



Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM

March 3, 2023

Draft Meeting Minutes

Recording Link: Passcode: J!2Kf?7z

<https://educationne.zoom.us/rec/share/vFUuoPVkuQeWG6v-k7hzGm3OM1AaZ3aFOj4MRq9iA-agPvp9HE0oeFcPOV5lG0t3.hdpNY9iEm495qtj6>

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website calendar at least 10 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT (and substitutes): Tiffany Armstrong, Emaly Ball, Shari Bahensky, Penny Clark, Ashley Davis, Madison Wurtele, Amy Levering, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Darsha Pelland, Michelle Ploeger, Peggy Reisher, Tamara Snider, Shawna Thompson, Sarvinoz Kadyrova

MEMBERS ABSENT: TinaMaria Fernandez, Cindy Hoffschneider, Karen Houseman, Carla Lasley, Zoe Olson, Dennis Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha

VISITORS/PRESENTERS: Chris Stewart, Brain Injury Alliance, Cathy Callaway, Nebraska VR, Andrew Ngochoch, DHHS, Division of Public Health, Judy Dettmer, NASHIA, Liz Gebhart-Morgan, Partners for Insightful Evaluation

Judy Nichelson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2022 MINUTES

The minutes of December 9, 2022 were reviewed. Judy Nichelson asked that the minutes be amended to note that Dennis Thompson attended the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with the amendment was made by Darsha Pelland and seconded by Shawna Thompson. Motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Ashley Davis. Motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

Brain Injury Data Subgroup Recommendations on COVID-19 and TBI – Liz Gebhart-Morgan of Partners for Insightful Evaluation

Liz Gebhart-Morgan of Partners for Insightful Evaluation reviewed three recommendations on Covid 19 from the Brain Injury Data Subgroup:

1. Add data questions about Covid 19 to the Living with Brain Injury needs assessment.
2. Support and offer resources about Covid 19 and Brain Injury in existing resources and explore new ways to increase awareness about this issue.
3. Use plain language when communicating about Covid 19.

A motion was made by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Shawna Thompson to add the Covid 19 strategies to the state plan. Motion carried, there were two objections.

Making the Brain Injury State Plan Goals Achievable – Keri Bennett

Keri Bennett discussed how the state plan can be revised to better monitor progress and help make the goals more achievable. One option would be to develop smart goals that are results based and with accountability measures on quantity and quality. This could help identify what the state plan has achieved and how it has changed the lives of individuals with brain injury. A committee was established to work on this process: Judy Nichelson, Amy Levering, Shawna Thompson.

TBI Registry Report – Andrew Ngochoch, DHHS Division of Public Health

Andrew's presentation included the number of brain injuries, insurance payers, length of hospital stay, etc. for 2020. He reported the highest rate of injuries is in the Panhandle.

Nancy Noha, Assistive Technology Partnership

Nancy reviewed the process of sending letters and brochures to individuals added to the Brain Injury Registry. Currently materials are customized by age (0-21, 22-59 and 60+) and location of residence in the state (eastern, central, and western) The materials can be found on the Council website:

<https://braininjury.nebraska.gov/brain-injury-registrybrochures-2021>

Disability Rights Nebraska, Madison Wuertele

Madison Wurtele is replacing Tania Diaz of Disability Rights Nebraska (DRN). Madison reviewed the services of the organization.

Contact her for more information at 402-413-2016 or email info@disabilityrightsnebraska.org and visit their web site at www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org.

Peer Support Summit Report – Judy Dettmer, NASHIA

Judy Dettmer provided a summit summary. The summit agenda included reviewing a recent pilot and current models available. During the Summit attendees provided input on a Mentor and a Peer to Peer model and provided suggestions on how training could be delivered and program management. Next steps and a final report will be distributed later.

March Brain Injury Awareness Month Activities – Keri Bennett

ACL held a virtual Partners Day on March 1. A recording of the webinar is available: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/7ldq2KuVhUHi_y5MtaeVCPxRBte9sn-ISA3DwDY9xdPXUA4wsYptMDfmj9t6--8c.77FGeaC3W58Crs2D

The slides can be downloaded here: <https://www.hsri.org/publication/2023-acl-tbi-partners-day-meeting-slides>

A Seed Summit will be held in Washington D.C. with a Hill Day this month to visit representatives, virtual visits are also being scheduled.

Peggy Reisher encouraged the Council to attend the Brain Injury Conference in Kearney on March 23-24.

The North Platte support group has done several outreach activities including a proclamation signing and newspaper articles.

Reports/Updates

Contractor Report-Keri Bennett

- The My Brain, My Self resource facilitation and surveillance pilot is in the final review process before launching.
- Please complete the survey sent to members by Elizabeth Troyer of the Mediation Center.
- Judy Nichelson and Tiffany Armstrong now have NASHIA memberships, which will give them access to emails, newsletters, and training.
- The TBI Waiver is up for renewal and public comment will be scheduled in April.
- Shawn Roberts will be the new Council Recorder. She is a Nebraska VR employee whose responsibilities include working with the TBI, Assistive Technology, and State Rehabilitation Councils.

Public Policy-Tiffany Armstrong

Tiffany reviewed the bills the committee monitored this year during the legislative session. LB91 would no longer require an individual age 21 and older to wear a helmet provided the rider uses eye equipment and completes a certified motorcycle safety course. The bill is still in committee.

Shawna Thompson asked the Council to contact their senator to urge them not to pass LB 443, which would change age provisions relating to compensation for disability under the Nebraska Workers Compensation Act (at age 72 disability benefits would cease).

Membership Committee

Judy Bodner of the Client Assistant Program was introduced. She is replacing the former Director, Jerry Bryan.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:00 pm by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Darsha Pelland, Motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2023