met earlier to discuss how we are going to expand the definitions of eligibility.

- **Data Development Subcommittee (DDS) Update**

- Karen McGloughlin advised that the Data Development Subcommittee is sort of stalled as Dee indicated earlier. However, they did obtain sample of the available data sharing that the amount of data is scary. Even though it is provided in an Excel spreadsheet she still feels that it is going to be challenging to extract specific data from the amount of data provided. She advised that per person there are 12 - 15 lines for each type of treatment received per person. Karen asked for anyone with analytical skills who is a BIC member to please volunteer. Currently, Karen is not sure what to do with all the data once we get it. Dee is well-versed and Karen has worked with Excel spreadsheets in the past. However, Karen feels that we are going to receive a lot more information than we originally expected. We must wrap our heads around what specifically we want out of all the data. This list of questions does help a little.
- John shared that next year when August rolls around and he is requesting funding that he will have to request additional funds for analysis. This might fall into additional funding with the SCPD Commission merger. He would like to have a sample size of data to determine what funding costs for data analysis would entail because: (1) he would like to actually quote real numbers to qualify his request; and (2) we do not have the staff to complete data analysis and technically it would be staff's responsibility to do analysis. Perhaps the SCPD could obtain an Intern that could do the analysis. We might need to take what we got in order to know how much funding we will need. There is no way any one of us sitting around the table could do the analysis. That may be where they make their money.
- John also revisited his comments from last month's meeting relating to the Brain Injury Fund vs. the TBI Trust Fund advising that there is legislation from FY14 that does identify the fund as the Traumatic Brain Injury (BI) Fund; however, it also gives the SCPD leeway in creating policies and procedures pertaining to the operation of the fund including eligibility of the fund in consultation with DHSS which it was under at that time; however, that was transferred to DSHS when SCPD moved under our current department. John will need time to review the legislation a little closer. Originally it identifies the fund at \$15,000.00 per year but somehow made its way up to \$50,000 and he will have to speak with Kyle about the evolution of that. Dee clarified that the FY14 Epilogue language provided additional funding to raise the amount to \$40,000. The current epilogue language lists it as the BI Trust Fund. John wanted to bring this up because we may have to take a few steps back before the TBI Fund Committee creates additional work changing things.

- **Prevention and Outreach Subcommittee (P & O)**
 - Prevention & Outreach Subcommittee has not met since last month.

ACTION ITEMS

- Advocate for Brain Injury Survivor Rights (BIC & BIAD);
- Invite Laura Waterland to present at the next BIC meeting;
- Have a BIC or SCPD member join the Motorcycle Safety Committee;
- Dinner meeting with ABATE representatives (John, Tammy & Kristin);
- Finalize survey questions (Ad Hoc Survey Subcommittee);
- Finalize survey recipient groups (BIC);
- Obtain Medicaid statistics (Nick and John)
- Obtain OHS statistics (John)
- Revise TBI Policy (TBI Fund Committee)
- Analyze sample data from DHIN (DDS)

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kristin Harvey announced that registration for the 2020 LIFE Conference scheduled for January 29, closes at midnight on January 14. At last count there are only 6 exhibitor tables remaining and once they are gone, they are gone. She encouraged anyone who had not registered yet to visit the LIFE Conference website at: www.lifeconferencede.org to register now. She also requested BIC member agencies to share information about the LIFE Conference on their social media and websites.
- Kristy Handley announced that the Brain Injury Conference is coming up on March 5 and she passed around flyers. They are still accepting vendors so if you want to exhibit or be a sponsor, please let her know or go online to their website at www.biaofde.org to find the information there. They will probably open it up for online payments in the next week or so, but for right now they are just doing the mailings or just give her a call and ask her to hold you a spot. Like Kristin said, they will also have a limited number of vendor spaces for exhibitors. They have some great speakers coming this year. The deadlines for resumes and biographies are due by January 10.
- Nancy Ranalli shared that Easterseals still has respite funding available. Please share with your families. Easterseals has a new contract with Prevention & Behavioral Health for families raising children with behavioral or mental health issues, so this is another respite program that they have available. They are once again offering the Savvy Caregiver Workshop for caregivers who are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer or dementia. It is offered in New Castle starting on February 4 and it will also be offered in

March at Bayhealth Kent General and in Sussex County twice with OSHA Lifelong Learning Institute. She brought flyers to share with everyone. Easterseals has something new this year. They have a contract to offer respite funding if caregivers are finding that they can't attend conferences and workshops because they are at a loss for what to do with their loved ones. They have respite funding outside of the respite grant that they can maybe have their loved ones go to a day program or have someone come into their home to help them with taking care of their loved ones while they attend the workshop or conference and Easterseals will reimburse them. Hopefully, more caregivers will take advantage of some of the conferences and workshops available to help them. She advised anyone who is interested or who has questions to contact Easterseals with their questions and to obtain additional information. Dee will share the flyers she provided with everyone when she sends out the minutes from this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- Ron made a motion to adjourn that Kristy Handley seconded. Tammy called for discussion and hearing none, called for a vote by committee members present who unanimously approved the motion to adjourn at 3:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

- The next scheduled Brain Injury Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room, 5500 DuPont Parkway, Smyrna, DE.