



Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM

December 15, 2023

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Recording Link:

https://educationne.zoom.us/rec/share/l9lnEiQxk1YcKLJW2hv6PC8i41-BZs_eRGgsFzyEML8rSFcmet23Glv0kdm8m.QLFiNZJ_3OJswrtf

Passcode: %yZ&4uC9

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 (and substitutes): Tiffany Armstrong, Emaly Ball, Jodi Bodnar, Penny Clark, Ashley Davis, Karen Houseman, RaLynn Jacobsen, Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Trista Peterson, Michelle Ploeger, Peggy Reisher, Tamara Snider, Shawna Thompson, Madison Wurtele

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarvinoz Kadyrova, Darsha Pelland, Dennis Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha, Shawn Roberts

VISITORS/PRESENTERS: Liz Gebhart-Morgan–PIE, Naomi Rolofson–Nebraska VR PreETS Counselor

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Approval Of September 8, 2023 Minutes:

The minutes of September 8, 2023 were reviewed. A motion was made by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Carla Lasley to approve the minutes. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.

Approval Of Agenda:

A motion was made by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Trista Peterson to approve the agenda. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Introductions and Holiday Celebration Ice Breaker:

Members and staff introduced themselves and shared their favorite holiday traditions. Naomi Rolofson of Nebraska VR asked to sit in on the meeting, she has an interest in Traumatic Brain Injury.

Brain Injury State Plan – *Liz Gebhart-Morgan of Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE)*

Liz asked the group to consider the following goals in reviewing the State Plan. She also indicated that the overall number of activities on the plan was reduced by combining activities or removing activities that were completed. The Council met in small group break outs to discuss the goals and the updates listed with these goals in mind:

1. Consensus on the Public Facing Document.
2. When someone looks at the State Plan, to make sure all activities are clear and actionable and communicate what Nebraska is doing.
3. Clarify who is in charge of the activity and make sure it is measurable.

Suggestions that came out of the small groups:

Working Document

- Simplify wording
- Update due dates, add due dates to ongoing activities
- Have dark mode available

Executive Summary

- Link to Public Facing Document in Executive Summary
- Update wording to increase understanding of general public of brain injury

Needs Assessment

- Define how they are done, rethink the assessments and how progress is measured, identifying what measures relate to goals
- If part of the assessment is something to be shared, how is going to be shared
- Clarify how competency training is being developed, better screening for TBI
- A Resource Inventory would be a great resource
- Review for redundancy so that it is geared toward public
- Identify where funding streams were looked into but that weren't available

TBI Waiver Services and Provider Training – *Karen Houseman of DHHS*

Karen shared what changed for TBI Waiver Eligibility and updated services.

More services were added to the waiver and trying to enroll more providers. New Services are: personal care, companion, respite, adult day health licensed, Supported employment, personal er response, chore-maintain home, non-medical transportation, home delivered meals, residential living. Some services require specialized training.

Providers will meet with a resource development worker to begin services and need to be able to navigate the EVV (Electronic Visit Verification). A list of services it is on the DHHS website under Developmental Disabilities.

Keri asked if there will be a registry or list of providers and Karen stated that the Resource Coordinator will share that information due to privacy and protected information.

Brain Injury Needs Assessment – *Liz Gebhart-Morgan of Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PI)*

Liz discussed that the goal was to be intentional about data collected regarding the three surveys: individuals, family, and service professionals. Liz asked the group to review the surveys and what parts should be kept or changed. The work group meets on January 9th to dig deeper into the surveys and plans to send them out to align with the Brain Injury conference.

Some feedback from the small groups follows. An updated version will go to the work group for their January meeting.

1. Individual Survey-Make survey more concise with core questions and then the option for more questions
2. Focus on the intended audience with a few questions about individual
3. Try to keep at 3-point responses
4. Slightly and somewhat or a lot and quite a few are too similar
5. Look at the skip patterns when question doesn't apply

ACL's Strong Infrastructure Components for Brain Injury (BI): State Self-Assessment Tool – Keri Bennett

The ACL "Using Data To Connect People to Services" workgroup asked for feedback from grantee states on the self-assessment tool to gauge the progress made, to develop goals, or to highlight achievements. The data could potentially be used to create a dashboard on the BIAC website of where we are in making progress.

A small work group was suggested to discuss the self-assessment tool, to be able to recommend what the council should do for the surveys or to create next steps. Judy, Trista, Jodi, and Keri will be the group. Keri will send out notes from the next "Using Data" meeting that might generate other ideas and will schedule a meeting with this small group in January.

Committee and Contractor Reports (written reports) – Written reports were sent out with the meeting agenda. No questions or concerns were raised.

Membership Recruitment – Carla Lasley

The group has been looking at applications and meeting to recruit new members. One idea is to be more intentional in recruitment including contacting support group leaders. Support groups are a target audience to recruit new members and volunteers are needed to contact the support groups' leaders and send them cards to hand out to members. This approach would also promote the needs assessment.

Volunteers to contact group leaders: Alliance-Peggy, Columbus-Tamara, GI-Madison, Hebron-Nancy, Kearney-Keri, Lincoln-Peggy and Carla, Norfolk-Jodi, Judy-North Platte, Tiffany-Omaha, Immanuel in Omaha-Michelle, Papillion-Nancy, Scottsbluff-Peggy.

Peggy asked Nancy or Carla to attend a Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska staff meeting for recruitment and to promote needs assessment.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business – none

Set 2024 Meeting Dates:

March 22, June 14, September 13, December 13

Roundtable Discussion – none

Adjourned: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. by Tiffany Armstrong and seconded by Shawna Thompson, motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.