



**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE and Remote Sites in Kearney & North Platte
June 8, 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, Peggy Reisher, Dale Johannes, Vaishali Phatak, Carla Lasley, Judy Nicholson, Jerry Bryan, Nancy Coffman, ML Lehman, Mark Draper, Brett Hoogeveen, Kathy Scheele (in place of Heather Leschinsky), Brooke Murtaugh, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kilee Oetjen (resigned), Tom Reilly (resigned), Frank Velinsky, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Tania Diaz, Heather Leschinsky (sent replacement), Kristen Larsen

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: Chris Stewart

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:05 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

APPROVAL OF March 9TH MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from March 9, 2018 were reviewed. Keri offered several edits that will be submitted to Ashley. A motion was made by Mark Draper and seconded by Nancy Coffman to approve the March 9, 2018 meeting minutes with corrections noted by Keri. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

AGENDA APPROVAL -

Discussion held to have either Kathy or Brett cover Waiver updates during public comments.

A motion was made by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the agenda as submitted. 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

Peggy announced Blazing Trails event for BIA-NE this Sunday.

Kathy discussed the public statewide transition plan and TBI waiver 5 year renewal. Public comment sessions are posted. There is one being held at QLI next week. Kathy reported they are looking at other

waivers that may allow us to do more. The current renewal is just to get it renewed so we can continue to do more in future years. Peggy shared that Kate Bolz will pull up the former joint letter that the Council can add input to and submit as part of public comment. Peggy will send letter to Tiffany and Keri once Kate gets it ready. Public comments are due June 25th.

Tiffany announced that Kilee Oetjen and Tom Reilly are resigning, so their positions will be open.

ML RECOGNITION

Tiffany announced that ML is retiring. The Council sent her a gift in mail showing our appreciation for her years of commitment to the Council. ML reported that she will be moving to Arizona and traveling to spent time with her family.

ZOE OLSON

Tiffany announced that we have a new member taking ML's position on Council, Zoe Olson. Keri introduced Zoe as being the Director of the Blue Rivers AAA, an individual with brain injury and she has a son with a brain injury who served in Iraq. Zoe also serves on the ADRC board. Zoe was unable to be here today as her son's wedding is tomorrow. We look forward to meeting her at the next meeting.

ACL TBI GRANT UPDATE

Keri announced that there really is no update. She submitted the no-cost extension May 1st for grant funds that ended May 31st, we were supposed to have heard by June 1 but have not. ACL emailed they plan to approve but have not sent award notice. The grant for the new grant cycle was submitted on time. They are reviewing it, but are behind on making decisions. Keri is hopeful since we haven't received any denial. Keri will share news when available. We did apply for the Mentor Level. ACL was planning to award 8-10 mentor level and 10-20 partner level. ACL received additional \$2 million in appropriations so hoping that will positively impact the number of grants they award.

BIAC SUBCOMMITTEES

Peggy reported on the BIA Subcommittee: (copy of report was emailed to Council members, please review for more details) insights/comments: long report, focus on voice, BIA creating sustainability plan, business model. Nancy – sustainability and funding, communication needed. Dale – need for business plan, importance of resource facilitation. Brooke – real plan, activities to work on. Peg – sustainability more complicated than sounds. Some comments in report were misdirected & unfair to BIA. Work to do to build the Voice.

Keri reported on the VR Subcommittee: (copy of report was emailed to Council members, please review for more details) insights/comments – VR leadership and scope somewhat limited to date, could expand leadership capacity. VR is interested to remain lead agency & support Council, champion voice and engage broader statewide stakeholders. VR not understood broader picture like the Voice to step up and provide statewide leadership. Statewide survey on how VR doing as state agency. Keri talked with her director about that, they support doing that and will try to do that, depending on funding available. Accountability – VR primarily responsible to hold Council members and stakeholders to moving forward with vision and hold contractors/vendors more accountable to what they are contracted to do. Carla -

questioned advisory role of council and VR's role. Question about 3 entities working together. Tania - Council shaped based on grant but expand moving forward. Tiffany - more concrete steps and plan to move forward. Discussion how we as group capture input from those not in VR or Council. Leadership training that VR might be able to help facilitate. Nancy C.- Fill in gaps especially in visually impaired community. Different platforms to connect and engage individuals. Nancy N. - 3 entities look at statewide vision to create unified voice.

Tiffany reported on the BIAC Subcommittee that met this morning: (Minutes will be sent out for Council to review in more detail) Insights/comments/patterns: creating action plan, increasing capacity, funding, need to create action plan prior to increasing capacity so new members know what they are committing to. Desire to contract with outside facilitator to help create action plan for 1-5 years.

Nancy C. commented that we may want to create a memorandum of understanding of council member so their respective agencies know what their representative's involvement will be.

Judy mentioned that during the subcommittee meeting Nancy Noha suggested we change our name to Brain Injury Leadership Council. Nancy C. likes it. Peggy asked if that creates a ripple effect for grant/state agencies? Mark inquired if there was anything statute wise? Like Leadership vs. Advisory. Mark proposed that the Executive Committee look at this to introduce at a future meeting. Keri stated that there is no state statute regarding council, just thinking through relationship to VR and Department of Ed. Vaishali seconded Mark's proposal. Brett asked if from federal level, we are supposed to have advisory council, does that cause complications to play with our name? Keri replied that yes, in the federal grant program we have to have an advisory body but it doesn't have anything about name of that council, it is just related to role the council plays. Peggy asked if advisory is in the title on our website. Nancy N. replied it is but could be changed. There were no objections to the motion made and seconded. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Keri stated that subcommittees only met once each and asked if there are more conversations that they need to meet more. Peggy feels we have exhausted subcommittee work. Dale agrees. Vaishali stated we should combine groups instead of siloed. Tiffany stated that as a Council we should act as a whole moving forward. Peggy said subcommittees should be for action plans. Brooke stated that each subcommittees' discussion was probably pretty similar, so we should work together as whole council vs. subcommittees, so we don't have multiple directions and be less unified. Nancy C. commented that if we don't get the grant, we have already decided we are still going to exist. She stated that we should start looking at a plan without the grant and what are we willing and able to do. Peggy said we should work on action steps with or without the grant. If we run into action steps that needs funding, then we find the funding at that time if the grant is not available. Brett agreed and stated that we do not have to wait for the grant to keep moving forward. The statewide vision per John's recommendation included the three groups moving forward toward that vision. Peggy expressed that current BIA activities are a part of the vision already so they won't need extra funding for those tasks. Dale expressed agreement to create a master work plan/action plan. We should seek outside guidance specifically for moving forward and do so in two to three meetings top. Peggy stated that if we create an action plan Peg has hired some professionals to help set up similar plans, they are in/out, map out goals, things to work on, and people are clear as to where we are going. She estimated that hiring someone to facilitate this work would be \$2000-\$6000. Peggy stated the Concussion Coalition recently worked with a consultant and it was effective. We need

someone focused on the action plan not reviewing everything we have done over last year. Brooke asked what tangibles do we give this consultant to start from? Peggy replied in her experience, a core group meets with the consultant initially to share documents and get them familiar with history/work. Then after stage is set, the consultant will meet with the whole Council. Tiffany stated that the vision and mission approved by Council is what we would provide the consultant. Peg said part of the initial process is to gather what work is already being done. The consultant is there to be a neutral party. Brett expressed that part of our vision is building leadership capacity in this group and wondered if there was anyone in this group that wants to be in the role of the facilitator/consultant. Peg stated that we all have other jobs and for the consultant it's their only job. Brett stated that the Council needs to take ownership of pieces we do develop so it goes somewhere. ML/Judy shared that it would be good to have an outside facilitator, that's their job and they don't have vested interest in what we do; they would be a neutral party.

Keri asked if we should meet in person or via go to meeting?

Brooke asked if we should throw out names or do you give people a call? Peggy stated we will probably have to have three bids since VR is a state agency. Peggy and Peg stated they can give recommendations on consultants. Keri asked what are the deliverables we want? How do we want it to happen? What is the end product? Keri will draft an RFP and will reach out to Council members for input. Peggy stated in her experience the consultant will likely want at least two meetings in person, maybe one full day or two half days. Nancy C. asked that based on our mission/vision, can we point out/agree upon some of the deliverables we want? Brooke inputted that with the Concussion Coalition members didn't come with preconceived ideas; the facilitator did the work to determine the plan. Carla stated that if we look at the vision statements that would be the basis of facilitation. Nancy C. asked if we want John to finish. Tiffany stated no and that she was disappointed in what was delivered by John. She felt what we received in the end was not what she thought we were getting and that we would be at least a couple steps further in sustainability plan. Several Council members agreed on comments regarding John. Keri stated that we will need to determine deliverable. She will draft something and send to the Council for input/feedback. This can be sent to Executive Committee or the whole Council. Peggy/Dale expressed that the Executive Committee would be more efficient. All Council members agreed without any objections.

NDE

Amy Rhome, NDE Special Education, made request of Keri to convene group to look at Return to Learn. Some students have other needs not qualifying them for services under IDEA. There is a need to get the 2014 document (Bridging the Gap) updated with new information and how to provide coordination with regional support teams, BIIRST, and BIA. Keri stated she wanted to bring this request to the Council as some members were involved in the initial development. Members interested: Concussion Coalition members (Peggy to help contact them), Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Nancy Coffman. ML stated they need to clarify the BIIRST teams. They started off well, but last couple years have not gone well. She said they need someone to coordinate and be in charge of BIIRST. Mark agrees about BIIRST clarification; that will be part of this discussion. Peggy stated that Bridging the Gap makes a lot of reference to BIIRST, but asked who owns concussion? This needs to be clarified with NDE if this is a general ed or special ed issue, that will help clarify changes needed.

2018 BI Conference

(emailed out evaluation report, please review for specific details)

Peggy report that there were 80 evaluations completed. Professional also fill out evaluations for their CEUS so they don't always fill out BI conference evaluation. There was 222 total attendees. 14 individuals with brain injury that filled out evaluation (but there were more at the conference), 15 family members also filled out evaluations. What liked most – overall people appreciate professionals and individuals/family members together at one conference. This year reduced number of breakout sessions – two vs. three – next year keep at two since this didn't seem to pose any problems, less speakers to coordinate. Overall, comments were good.

Nancy C. stated that she liked having the perspective of persons with brain injury integrated into the conference.

Vaishali stated that Nebraska Medicine is trying to do more professional level conferences. Fall conference-College of Nursing partner and Spring conference-national researchers. Conference are specifically look at brain injury.

Peggy state that all speakers except Dave Anders were from Nebraska. This seemed well received. There were no negative comments about not having national speakers. Conference next year end of March in Kearney.

NASP BI Resource Handout

Nancy C. stated she hopes it's a living document, her agency was not listed and they do work with a lot of people – often brain injury will cause light sensitivity and mess with people's vision. Nancy sent Keri her information. Keri said part of the project is still in works with NASP, they developed this document for service provider groups.

Brett stated we could probably put this document into a broader document rather than increase the capacity of this document. Peggy said they could add additional resources from the NASP document to the resource guide Chris Stewart has been working on if they are missing resources. Chris reported that they used Minnesota's resource guide to reference – 2 OT's paired it down to Nebraska and made it more specific to Nebraska. Chris made it more individual and person focused. The resource guide focuses more on help after done with initial treatment. The BIA's Engagement Advisory Group (Omaha group is a model group) – 7 individuals with brain injury, 6 family members, and co-facilitator – working on resource guide amongst other tasks. BIA Resource Guide will be dynamic document and will be housed on their website. Resource Guide not on BIA website now, but will be soon. Let BIA know if any edits or additions need to be made once it is published. Resource Guide is statewide, however, the Engagement Advisory Group is looking at specific Omaha Resource Guide. Also looking at peer leader training to utilize peer leaders to assist other individuals with brain injury and their family members, these peer leaders will be given this Resource Guide as well.

Nancy C. expressed that it is equally important to be in NASP and BIA Resource Guide.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Brooke reported that Madonna Omaha and Lincoln recently went through CARF accreditation and both campuses received 3 year accreditation, highest you can get. Both Brain Injury programs had no recommendations. Madonna is starting Omaha Brain Injury Support Group June 21st at 6 pm. Lincoln has Mild TBI Support Group that started about a year ago.

Vaishali reported that Nebraska Medicine next year will put proposal to put services together, need more psychological support for those receiving services for brain injury and they will work with Concussion Clinic (Rusty McCune). In future, Nebraska Medicine wants to recruit more providers that are just brain

injury specialized. Dr. Matt Rizzo (Dept Neurological Science & Director of Neurosciences) wants to grow research and services at UNMC, but there is a need to attract more national talent – doctors, providers in medical system (Acute providers - speech, OT, PT, etc.).

Brett reported QLI received recognition from Omaha Chambers Excellence Awards - Innovative Award winner for Chronic Pain program. Worker's compensation audience has really sparked this issue, have seen a lot of success with this inpatient program. QLI also received Sustained Excellence Best Place to Work award. The Rider, movie, portion of scenes filmed at QLI recently released, Nebraska-based story that depicts more realistic life after brain injury than traditionally portrayed in movies.

Dale report that in July Living Well magazine (goes to AAA across Nebraska) an interview with him and Peggy regarding brain injury will be featured in that magazine. Also in July they will do Homecare Association and NE Healthcare Association webinars. They will also do a NE Healthcare Association presentation in September with Brad, PT from QLI. Falls in elderly are a huge problem, which lead to TBIs. Falls in elderly need more attention.

Judy announced that the Unmasking display will be at NebraskaLand Days but also trying to get displayed at Nebraska State Fair. Peggy said last time she looked into displaying items at the State Fair it was around \$800 to display anything at the State Fair.

Peggy reported that the BIA's No Wrong Door Conference continues to be held (BI, PTSD, Military culture). Next one is at Bellevue University. The BIA is also conducting Domestic Violence and BI work with grant from Peg's group. They will have a two-day training for probation officers in October and December. Also conducting screening in two domestic violence housing units and will be starting with Police Department Domestic Violence Unit. Also discussing people in juvenile justice and corrections system. Stage 1 application for grant to partner with Lincoln Public Schools, Region V, Lincoln Police Department to help with peer to peer training and longitudinally look at outcomes of those doing screenings on – will find out in July if get approval to apply for Stage 2.

Kathy reported that Dr. Lisa White, Medical Director of DHHS, wants to meet with this group. WDHHS is wanting to look at preventative measures for DHHS. NCI Aged & Disabled survey was completed through Munroe Meyer, however, they do want to get more BI folks in their own home involved. They did current surveys at QLI this year, results won't be available until next year. Kathy can get questions added to AAA intake surveys if she knows what this group would want. Chris desires that the survey be shortened not more questions added. Kathy is willing to meet with a few people to look at current survey. Long term they are looking at different ways of conducting intake surveys. Vaishali, Dale, Keri, and Peggy are willing to meet with Kathy. Peg suggested STEADY program from CDC. Keri also suggested NASHIA organization for level of care assessments. Kathy asked if we have reached out to the three MCOs. Peggy says yes, they have but she didn't get much response – only one responded.

BIAC LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Tiffany and Keri will schedule soon. Peggy has meeting with senator at the end of this month so recommended scheduling sooner rather than later.

ADJOURN

The next meetings are scheduled for September 14, 2018 and December 14, 2018 in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. with a motion made by Mark Draper and seconded by Brett Hoogeveen. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**