



Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM
September 16, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Recording Link:

https://educationne.zoom.us/rec/share/YpTi86XX_jU2qu4okdiW6xh684vbkzSHI3NAWnSG_dLi4zu9T5j5paN-T5PrGbKY.JsQzYctBLnxS-IGH

Passcode: k6JA@1%7

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, Jerry Bryan, Ashley Davis, Tania Diaz, TinaMaria Fernandez, Karen Houseman (substitute Jennifer Clark), Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Michelle Ploeger, Peggy Reisher (substitute Gina Simanek), Tamara Snider (substitute Nicole Weaver), Dennis Thompson, Shawna Thompson, Darsha Pelland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Emaly Ball, Penny Clark, Cindy Hoffschneider, Dale Johannes, Randall Jones, Sarvinoz Kadyrova, Brooke Murtaugh (substitute Tiffany Armstrong,) Zoe Olson

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha

VISITORS/PRESENTERS: Shari Bahensky (Hotline for Disability Services), Lindy Foley (Nebraska VR), Elizabeth Troyer-Miller (Central Mediation Center,) Andrew Ngochoch (Nebraska Health and Human Services), Madison Wurtele (Disability Rights Nebraska)

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

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the June 10, 2022 were reviewed. Judy Nichelson had two corrections. On page 2: BIAC Member Conflict of Interest Declaration: “Gina Simanek declared on behalf of Peggy Reisher, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska.” – add the

word “no” after “declared”. On page 5: “Judy discussed BIAC new member mentors, sharing the council is always looking for new members stating the can go the BIAC website for an application.” Change “the” to “they”. **A motion was made by Carla Lasley and seconded by Tania Diaz to approve the June 10, 2022 meeting minutes as revised by Judy Nichelson. There were no objections to the motion. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was reviewed, a motion was made by Tiffany Armstrong and seconded by Michelle Ploeger to approve the agenda. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

INTRODUCTIONS

New members, TinaMaria Fernandez, HOPE, North Platte and Darsha Pelland, Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln, introduced themselves prior to the entire council introductions.

CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP) AND HOTLINE FOR DISABILITY SERVICES (800) 742-7594

Jerry Bryan: The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a free service to help you find solutions if you are having problems with Vocational Rehabilitation, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Centers for Independent Living <https://cap.nebraska.gov>

Shari Bahensky: demonstrated the Hotline for Disability Services web site and how you can search for statewide services by agency or service needed.

<https://cap.nebraska.gov/hotline>

Brochures and posters are available upon request for both programs.

REVIEW AND APPROVE GOAL UPDATES TO THE STATE PLAN

The Council met in small group break outs to discuss the goals and the updates listed on the state plan with these questions in mind: 1. Are the proposed additions in red font adequate to help us begin to address the specific needs of children, youth, adults, older adults, and individuals from diverse groups who experience brain injury? 2. Do you suggest revisions or additions to make the additions more effective?

Groups:

1. Access Services

Suggested a mandate for reporting to the registry along with education for those doing the reporting; correctional facilities are not reporting

2. Build the Voice

Improve communication across the state and explore ways to identify individuals with brain injuries

3. Connect to Resources

Consider translation of brochures and offer different literacy levels; consider a return post card in registry mailings, and increase availability of peer to peer supports

4. Shape Policies

Letters of commitment from organizations, work with them to include how they can support the Council and the plan

Large group discussion with small groups reporting:

Group 1. Access Services: Start with legislation, a mandate having hospitals report BI in the ERs and primary care physicians to ask the proper questions of their patients, as well as in schools, daycares, nursing homes, correctional institutions, and alcohol substance abuse facilities, all need to be reporting this information, more needs to be done. Have it be a smart goal that is measurable, annual assessments, make sure we are getting the data appropriately and we are educating is the people who report the data in. Also, in correctional facilities, ensure the medical staff share the information with the patients themselves as to their possibility of a BI. No additional recommendations.

Group. Build the Voice: People that are the Voice have to continue doing what we are doing. Need more communication and connection throughout the state. Need to act upon seeking out the people on the lists and also those that are not on the lists, to connect with them to work with them and build trust. Educate people about Smart 911 where available. No additional recommendations.

Group 3. Connect to Resources: Translation of the brochures is needed. Maybe need to do pictures for people who may not be able to understand the literature. Need to consider where we need to have the brochures distributed, out in the communities. Perhaps a PSA in other languages, getting the brochures out where others will see them. Regarding the Registry mailings, capacity to provide more individuals with recent TBIs information. There is only one mailing that goes out, so possibly develop a post card for individuals to indicate that they want to remain on the registry for future mailings. Would be helpful to have an additional language in the translation of the TBI registry brochures and the ability to put the information in pictorial language for literacy issues, and strategic placement of the brochures in places where people could access them. Discussed about the goal to increase the availability of evidence based peer to peer supports and current status of and the need for an update on this. No additional recommendations.

Group 4. Shape Policy and Increase Public Awareness: the first red addition of attaching written letters of commitment, they felt it would be better fit to move that down to the second goal because those letters would be going to NE VR and the Council as a whole from other organizations and how they can support the plan versus they are not going to the legislature staff. Review the annual BI state plan: would be a better fit

under the third goal as again versus with the legislature. Add to the first goal, that the public policy committee, what we are doing now is that we track the ills that are related to BI and then as a committee we discuss if we support it, if we oppose it, and whether we do so with a letter, testimony or just monitor, so including what we are already doing, and will continue to do and reporting that back to the Council as a whole. On the third goal they discussed the first bullet point that the public policy committee will research barriers to the provision of community based services and draft recommendations – discussed it as a big goal and that a lot of times we don't have free rein of what we can provide input to those community based services. So maybe changing the wording of that of just continuing to invite those agencies to our Council and providing updates, when the time period is open that we can provide those recommendations that we are aware of them and able to do so. Making sure we are aware of open time frames for providing input. Also discussed how overall ensuring that whatever goals that we have there, whatever activities, are things that we can actually do and have time for, given that we all have other commitments. Maybe changing that bullet of goal 3 that the public policy committee reviews the needs survey, maybe changing that to the Council and it is something we could have on our agenda as a whole council walking through that, discussing if there are things that we can do to help fill those needs versus something specifically that the public policy committee is working on. Discussed increased public awareness, like the three goals that were added, maybe refine to specific areas and split out from year to year, i.e. year one focus on west, then north to northeast, etc. So it is a little more attainable and not so big to accomplish, and then looking at other specific topics, i.e. sports concussions, something targeted that we want to provide information on to those groups, what is important right now. And then asking those groups as we work with them, what is the best way to get information out to the people they serve or members, because they may have other ideas instead of doing a public service announcement, i.e. they have a different method that would be more efficient to get information to their individuals. Goal 2 – discussed for the Council just looking at sustainability, how the Council needs some money to help fund individuals to be able to come together, especially if there is travel involved. Some funding for those types of activities as well. Would it be more beneficial looking at funding for groups or individuals who are working on specific projects for the state plan and encouraging them and helping them get funding for that. Looking at our committees – reviewing them regularly to ensure they are still needed or a necessary part of what we are trying to accomplish and if not changing those as needed. Discussion about classifying the Council, i.e. is it an entity – looking at the Council more as a collection of agencies that are working together to improve BI across the state. Putting more visibility on all of those resources through Nebraska versus just the Council. The Council itself isn't necessarily the statewide leader rather more of a forum, bringing all those different leaders together. Review the verbiage we use.

Jerry Bryan discussed keeping in mind that numbers of programs being administered may be askew based on the census and undocumented individuals.

A motion was made by Ashley Davis and seconded by Jerry Bryan to delay approval of the state plan until the December meeting. This will allow time for members to review the visions before giving their approval. **There were no objections to the motion. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Lindy Foley, Director of Nebraska VR: Lindy explained the difference between a board of directors and an advisory council. A Board of Directors are legally responsible and are elected. Advisory members are appointed, and their role is to help guide the work of an organization with the members expertise (like the State Rehabilitation Council SRC). The Brain Injury Advisory Council influences Nebraska VR by helping it to focus on what is needed and Nebraska VR's job is to report back on how they used the guidance they received, and the final results. Lindy thanked the Council for their work and sharing their expertise.

BIAC Leadership Follow-Up to Central Mediation Center's Recommendation

Elizabeth Troyer-Miller was available to answer any questions. Elizabeth has been meeting with Judy Nicholson, Tiffany Armstrong and Keri Bennett to review her recommendations and help with implementation. Improvements to the agenda format has improved communication and helps prepare members for the meetings; breakout rooms are helping to build relationships; and next will be a review of the operational procedures and possibly developing a Speaker Tip Sheet to help improve presentations (speed, taking breaks, etc.).

Membership Committee Report - Carla Lasley

Three new members have been recruited; referrals are needed on an on-going basis to ensure a full membership on the council.

Report on the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)

virtual conference attended by: Judy Nicholson, Emaly Ball, Nancy Noha, Tresa Christensen and Keri Bennett.

Keri Bennett described the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Line <https://988lifeline.org> and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) toolkit: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit>

Judy Nicholson was interested in how other advisory councils work and feels they could benefit from the expanded agenda we are using.

Nancy Noha shared DIAL (Disability Information and Access Line) is a Covid 19 resource that can help individuals schedule vaccines and assist with instructions for administering the tests. <https://acl.gov/DIAL>

Everyone agreed it is a good opportunity to connect with other states and learn what they are doing and strategies we might try here in Nebraska.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business - none

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Jerry Bryan and seconded by Carla Lasley to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. There were no objections to the motion. The motion carried by unanimous consent. The next meeting will be December 9, 2022.