



**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Online via ZOOM
June 10, 2022**

MEETING MINUTES

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, Emaly Ball, Penny Clark, Ashley Davis, Tania Diaz, Cindy Hoffschneider, Karen Houseman, Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Zoe Olson, Michelle Ploeger, substitute Gina Simanek for Peggy Reisher, Tamara Snider, Shawna Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Bryan, Randall Jones, Sarvinoz Kadyrova, Brooke Murtaugh

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha, Victoria Rasmussen

VISITORS: Maria Crowley, Liz Gebhart-Morgan, Andrew Ngochoch, Chris Stewart, Elizabeth Troyer-Miller

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 website.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from December 10, 2021 were reviewed. A motion was made by Michelle Ploeger and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the December 10, 2021 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 Michelle Ploeger and seconded by Carla Lasley to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Judy Nichelson stated that the meeting was an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Law was posted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was shared.

BIAC MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Members were referred to Article IV of the BIAC Operating Procedures to determine if there any potential conflicts or dualities of interest to declare. Members must annually declare any conflict of interest. Judy Nicholson asked members to make their declarations:

- Tiffany Armstrong declared Madonna Rehabilitation and the Brain Injury Oversight Committee.
- Emaly Ball declared no conflicts of interest.
- Karen Houseman declared no conflicts of interest.
- Dale Johannes declared Tabitha and the Brain Injury Oversight Committee.
- Carla Lasley declared Nebraska VR.
- Amy Levering declared no conflicts of interest.
- Brooke Murtaugh's conflict is Madonna Rehabilitation; declared by her substitute, Tiffany Armstrong.
- Judy Nicholson declared Nebraska Injured Brain Network and brain injury support group.
- Peg Ogea-Ginsburg declared no conflicts of interest.
- Zoe Olson declared no conflicts of interest.
- Michelle Ploeger declared no conflicts of interest.
- Gina Simanek declared no on behalf of Peggy Reisher, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska.
- Tamara Snider declared no conflicts of interest.
- Shawna Thompson declared no conflicts of interest.

CENTRAL MEDIATION CENTER REPORT

Elizabeth Troyer-Miller provided council members her report prior to the meeting. Elizabeth summarized the report shared via email with the council and its recommendations. Elizabeth shared her recommendations start with procedure to build trust and increase engagement. Elizabeth discussed meeting format and the possibility of relaxing Robert's Rules to allow more free discussion and contributions. Elizabeth broke participants into small groups for discussions. Tiffany Armstrong noted some strategies have already been implemented and Judy Nicholson stated having questions assisted in preparing for the meeting. Questions and reflections were brought back to the large group. Carla Lasley shared herself and Andrew Ngochoch discussed members feedback that individuals feel their expertise is not always heard or utilized by the council. Andrew suggested for the TBI Registry the council could be introduced in that mailing and could get connected and made aware of the council in that way. Ashley Davis shared herself and Tamara discussed they did not have a lot of surprises but they are very hopeful to use this as a learning experience to move forward and improve the council. Judy Nicholson shared herself, Michelle & Emaly talked about the need to build trust between perceived competing groups. Judy shared they discussed the ultimate goal is to assist the person with an injured brain. Judy shared holding a social event would help build relationships between the council. Judy also discussed the need to provide accommodations for those with brain injury to participate. Tiffany shared herself, Peg and Chris discussed the role of the advisory council and using this group as sharing resources as well as using the council in the bigger picture. Tiffany discussed having the recommendations and continuing to use and follow through on the work of the recommendations. Zoe Olson shared herself, Nancy and Amy Levering were in a group where they discussed perceptions and the need for space and grace for differences in brain injury experiences. Emaly Ball shared a common theme she is hearing is regarding perspectives, needing to build trust and increasing interpersonal relationships. Emaly shared she has felt those with lived experience have not been as heard as they could be in the past. Amy Levering requested a simplified explanation of the role of the Brain Injury Advisory Council and the objectives. Amy and Emaly discussed that everyone on the council should be able to answer that and the council as a group can look at re-evaluating and redetermining those objectives. Discussion of barriers to council members and possible accommodations and consideration of opportunities to better include all individuals particularly

for those with injured brains. Keri Bennett suggested herself, Tiffany and Judy work with Elizabeth to map out ways to implement the recommendations for the council. Members supported this.

BI STATE PLAN PROGRESS & PROCESS

The State Plan Progress Report was provided to members prior to meeting and a discussion of the report was led by Maria Crowley, TBITARC, Facilitator.

Members reviewed and discussed the following questions:

1. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has asked all grantee states to add specific strategies for targeting and serving children, youth, adults and older Nebraskans with TBI into their Brain Injury State Plans. As you review Nebraska's State Plan progress report...
 - a. Do you see places where strategies to positively impact people with brain injury in these age groups are **already** represented? If so, where?
 - b. Do you see places where strategies to positively impact people with brain injury in these age groups **can and should** be added? If so, where?
2. ACL has also asked all grantee states to include strategies in their State Plans for reaching culturally and linguistically diverse subpopulations in an effort to help ensure future needs assessments more accurately represent Nebraska's population. What subject matter experts or resources are you aware of that will help the BIAC develop strategies to reach the people we have not reached before in our needs assessments?
3. In the future, BIAC members will be asked to attach written letters of commitment describing how they will support and advance the State Plan activities. As you read the State Plan progress report, where do you see opportunities for you as an individual or for your organization to contribute in concrete, meaningful ways to accomplish the State Plan goals and objectives?
4. What input do you have on a process we can use to make these ACL-requested updates to the State Plan over the next few months?

Maria reviewed the need for the goals and information in the state plan for grantee states. Children and youth were discussed. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg discussed her previous outreach to work with schools and the difficulty to do so and get their engagement and time. Maria asked for discussion regarding services for older adults in Nebraska. Judy discussed the challenges with deductibles with Medicare for older adults receiving services. Dale discussed the big challenges he sees with older adults and brain injury. Members discussed resources and the lack there of in the western part of the state for any kind of medical care. Shawna highlighted the issues with older adults getting a brain injury and providers not understanding their baseline causing their injury to be overlooked as any confusion being deemed as due to age or other issues. Amy Davis discussed her personal experience and the amount of insurmountable stress put on caregivers and the lack of availability of staff and space at care facilities. Chris Stewart discussed that brain injuries can be treated and have improvement with the proper services and care and can live to the quality of life they want but it is so heartbreaking when these needs are not met. Tamara Snider discussed her experiences in behavioral health and misdiagnoses and the need for improved screenings. Members discussed the lack of systems in place to serve other populations, particularly those who do not speak English. Maria also noted the need recognized by other states to be sure all materials are written in plain language so they can be understood by all those needing information. Maria discussed written letters of commitment and the possibility of ways council members can work on and move some pieces of the state plan forward. Maria suggested breakout groups to meet and bring information back to the large group at a future council meeting. Emaly stated she feels it is difficult to accomplish things with only four meetings a year so she is in support of additional small group meetings to work on goals.

TBI GRANT PROJECT EVALUATIONS SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT

Report was shared by Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE), formerly Schmeeckle Research, Inc. Liz Gebhart-Morgan of the PIE team introduced herself and provided a short report on the data collection and evaluation plan for the new TBI grant activities. Liz provided the council with a handout outlining the evaluation of the ACL grant objectives. Liz reviewed the data sources, measures, efforts, findings, and next steps for each objective.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Policy – *Tiffany Armstrong*

Members were provided the committee's bill tracker for review prior to the meeting. Tiffany reviewed the report and offered to discuss any questions. Judy shared the report was great and was very easy to understand. Keri shared her appreciation for all the work it takes to compile and follow the legislative sessions. No questions were asked.

TBI GRANT ACTIVITIES REPORT

Keri Bennett provided the updates prior to the meeting and reviewed their general summary. Judy inquired about how Keri became aware of Dr. Trexler, Keri discussed how he is recognized nationally and through his work with the Indiana ACL grant. Tiffany Armstrong shared how she became aware of Dr. Trexler when she heard him speak at a conference several years ago. Keri shared the workgroups are open and available for any council member to join if anyone would like to participate just let her know. Keri reviewed member participation in federal workgroups per Tiffany's request. No additional follow-up questions were asked by council members.

NEW BUSINESS

Judy Nichelson asked the council for any new business. Judy shared that the NASHIA conference is scheduled in conflict with the currently scheduled quarterly BIAC meeting. Judy requested to move the scheduled September 9th meeting to September 16th.

Tiffany Armstrong moved and Ashley Davis seconded the motion to reschedule the next BIAC meeting to September 16th, 2022. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gina Simanek stated they will begin planning for the 2023 conference shortly and they are open to any feedback. Gina answered a question from Judy sharing they are planning and hoping to hold the 2023 conference in-person. Participation this year was 138. Tiffany Armstrong shared she heard a lot of good feedback from the Madonna staff that attended this year's virtual conference.

Karen Houseman shared Medicaid & DHHS updates. Karen shared they are working on implementing the pay increase rate and those payments are being submitted now. Karen shared there was also an increase for DD waivers and they are waiting for the fee schedule to be released. Karen provided a summary description of Medicaid waivers.

Keri updated the council regarding the ACL conference webinars.

Judy discussed BIAC new member mentors, sharing the council is always looking for new members stating they can go the BIAC website for an application. Judy shared there has been a new application received which the committee will be reviewing.

Chris Stewart discussed the Blazing Trails event held last weekend, sharing there were 110 participants and great collaboration.

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 1:35p.m. with a motion made by Karen Houseman and seconded by Ashley Davis. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**