

ITRA Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, August 4, 2006  
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls  
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**Introductions**

Members Present: Doug Boleyn, Jennifer Fisher, Allison Ball, Joe Wilson, Mandi DeRocher, Adria Swinconos, Marcy Matthias

Members Absent: Emily Linn, Connie Williams, Ann Sullivan, Mollie Wilhite, Megan Schwalm, Renee Barbu, Mackenzy Herrick, Martin Wright, Annie Obrecht, Abby McDermott, Rachel DeKeyser,

Guests Present: Linda- UNI Student (sitting in for Abby McDermott)

Doug called the meeting to order at 10:15

**Review of Minutes**

- ❖ The board reviewed the minutes from the June meeting.
- ❖ There were no objections to the minutes.
- ❖ Marcy made a motion to accept the minutes as presented.
- ❖ Joe seconded the motion and no further discussion was made.

**Financial Report**

- ❖ Jennifer shared that the current balance was \$114.56.
- ❖ Doug has given Jennifer the check from the conference, which Jennifer will deposit this weekend.
- ❖ Jennifer will write Paul Beck a check for \$300 for reconstructing our website
- ❖ Marcy made a motion to accept the financial report as shared.
- ❖ Mandi seconded the motion. No further discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Public Relations/Website**

- ❖ Paul Beck, a student at UNI working to update our webpage, was present to show us what he has been working on. He was also present for the board to give suggestions and input for the content of the information provided
- ❖ Paul needs to know the benefits of TR. Why would someone want to pursue a career in this field? Why should someone become a member of IRRA? Also, why should doctors, other healthcare professionals, or consumers utilize TR? Doug will provide him with this information.
- ❖ **Paul needs pictures!!!** If you have any pictures from your facility please put them on a disk and bring them to the next meeting. Placing the pictures on a disk allows for better quality.

- ❖ **FOR BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT** please send Paul a biography about yourself for the website. He also took our pictures today, so bring a picture of yourself to the next meeting.
- ❖ **The job postings on the website need to be updated.** If you know that one of the postings is incorrect please contact Paul. Also, if you have a listing that you would like to add, contact Paul ([paul\\_beck72@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_beck72@hotmail.com)). If you have a specific link to your facility it would be greatly appreciated if you could include that in the information that you send.
- ❖ Allison Ball will talk to her boyfriend to see if he is willing to maintain the website after its completion. He works with computers and building websites on a daily basis.
- ❖ The webpage is structurally sound, but is lacking in content. Paul would greatly appreciate our help to finish up this project. Without our input and feedback we have a poor website. PLEASE HELP!!! Paul would like to get as much done before the beginning of the school year as he will be very busy. We only have a few weeks!

## 2. Conference Evaluations

- ❖ Overall the average responses to the questions fell in the good to excellent category
- ❖ Ideas for the next conference that were suggested by attendees include:
  - Activities for MR and dual diagnosis
  - Cultural change in LTC
  - TR and mental health for kids and teens
  - Standardized assessments
  - Geoff Lanham from Midwest symposium to do humor therapy
  - Grant writing
  - Reiki and massage
  - Strengths assessment
  - Round table discussion regarding future direction on ITRA
  - Jon Turnquist - adaptive technology

## 3. By-Laws

- ❖ Doug does not believe that there would be a problem with our by-laws becoming approved. He will confirm this with Karla.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Conference Update

- ❖ If anyone is interested in speaking, or knows someone who is, please forward this information to Emily ASAP!
- ❖ We need to be confirming speakers and getting contracts sent out.

### 2. Legislative Update

- ❖ Doug received an ACTION ALERT from ATRA today. This alert had to do with the fiscal intermediary Mutual of Omaha. They deal with local coverage determination for inpatient rehabilitation facilities. This intermediary is stating that in order to be able to bill for services you must be licensed. This could really affect us and touches 30 states.
- ❖ We in the TR field have until Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to respond to determine change.
- ❖ Doug will be sending out a draft letter composed by ATRA. PLEASE modify the first paragraph, sign, and have postmarked by Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>. **IF YOU DON'T WORK ON REHAB THIS COULD STILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON YOUR JOB AS A TR PROFESSIONAL!!!** If you do not work on rehab, modify the first paragraph to state that you are a concerned TR professional. WE NEED AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO SIGN THESE LETTERS AND GET THEM SENT BY THE 11<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!

### 3. Medicaid Initiative

- ❖ Joe stated that the best time to meet with the Senate is in April. They are all in the office between January-April.
- ❖ Joe will talk to Bob Dvorsky to steer us in the right direction.

### 4. Medicare Project

- ❖ ATRA is trying to find a senate sponsor. They already have a house sponsor. Doug will inform everyone when this person has been determined.
- ❖ The board felt that we as a chapter should make a contribution to the national organization. ATRA's goal is \$300,000 and they have raised about \$260,000 to date.
- ❖ We need about \$2,500 for a lobbyist for Iowa
- ❖ The board felt that as a chapter we could make a \$1,000 donation.
- ❖ Allison made a motion to accept this contribution amount. Mandi seconded the motion. No further discussion.

### 5. Conference Calls

- ❖ Doug discussed [www.freeconferencecall.com](http://www.freeconferencecall.com). He stated that you are charged only for the phone call.
- ❖ You are given an access code to enter when you call the number.
- ❖ The board feels that this is a good idea to try for the winter months.

### 6. Next Meeting Date

- ❖ The next meeting will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Link Associates.
- ❖ The board decided on this location as it has a computer and projector so that we can continue to discuss the website, especially with members who were absent.
- ❖ Mandi DeRocher will provide directions to the facility.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adria seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00