

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
March 17, 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, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peggy Reisher, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Chittenden, Rose Dymacek, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Heather Leschinsky, Kilee Oetjen, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tania Diaz, Deanna Jesse

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: Emily Hubble, Natalie Swan, Cathy Wyatt

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:08 a.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 JANUARY 6, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from January 6, 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made by Kristen Larsen and seconded by Peggy Reisher to approve the January 6, 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. Kerri Bennett noted there were not written reports for LB 1033. A motion was made by Brooke Murtaugh and seconded by ML Lehman 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

No public comment was shared.

COUNCIL MEMBER EXPIRATIONS/RENEWALS

Tiffany Armstrong reported that council members Brett Hoogeveen, Michelle Hawley-Grieser and ML Lehman had expired and are up for renewal. All renewing members stated they would like to continue on the council for another term. Council members voted to renew member terms via anonymous ballot. Brett Hoogeveen, Michelle Hawley-Grieser and ML Lehman were voted by the council to be retained.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members must annually declare any conflict of interest. Keri read the council by-laws definition of conflict of interest to members. Tiffany asked members to make their declarations:

- Tiffany Armstrong declared Madonna.
- Brett Hoogeveen declared QLI.
- Dale Johannes declared he has no conflicts of interest.
- Kristen Larsen declared the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in regards to Developmental Disability Grants.
- ML Lehman declared no conflicts of interest.
- Peggy Reisher declared Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska.
- Frank Velinsky declared CareTech.
- Judy Vohland declared no conflicts of interest.

Absent members will be contacted via e-mail for declaration of conflict of interest. Council members not in attendance at the March 17th council meeting reported the following conflicts of interests electronically.

- Michael Chittenden declared no conflicts of interest.
- Rose Dymacek declared no conflicts of interest.
- Michelle Hawley-Grieser declared no conflicts of interest.
- Heather Leschinsky declared Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
- Kilee Oetjen declared no conflicts of interest.
- Peg Ogea-Ginsburg declared no conflicts of interest.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY ROLE

Tiffany Armstrong summarized previous discussions regarding technical advisors. Tiffany shared a copy of the current membership by-laws with proposed changes. The proposed changes included adding a representative of the protection and advocacy organization in the state as well as information and referral agencies. Tiffany stated current technical advisory, Tania Diaz, would become a voting member serving as a representative from an advocacy organization. Shari Bahensky would become a voting member as a representative of an information and referral agency. Deanna Jesse would become a voting member serving as a service provider. Roger Stortenbecker will remain a non-voting technical advisor and attend meetings on an as needed basis. Council members stated they support the changes. Members discussed the by-laws and their support of adding those persons to membership. Peggy Reisher noted that if LB322 passes it may cause the necessity to re-evaluate.

A motion was made by Dale Johannes to approve the by-laws' membership amendments as submitted, Peggy Reisher seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Aye – Armstrong, Hoogeveen, Johannes, Larsen, Lehman, Murtaugh, Nichelson, Reisher, Velinsky, Vohland

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Chittenden, Dymacek, Hawley-Grieser, Leschinsky, Oetjen, Ogea-Ginsburg

The motion carried.

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT PROGRESS

Cathy Wyatt shared with council members a report on resource facilitation data from July 2016 - March 2017. Cathy summarized highlights from the report. Cathy shared the project logic model and highlighted the key guidelines for the pilot. Cathy discussed the three categories facilitators work within: information

and referral, intake, and case management. Cathy shared a summary of the decision of when to use the Mayo Portland evaluation stating that the screen was too lengthy via intake telephone calls but instead needs to be utilized in person. Cathy discussed the grants current focus is Lincoln and Omaha as part of the pilot, stating calls from rural Nebraska are currently being served through Ombudsperson Gina Simanek. Peggy Reisher stated that a great benefit of Gina's work is that she is documenting in the database so all of her work is captured. Cathy summarized the data of the report. In regards to community outreach resource, facilitators served in presenting, attending, facilitating, coordinating and training. Cathy reviewed current client status in open cases: 69 are in information and referral, 15 closed. Intake and referral 77, 6 closed. Case management 28, 4 closed. Cathy shared they are working on updating the database and noting when cases are closed. Cathy reviewed where cases are located via home location. A list of top 10 sources for referrals was provided. Frank Velinsky shared that often in his agency many clients are self-referred or referred by family members who research and find the contacts, stating he did not see that listed as an option. Cathy stated this referral data tracks how individuals hear about the resource facilitation program. Kristen Larsen asked if the ADRC pilot project could be added as a referral source as they are most likely now listed as other. Cathy stated any addition suggestion should be sent to her and she will work with Will to evaluate additions and changes. Keri Bennett asked where Nebraska VR referrals fall. Cathy stated the recording of VR referrals may vary depending on who is recording the data. Cathy discussed data of clients' cause of brain injury. Cathy noted that although clients may have multiple causes of brain injury they input the primary injury or the most recent. Cathy stated that age of the injury and current age are also collected. Cathy discussed data in regards to barriers; stating clients can have multiple barriers noted, the barriers are self-reported by clients not determined by facilitators. Kristen Larsen noted that a lot of the data from this report mirrors that data of the ADRC pilot project. Peggy Reisher stated she requested the ADRC report and they will be reporting the correlations in the future when the resource facilitation data is complete. Frank Velinsky shared that systemic challenges can also be a large barrier. Peggy noted it often can be an availability versus accessibility issue. Cathy shared one of the most prevalent challenges for clients is that they do not qualify for assisted living but are not able to live independently without supports. Cathy shared the data of top 10 types of referrals made by the resource facilitation program. Cathy stated any specific request for information can be sent to her via email and she will be sure to report on them at the next meeting. Cathy discussed a survey update they have implemented sending clients surveys 30 days after intake and referral to get more feedback. Cathy discussed the question, are the RF staff at capacity? She answered, yes and no; reporting logistical challenges, including limited resources, ADL challenges, checking back with clients shows the need for low caseloads and causing the inability to increase capacity. Cathy reported currently there is not a waitlist. Cathy stated resource facilitators need more referrals and are working to maximize their outreach. Networking and outreach efforts are currently focusing on hospitals. Facilitators are putting together a young adult support group with the concussion coalition utilizing social media. Cathy stated that as part of the grant they are working to create a resource guide. Natalie Swan shared they are basing a lot of the guide off the Minnesota resource guide. Natalie encouraged members to make sure any agencies represented on the council please share their information with her for the guide. Peggy Reisher stated that Minnesota's guide is geared specifically for brain injury and can be found online.

BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE OF NEBRASKA UPDATE

Peggy Reisher shared with council members several event handouts and summarized those projects. Projects highlighted were The Green Light Campaign for Brain Injury Awareness Month, Proclamation Day, Concussion Discussions, 11th Annual NE Brain Injury Conference and An Evening at the Archway. Peggy reported Proclamation Day was held March 8 at the State Capitol. Cathy reported 16 senator offices were represented at the event. Peggy shared Concussion Discussions will be held at Madonna Rehabilitation on March 21 featuring 4 experts on brain injury. Cathy stated they will also be holding concussion discussions later in the year in Hastings, Fremont and Omaha. Peggy Reisher shared the annual conference is scheduled for next week on the 23rd and 24th in Kearney, hosting just under 200

participants. Peggy shared they are running into challenges for lodging for the conference due to other events happening in the area. Peggy highlighted the handout An Evening at the Archway featuring Cleve Blakeman in addition to the conference. Outreach and advertisement for the evening was discussed.

Peggy updated the council on the status of state legislation related to brain injury.

- LB 368 - Helmet Repeal Bill, Peggy reported the bill was stopped by just one vote and will not continue on this year. Peggy stated that they are now working with senators to see what information they are needing to avoid helmet repeal in the future. Deanna Jesse stated it is always nice to send post cards to senators stating thank you and a reminder of why they voted. Peggy noted some senators surprised them with their votes. Peggy stated that several senators chose to abstain from the vote.
- LB227 - Advisory Council Bill, Peggy reported this bill is not out of committee yet and is being heard in health and human services committee.
- LB357 – companion bill, Peggy reported this bill would designate funds from out of state licensing fees to fund a brain injury trust. Peggy stated the bill was heard in transportation and telecommunication committee in February and 357 includes a fiscal note. Peggy reported Senator Bolz is currently gathering information to share with the committee.

Peggy discussed the potential increase of gaps in services nationally proposed within the American Health Care Act. Peggy shared with council members and handout from NHeLP, National Health Law Program outlining those potential changes. Brooke Murtaugh shared that as a hospital and healthcare provider the proposed health care act is very negative and concerning. Peggy stated the large amounts of cuts outlined are frightening. Kristen Larsen shared that the managed care proposed changes are very concerning. Peggy stated she also feels voices need to be raised in regards to cuts to the CDC and ADL which work in preventative healthcare.

Kristen Larsen shared concerns with LB 595 with ties to child restraint in the classroom will be coming out onto the state legislative floor.

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING GRANTEE MEETING

Keri Bennett reported a meeting for the Administration for Community Living grantees is being held next week in Washington D.C. which she will attend. Keri stated following the grantee meeting she will be attending the Congressional Traumatic Brain Injury day on the hill. Keri reported ACL has been working on grant funding. Keri stated she has been working on the continuing application for the final grant year, stating year four was submitted into the ACL grant solutions website and can be shared with council members.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Keri Bennett introduced, John Ferrone of Ferrone Associates Technical Assistance & Consulting, via teleconference to introduce the strategic planning process. John introduced strategic planning and the pursuit of sustainability. John reviewed the acknowledgement. John shared with council members a little about himself and his background. John stated his area of expertise is to get people from one place to their goal. Hoping this group takes away an understanding of the initiative as a whole, his role and an understanding of sustainability. John shared a handout with members mapping the basic steps with this strategic planning initiative towards achieving sustainability. John summarized the chart. John highlighted creating a vision as part of exploratory benchmarking, John stated the more a vision can be written with detail the quicker new members can be on board when joining the council. A vision statement is a longer statement explaining what the council will do and how they want to go forward versus a short succinct mission statement. John discussed the visioning process and how to gather input and consensus proposing starting with a smaller committee who will bring the proposed vision to the larger council to create ownership. John discussed his role as a consultant stating he assists with project management but is not the leader, he will be a facilitator and catalyst. John stated he wants to help the council do its best and be

sustainable. John presented the Elements of Organization Effectiveness (EOE) Model. John discussed how the process will start with visioning and big picture goals, which requires operational planning. Sustainability is thinking about the future not just the existing revenue. John broke down sustainability planning into four key questions. Question one, What are you sustaining, and why? Why would any donors or sponsors give funding to BI programs or services? Question two, What does it mean to achieve sustainability? Sustainability requires an annual operations budget, savings, endowment or trust as well as a positive track record and impact of service. Question three, Who are the key entities/stakeholders and what are their roles? How will the role of each entity contribute to the sustainability of the brain injury infrastructure through policy, program and service delivery, growth and evolution, and funding. Question four, What is the role of the Survivor's Voice? Empowerment and engagement of survivors is the heartbeat of everything the council is doing. John reported to start the process he will be sending a brief email survey to council members which will be gathered and synthesized and he will keep them anonymous. The survey will show areas of consensus and a lack of consensus to use a jumping off point for work sessions. John presented a list of date choices for members to schedule a meeting with several hours of worktime to review survey responses and begin to discuss and answer the key questions. Members discussed presenting the dates to members with a Google poll as many members were missing from today's meeting. Keri reported she will send out the dates to members in a Google poll to work on setting up a work session. John stated he will send the email survey in reply to the finalized session date announcement. Peggy Reisher shared concern regarding meeting dates later in the month of April due to a short timeline to complete the work that needs to be done. John stated he will get back with Keri and add to the list of dates to include all availability for the Google poll. John stated the four key questions will guide the process and are designed to get people thinking. Peggy shared that John will be in attendance at the annual conference where she will introduce him to members present and he will have an opportunity to briefly address the large group. Peggy shared she believes it may be a good opportunity to see if any other individuals come forward with investment and input for the sustainability plan.

CONTRACTS

Keri Bennett shared that Nebraska Interactive sent a bid to build the new BI Advisory council website which they are accepting and currently a start date for the project is being negotiated. Peggy inquired why the website needs to be updated. Keri shared the old website is very dated and difficult to use sharing that an update will allow more users to update the site and it will allow increased accessibility. Keri stated that the website should continue on and be usable after the grant is finished. Keri reported a contract is in place with NASP for service provider training and capacity building is currently expanding outreach to other organizations outside of developmental disabilities. Keri also reported contracts in place with John Ferrone and MOU with NDE's Office of Special Education to present TBI training and screenings.

WRITTEN REPORTS

Keri Bennett shared that the LTC Redesign draft paper has been released and she can send it to council members. Keri stated it would be pertinent for council members to share feedback on that draft.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Friday, June 16
- Friday, September 22
- Friday, December 15

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2017, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. with a

motion made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Deanna Jesse. There were no objections to the motion.
The motion carried by unanimous consent.