

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
June 23, 2017**

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, Shari Bahensky, Tania Diaz, Lindy Foley (substitute for Judy Vohland), Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Brett Hoogeveen, Deanna Jesse, Dale Johannes, ML Lehman (via video conference), Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peggy Reisher, Kathy Scheele (substitute for Heather Leschinsky), Frank Velinsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Chittenden, Kristen Larsen, Kilee Oetjen, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: John Ferrone, Cathy Wyatt

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:11a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

INTRODUCTIONS

Council members and visitors introduced themselves to the group.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from March 17, 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made by Brooke Murtaugh and seconded by Tania Diaz to approve the March 17, 2017 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. A motion was made by Dale Johannes and seconded by Deanna Jesse 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

Frank Velinsky discussed how state policies greatly effect and limit services particularly in rural areas. Frank discussed mandatory trainings and costs in his experience. Frank shared that relatively small changes or additional requirements can have a large negative impact. No additional public comment was shared.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

John Ferrone of Ferrone Associates Technical Assistance and Consulting introduced himself and led the council in a strategic planning session. John reminded council members that, *“This project was*

supported, in part by grant number 90TBSG0013-01-00, from the US Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.”

John reviewed his role as a consultant acting as a catalyst and facilitator. John reviewed the goals and necessary steps for establishing the sustainability plan. John discussed the need of a clear vision and strong organizations to be the champions of the vision. The need of a capacity building effort was discussed. Council members reviewed documentation provided by John including the executive summary. Council members discussed the voice of survivors and family member engagement. John shared he will be visiting with brain injury support groups in the coming months. Members discussed the current use of the BIAC (Brain Injury Advisory Council) and the roles of sharing information versus problem solving and affecting change. Members discussed how to develop the voice of survivors and family members. Discussion occurred regarding how to reach out to survivors and use of the Brain Injury Registry including possible restructuring of the letter content. Branding and the ability to have all service providers and health care providers refer to the BIA was discussed. Members shared how they feel regarding the presented plan most council members reported they partially agree with the content of the document and want to pursue some parts and want to discuss and refine other parts. A smaller number of members reported they fully agree with the content of the document and want to pursue it. Members reviewed and discussed the mission and role of the BIAC. Members shared that additional stakeholders need to be involved for example: corrections, medical personnel, and medical schools to develop channels of communication. Key hurdles with respect to stakeholders and the current situation were presented and discussed. The messaging and public perception of the phrase “brain injury” was discussed. Different types and levels of vision were reviewed. John presented the council a draft mission for the BIAC, “The mission of the BIAC is to facilitate integration of brain injury stakeholders to help realize the statewide vision for brain injury policies and services.” Members reviewed previous discussions regarding the BIAC vision. John presented the council with a draft vision for BIAC, “The BIAC will be branded and recognized as the premier forum for information sharing, strategizing, planning, and monitoring with respect to the constant evolution and betterment of brain injury policies and services in Nebraska.” The copy of the draft vision includes 12 indicators that will demonstrate that this vision has been achieved. A draft job description for the BIAC was presented and reviewed. Points were discussed on ways to improve the BIAC. Michelle Hawley-Grieser asked if council members can come together for brainstorming to bridge the gap between those members who still have questions and concerns regarding the mission, vision and job description and those members who are fully supporting the current drafts. Key topics of discussion for a special session include: creating a more in-depth list of stakeholders, evaluating, and revising the brain injury registry letter, funding possibilities, and creating something for stakeholders to utilize while pursuing funding. Members discussed wanting to get as far as possible with this transformation while having John as a contract consultant to further assist the bridge from ideas and plans into action. John stated he could host Go-To Meetings to work on some of these components to continue moving the process along. Members discussed the ability of members to meet bi-monthly and devote additional hours independently to work on council work between meetings. Members discussed expanding the scope of the BIAC to play a role in the statewide BI vision. The BIAC wants to focus on becoming a leader and integral component of the statewide BI vision creating a stronger voice. The BIAC will become the forum for integration and accountability. Peggy Reisher discussed the draft job

description and how great, yet daunting it seems to actually accomplish. The difference between the BIAC and stakeholder organizations with similar missions and how to define the roles and differentiate each other was discussed. Members determined the council brings together all stakeholders to engage proactively towards the realization of the statewide BI vision. It is a forum and the Alliance is a key member/leader within the forum. The Alliance, on the other hand, is the field organization, engaging survivors and family members to build their solidarity and to be the home of their Voice, offering programs and services, building stakeholder alliances that benefit the Voice, and advocating for the future of BI policies and services. John proposed next steps for the council to continue moving forward. The council needs to focus on the mission, vision and job description but NOT focusing on “how” at this point. At the September council meeting the council would like a consensus on the mission, vision, and job description. Keri Bennet shared that it can be challenging for the whole council to maintain buy in and commitment if not all members are involved in the process. The MVJD Task Force was created to work on some of the background work prior to the September council meeting. The task force will meet twice via go-to meeting then report to the council. Council members will receive a draft document and provide any feedback to task force members via go to meeting in early September to have an initial discussion regarding the drafts. The council meeting held of September 22nd will work to finalize and reach consensus on the council mission, vision, and job description. Members of the task force include: Keri, Tiffany, Dale, Tania, Peggy, and Michelle. John will also assist as needed on the planning calls.

BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE OF NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Peggy updated the council on the status of state legislation related to brain injury. Peggy Reisher shared the BIA is very concerned about potential federal legislation and have been sending out alerts for members to contact their representatives. Peggy will get an updated council contact list to assure council members are receiving alerts. LB 227 introduced by Senator Wishart last year will not be looked at again by her office until the fall. Peggy stated the council may want to look at that bill and make recommendations for potential changes to the bill. Peggy reported she will be meeting with Senator Bolz regarding a bill to establish a brain injury trust fund. Peggy reported there is a coalition working to get ahead of a potential helmet repeal bill and there will likely be a call to action to council members for support later this summer. Peggy reported she will meeting with Douglas County Corrections to discuss training with staff.

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT PROGRESS

Cathy Wyatt shared with council members a report on resource facilitation data from July 2016 - May 2017. Cathy summarized highlights from the report. Cathy stated if there are any questions or need for clarification following review of the report to please contact her via email or phone. Cathy shared they are currently working on the draft of the resource guide and it will be provided later after finalization.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Friday, September 22
- Friday, December 15

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2017, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m. with a motion made by Dale Johannes and seconded by Deanna Jesse. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**