TASP Board of Directors Meeting

5/20/14

Participants: Susan Yuan, President; Bernadette Irwin, Senior Board Member; Sue Jones, Senior Board Member; Leslie Kinney Treasurer; Ellen Gilmartin Secretary; Lindsay Brillhart, Nicole Brisson, Denise Marshall, Leslie Pokras.

**1. Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee

Leslie Kinney reported briefly that there is a balance of about $13,000 in the TASP account at this time. One goal that will be worked on in the coming months is the development of policies and procedures related to expenditures of TASP and its committees.

1. Membership Committee

Denise Marshall reported that the process for becoming a member and the categories of members is formalized now; the bylaws that are due to be approved very soon will establish the categories that we have been using for a while. Other categories of members may be added in the future by the Board of Directors. All the attendees of the conference will be inputted to a membership database kept in a secure portion of the website.

1. There will be a way for the TASP leadership to check the membership list against PayPal to ensure that payments have been received.

2. Each member will be given a user name and password to access their membership info and any members only info on the website.

3. Individual members will be able to access their own membership information to update contact information; if they want they can provide a picture of themselves.

4. We will be able to upload and download the membership list.

5. We will still use constant contact for emails to members. An email will go out to members soon to give them their user name and password.

6. We will need to develop more content for the "members only" portion of the website. Material from the 2013 Conference will be in the "members only" section of the website. We may have a portion of the keynote as an audio file as a teaser.

1. Technology Committee

Bernadette reported that things seemed more promising after a call this morning with PJ. It looks like the website will be a useful tool. There are a number of decisions to be made concerning FaceBook.

1. They have been educated on the difference between a blog and a forum. A forum allows people to dialogue.

2. A blog is a controlled post, and we can allow comments or not. We will start with a blog only. It will be linked to Facebook automatically. We will control what comments are allowed, if any.

3. There will also be a newsletter to members.

4. There will be a capacity to have a scrolling banner announcing or alerting for important upcoming legislation or events.

5. There will be a research corner and a legislative corner.

d) Conference Committee

1. Denise Marshall reported that the 2015 conference will be in Memphis, TN. in a downtown location.

2. The committee is looking at the budgets of previous conferences to determine what will be needed.

3. The expected time for the next conference will be late October, 2015.

e) Training Committee - Sue Jones

1. We will offer web based training. We have not determined exactly how this will be done yet, though. We have to decide on a host company or technology.

2. Denise Mock and the rest of the committee is still working on a needs assessment for different potential audiences that TASP would like to reach out to, including the Court System, Development Disability Service systems, and Child Welfare.

3. Training priorities will be based on the results of the needs assessment.

4. Cost structure/ fees for webinars will need to be developed along with the pertinent new Policies and Procedures related to finances.

f) Public Affairs Committee

1. Susan Yuan reported on the legislative initiatives in Massachusetts, Washington State, and Tennessee.

2. Favorable laws, stemming from the NCD report, have passed in Washington and Tennessee and is still pending in Massachusetts. Washington's law requires that parents with ID be given appropriate accommodation in child welfare matters, via specific plans.

3. Oregon also has something going on legislatively.

4. We will have an opportunity to offer training to these states in particular as the new laws will mandate training in some cases; there is definitely more awareness as well.

5. National Foster Care month email that was recently distributed referenced the issue of parents with cognitive impairment.

6. One reason that Tennessee will be a good location for the conference is that their recently passed legislation requires the some personnel get training annually on the needs of parents with cognitive impairment.

7. As these situations demonstrate, it will be important for us to keep a good handle on what is going on in each of the States and take advantage of whatever opportunities come up.

8. Toward this end, Ella Callow, Liz Lightfoot and Traci LaLiberte may be asked to write up a summary on the laws passed so far.

The Public Affairs Committee has three goals:

1) Work with National advocacy organizations to build momentum toward a national agenda on parents with cognitive disabilities. So far, the only real progress has been on the State level.

2) Work with DOJ (along with Sylvia Long, who has met with a DOJ attorney) to try to find a good case for a parent who had their rights violated under ADA in a child welfare matter. So far two suggested cases were not workable.

3) Work with AAIDD via our liaison Carolyn Harpole; we haven't had Carolyn on the call recently so we need an update on this. This group has a conference this June 23-26, but we are not aware of whether or not the SIG on parents with ID will be meeting. It may be too late to get info on a meeting printed in the conference materials, but we could probably get a meeting announced if we can get Carolyn or someone else to take charge over a meeting.

Nicole Brisson (the former AAIDD liaison with TASP) will contact Carolyn to see what is happening in regards to the SIG meeting.

g. Research Committee: We do not have any updates from Maurice Feldman at this time.

h. Self Advocacy

1. Lindsay reported about the idea of doing another workshop at SABE at their next conference. That is October 9-12 in OK. Unfortunately, the time frame for submitting proposals is passed. It may still be possible to submit something.

2. Susan Yuan will be sending an email out to the head of the Sibling Network as soon as our website is ready to use. Possibly these two groups could have collaboration.

2. Other TASP Outreach and Collaborative Efforts • Recent Trainings -- Sue Jones and Bernadette Irwin in Maryland.

1. Conference Attendance -- CWLA -- representing TASP – Sue Jones and Bernadette Irwin in September 2013; made some connections. Two areas are ripe for ongoing collaboration: grandparents raising kids, and youth transitioning out of child welfare.

2. Submitted proposal to present at 2014 AUCD conference in RI.

3. Exchanged training between CT, Pittsburg and RI.

4. Sue Jones and Leslie Kinney did training for the Children's Trust Fund.

5. Some States need to be explored for possible opportunities to make connections because we have none at all yet.

3. Regional Conference:

There are 70 or so registered for the conference so far. We are hoping for 100.

We expect to have everything set for CEU's and 5 credits for attorneys.

Ellen will send info through the CT PWCL list.

4. New England Conference/Planning for Board Retreat on June 6, 2014

1. Lindsay and Denise will call in; so far the following board members are definite to attend in person: Susan Yuan, Sue Jones, Ginny Cruz, Nicole Brisson, Ellen Gilmartin, Bernadette Irwin, Maurice Feldman.

2. We will check with Catherine Wade to see if she can attend. We will have a conference phone.

3. The agenda will be tight. Robyn Powell has been kept up to date and participated in the development of the agenda.

5. Goals beyond the Board Retreat:

1. Committee Chairs – as issues arise, Committee Chairs developing Policies/Procedures

2. Opportunities for training in states with recent legislation and all that would be involved.

3. Growing TASP in preparation for Conference – each Board member identify 5-6 states that they are familiar with and drill down into that state to identify targeted contacts and collaboration – establish relationship with TASP – would need guidance from Denise on this (Chair of Membership Committee)

*Respectfully submitted by Ellen Gilmartin on 6/17/14*