



**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
December 14, 2018**

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under “conferences & meetings” at least 10 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tiffany Armstrong, Jerry Bryan, Nancy Coffman, Mark Draper, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, Carla Lasley, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peggy Reisher, Kathy Scheele, Frank Velinsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tania Diaz, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: Chris Stewart

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:08a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER, 14TH MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from September 14, 2018 were reviewed. A motion was made by Nancy Coffman and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the September 14, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. Dale Johannes added an item to new business and Kristen Larsen added an Olmstead update to public comment A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Peggy Reisher to approve the agenda as amended. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent**

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Tiffany Armstrong announced that the meeting was an open meeting and the Open Meetings Law was posted on the side table.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Larsen reviewed the Olmstead process. Kristen reported an Olmstead report will be submitted today and will extend the contract with the current contractor until the end of March. Kristen summarized that additional legislative action will be needed to fund and complete what is necessary to for the Olmstead process. Kristen stated additional key stakeholders are needed as well as additional education and buy-in from the legislature. Kristen reported approximately \$50,000 will be requested to continue the Olmstead process beyond March 31st. Kristen stated council member and community support is needed to

continue supporting and speaking out to legislative representatives to continue moving the process forward. Kristen shared Nebraska is one of only 12 states that do not have an Olmstead plan in place. Kristen stated they are working hard to make sure this plan is comprehensive. Peggy Reisher stated they will share with council members Olmstead background information and talking points via email.

No additional public comment was shared.

COUNCIL CHAIR & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Keri Bennett recognized Tiffany Armstrong for her eight years of service as chairperson of the Brain Injury Advisory Council. Keri welcomed Judy Nichelson who will be taking over as chairperson in January.

Tiffany Armstrong provided members with a handout outlining the current executive committee. Tiffany reported there will be one vacant seat on the executive committee when Judy assumes the Chairperson role. Members voted via anonymous ballot to elect the new executive committee member. After tallying the ballot votes Tiffany Armstrong was elected to the executive committee.

Tiffany shared that it was determined at the work plan meetings that the vice-chair would be the point of contact for the committees created to determine action steps. Peggy Reisher suggested that Tiffany would be a great vice-chair with her previous president experience. Brett Hoogeveen stated he was open to continuing in the vice-chair position but is more than happy to allow a new executive committee member assume the role. Brett and Tiffany determined they will discuss the vice-chair position further following the meeting and the executive committee will determine a vice-chair via tele-conference.

Amendment – February 1, 2019: Tiffany Armstrong was elected by the BIAC Executive Committee to be the council vice-chair. Executive members voted unanimously via e-mail to confirm Tiffany Armstrong as vice-chair.

MASTER WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Tiffany Armstrong shared the master work plan committee progress with the council and the working Google Doc that is being utilized for the plan. Tiffany shared the four goals established by the committee and action steps created for each goal. Peggy Reisher stated in regards to goal three stating by June 30, 2020 state plan supplemental revenue and BIAC sustainability will be identified, she feels more time will be needed to establish revenue for sustainability. Brooke Murtaugh shared the committee did not complete work on this goal and will review and revise it further. Keri Bennett stated that this is a live document and will be continually updated. The Google Doc will be an active tool to work towards council goals. Tiffany discussed the action steps in the plan were established by committee discussion as well as key points from the Ferrone report. Tiffany shared all the steps are interrelated and include a timeline to be sure progress is being made. Tiffany shared the goals were created from the common themes established during the planning discussion of “what it would look like to have a successful council”. The council reviewed Beth Morrisette’s work plan report which was created following her master plan sessions. Peggy shared the work plan committees will need to meet again and fine tune the report. Mark Draper shared he felt Beth did an excellent job establishing goals and developing concrete steps for the future. Keri shared it was suggested that the work plan participants or whole council work via Go-to meeting in January and February to fine tune and finalize the work plan. Nancy Coffman shared the whole council maybe too large of a group to complete the master work plan but would be more productive for the current committee to finish their current work and then bring to the large group. Brooke Murtaugh and Mark Draper discussed the committee simply ran out of time to complete all four goals and shared it would be crucial to meet early in January to not lose steam or get behind on the timeline of action steps. Peggy shared once the clear goals are established it needs to be opened up to all council members in order to have all members working on action steps and sharing the work load. Keri discussed there is an additional committee that has begun being established to revise the BIAC by-laws for

membership updates that will work into the master workplan. Tiffany concluded the two work plan groups will meet early January to finalize the report and will then share the plan with the entire council.

ACL TBI GRANT UPDATE

Keri Bennet reported she will be filing the first quarterly report to ACL the end of December. Keri stated the grant narrative is posted to the BIAC webpage along with the grant work plan. Keri shared she will include in her report the master work plan that is currently being drafted. Keri reported Nancy Noha is working on nine new brochures for the Brain Injury Registry letters that will be specific to region and age group. Nancy shared she will be sending brochure samples to every agency listed on the brochures for review. Keri shared they will be working with organizations listed on the brochures to track over the next three years if individuals are responding due to receiving the brochure and Brain Injury Registry letter. Members discussed revising the brochure for the aging demographic group would be better set at 60 and older versus 55. Keri shared the by-law revision committee will be meeting in January and they have invited a SILC representative to join the council. Keri shared an invitation for council membership can be shared with members for use in the future to increase council membership. Keri reported a small group has started planning an annual summit and a draft agenda has been created. The summit will be held March 27th in Kearney, NE. Keri shared they are hopeful they will have an online attendance possibility but Peggy Reisher stated with the small group work that will be occurring at the summit it will be much more impactful to attend in person. Keri discussed the mentor/mentee work groups under the grant have begun meeting. Keri shared Kaden Nash replaced Caroline Helget as a support staff member of the BIAC and grant work. Keri discussed working in collaboration with Injury Prevention in completing BRFSS (behavioral risk factor surveillance system) surveys to include TBI questions with results to be available in 2020. Keri shared that many of the grant objectives have been included in the council work plan. Keri shared ACL is sponsoring a TBI grantee meeting in Washington D.C. which she will be attending along with Judy Nichelson in March.

BIAC BY-LAWS REVISIONS

Keri Bennet reported there is a small group meeting in early January to get started on the revision process.

BIAC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Tiffany Armstrong shared with council members the document created by the public policy committee. Tiffany reviewed the purpose of the committee and the public policy committee process. The PPC exists to provide input to the full BIAC on matters regarding public policy. The committee may recommend action, as necessary, to deal with emerging policy issues including legislative, administrative rule making and other concerns relative to brain injury services and supports.

Council members reviewed and discussed the public policy committee

Dale Johannes moved to approve and adopt the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council Public Policy Committee and Process as submitted, Frank Velinsky seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Aye – Armstrong, Bryan, Coffman, Draper, Hoogeveen, Johannes, Larsen, Lasley, Murtaugh, Nichelson, Olson, Phatak, Reisher, Scheele, Velinsky

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

Absent – Diaz, Hawley-Grieser, Ogea-Ginsburg

The motion carried.

BIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Peggy Reisher discussed progress on a brain injury trust fund bill. Peggy shared Senator McDonnell is drafting the legislative bill for this next session, but the draft is not yet completed. Peggy reported the trust fund would fund brain injury registry activities, resource facilitation, and many other activities and

services. Peggy noted additions were made in the bill to address concerns of training barriers. Peggy shared they are working for this bill to go directly to appropriations requesting a million dollars; stating it will be an uphill battle to secure that funding. Peggy reported at this time Senator McDonnell is adamant in listing UNMC as the head agency on the bill. Peggy reported she will send a copy of the draft to the council for review as soon as it is completed. Frank Velinsky discussed concerns regarding funding appropriations with UNMC being the lead agency as well as the possibility of a medical model agency only funding agencies with a shared medical model. Judy Nicholson questioned how individuals not working with UNMC would receive funds from the brain injury trust fund. Peggy shared that UNMC is written as the holding state agency which will distribute the funds for brain injury services throughout state agencies. Members discussed the requirement in the legislation that will require establishment of an advisory council to oversee the brain injury trust fund created by UNMC. Members discussed the importance of the BIAC having a good working relationship with the potential new council as well as the possibility of members of the BIAC and/or BIA-NE serving on that council. Peggy Reisher shared it will be very beneficial for all members to carefully read the verbiage of the bill as it strongly community focused. Peggy shared she will send the rough version of the bill to all members to review and if anyone feels it is not community driven to please reach out to her following its reading.

BIAC MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Mark Draper shared that Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha and Tresa Christensen compiled and offered great work in completing updates to the document, *Return to Learn - Bridging the Gap*, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Concussion Coalition. Mark discussed a lot of great resources will be available to BIRRST teams etc in one great professional electronic document. Brett Hoogeveen shared he forwarded the document on to a few people and received great feedback.

Peggy Reisher shared the survey sent out to administrators and teachers regarding Return to Learn received over 600 responses and is currently being tabulated by the Schmeekles. The Concussion Coalition will have the data for review in January. Peggy reported a new staff member Ellie Stecker was hired at BIA-NE working in marketing. Peggy shared Constant Therapy which has developed therapy using an app/tablet format has reached out to partner with BIA. Peggy shared they will be putting on six webinars in 2019 with Love Your Brain Yoga. Evolve Yoga in Omaha is offering free yoga classes for individuals with brain injury and additional information is available on the BIA-NE webpage. Brain Injury Awareness month's theme this year is #betheawareness. Brain Injury Awareness day is March 6th will be held across the street from the Capitol at a law office from 11am-1pm. The Annual Conference will be held March 28th & 29th in Kearney. Peggy discussed the BIA-NE has applied with the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table to have a community organizer to work with the BIA for outreach. Chris Stewart shared at last year's annual conference they assembled a group of individuals to create Engagement Committees in Omaha and one will be starting in North Platte as well. The Engagement groups have been working on the resource directory on the website as well as updating the personal stories shared on the BIA-NE website. Chris shared these are fantastic individuals who are doing great things.

Dale Johannes shared himself and Peggy Reisher visited an organization called the Jody House in California where individuals with brain injury have support, resources, activities and services. Dale shared the reason he visited was to gather information as he and his wife are wanting to open a similar facility in Lincoln. Dale shared there are only 5 similar facilities in the country. Dale shared they are currently looking for a location and they have support from South East Community College and Barkley Center for volunteer staff. Dale shared initially the facility would have limited hours with the hopes of expanding. Peggy shared the programming at the Jody House is a community center of sorts for individuals with brain injury. Dale shared they are in the very early stages. Dale said their main mission will be to have a place for people with brain injury to go.

Frank Velinsky discussed the impact of deinstitutionalization and law enforcement involvement as well as the possible correlation for some unexplainable behaviors being linked to brain injury. Members discussed the prevalence of brain injury in correctional facilities and the under reporting and diagnosis of brain injuries in those settings.

Kathy Scheele reported the RCIN survey through UNMC for individuals with DD waivers has been conducted and DHHS has been very pleased by those hired by UNMC to conduct the surveys. This year's survey has included brain injury questions and they are looking forward to having the results available next year. Kathy reported the Long-term care redesign meeting is coming up on January 9th at 1:30pm sharing a lot of big issues will be discussed. The approval of Medicare expansion will change some plans to get that up and running. Kathy discussed long-term services are being looked at to be moved into managed care.

NEW BUSINESS

BIAC Member Profiles

Judy Nichelson shared she has composed some questions that Keri will be emailing to council members to be completed to establish more understanding of each other's roles and experiences. Keri shared it will be a questionnaire that will then be compiled and shared with current and new members. Judy shared it would be great to get to know each individual more personally.

New Committees to Support TBI grant-funded activities

Keri Bennett shared with the council a draft table of all the new committees and their description which will need to be enacted by the council. Members reviewed the draft which includes leadership responsibilities, membership, meeting schedules, and expected outcomes. Keri discussed they can develop a template for committee reporting to the council. Mark Draper stated having this tool in google docs so everyone can have access to the form would be very useful. Keri discussed this form could be continually updated as changes may be made and added as an appendix to the updated council by-laws. Keri shared she will continue working on this and send it to council members via email as well as make available via google docs.

2019 Meeting Dates

Tiffany Armstrong proposed the following council meetings for 2019:

- **March 8, 2019** – members discussed postponing the meeting until after the D.C. visit but members determined a later date would conflict with the summit and annual conference
- June 14, 2019 – this date was changed to **June 7th** due to member conflicts
- September 13, 2019 – this date was changed to **September 20th** due to member conflicts
- December 13, 2019 – the meeting was requested to move earlier in the month to **December 6th**

The dates of March 8th, June 7th, September 20th and December 6th were set for 2019.

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for, March 8, 2019, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 1:45p.m. with a motion made by Mark Draper and seconded Brooke Murtaugh. There were no objections to the motion.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.