

“Across the Province”
An OBIA Advisory Council (OAC) Update
October 1, 2010
Tammy Falovo, Community Association Liaison, OBIA

The OAC met on September 25, 2010 in Toronto at the Miles Nadel Jewish Community Centre. At this OAC meeting, we saw great representation from local associations as well as representation from some newer groups across the province. Additionally, this was the first meeting of the OAC with Ruth Wilcock attending as the new Executive Director of OBIA.

The meeting began with a presentation of the “Helmets on Kids” program. Donna Thomson, OAC Co-Chair talked about BIA London’s early involvement with the program, while Linda Langston, Executive Director of the Ontario Trial Lawyer’s Association (OTLA) discussed OTLA’s ongoing execution and support of the program in communities across Ontario. More information about the program can be obtained through OTLA. Their contact information can be found at: www.otla.com.

The remainder of the morning and early afternoon focused on Support Groups across the province. In the morning, an open discussion took place where representatives at the table had the opportunity to talk about the Support Groups being offered through their respective associations. After lunch, there was a panel discussion, where representatives from various support groups across the province talked about what their group is currently doing and about support group ideas/plans for the future. Thank you to the following individuals for making up this dynamic panel:

Dennis Radman, (BIA Windsor and Essex)
Darrin Davidson, (Headwaters Acquired Brain Injury Support Group in Orangeville)
Jamie Fairles, (BIA London and District)
Donna Thomson (BIA London and District)

Near the end of the day, after the Support Group Panel, Co-Chairs Donna Thomson (BIA London and District) and Melanie Gardin (BIA Windsor and Essex) presented some minor changes to the Terms of Reference of the OAC. These changes were voted on and accepted by the OAC. The revised Terms of Reference will be attached to the OAC Minutes. Additionally, the Co-Chairs stated that the OBIA Board of Directors ‘Future Provincial Conferences’ Committee needed more OAC representation and took the names of those around that table that volunteered for that committee.

Ruth Wilcock talked briefly about the important role of the OAC and her expectations that OAC meetings not only allow for the sharing of information and best practices, but also facilitate building capacity among all of the brain injury associations and groups. Additionally, she confirmed that OBIA was successful with their funding application to Trillium and will be moving forward on a marketing project which involves re-branding

and new logo development for OBIA. She also shared that the keynote speakers for the 2011 Provincial Conference had been confirmed.

Lastly, Tammy Falovo had the opportunity to introduce herself to the group and present on some of the activities she is involved in as Community Association Liaison, including recent trips to Sault Ste Marie and Thunder Bay. Tammy also presented on the Peer Support Mentoring program, outlining that Mentor training has occurred recently in Sault Ste Marie, and will occur in London on October 2 and in Thunder Bay in January 2011. Also, the Provincial Peer Support Coordinator's (PSC's) will hold their annual meeting in Toronto the day before the OAC Meeting in November.

The next OAC meeting was confirmed for Saturday, November 13, 2010. Location to TBD.