



**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
September 14, 2018**

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, Jerry Bryan, Nancy Coffman, Tania Diaz, Mark Draper, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, Carla Lasley, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nicholson, Zoe Olson, Peggy Reisher, Kathy Scheele (substitute for Heather Leschinsky), Frank Velinsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Vaishali Phatak

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: Chris Stewart

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:03a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 8TH MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from June 8, 2018 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mark Draper and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the June 8, 2018 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 Nancy Coffman and seconded by Kristen Larsen to approve the agenda as submitted. 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.

MEMBERSHIPS

Tiffany Armstrong reported that council member, Frank Velinsky’s term is expiring and he wishes to serve another term on the council. An anonymous paper vote was conducted to approve Frank’s renewed

council membership. The council recorder counted the council votes. Tiffany announced Frank Velinsky's council membership would be renewed for another three year term. New member Zoe Olson introduced herself to the council and summarized her experiences with brain injury and current role working with the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging.

NCI-AD SURVEY & A&D WAIVER INPUT

Kathy Scheele reported that the Aged and Disabled Waiver is now in its second year. Kathy shared DHHS is currently working to collect data regarding the waiver and they have a survey they will be sending to providers. The survey is being given to individuals in different programs including nursing homes, and other program partners. Kathy reported the survey aims to provide data on areas where improvement is desired for serving clients in the state. All survey answers are confidential. Kathy shared the survey is through NASWUD; reporting Development Disability has had a positive experience using the survey and they are looking forward to using the survey with the age and disabled population. Frank Velinsky discussed that there are often many sides to the story besides only the client, there are family members and providers that have valid feedback that should be considered for surveying. Kristen Larsen shared the DD division has surveyed providers in the past but has fallen short for data but stated there is a need to increase provider surveying. Tiffany Armstrong shared there are also social workers in the hospital setting that should be surveyed to show any challenges in that setting regarding the waiver. Mark Draper discussed that the trend analysis is the key component of survey data. Kathy thanked the council for the feedback and insight provided for the survey compilation. Kathy discussed the waiver form and the needs of many individuals' activities for daily living in the field. Kathy reported there are new regulations that are waiting for approval by the Governor that will hopefully move along in the process to be added to the necessary forms for next year. Kathy stated that council comments are brought forward in state meetings and are addressed encouraging the council members to continue to share feedback and insights. Frank Velinsky discussed concern regarding the combination of medical rules and regulations with activities for daily living supports sharing that this potentially creates unaffordable care. Nancy Coffman discussed barriers are created by an over abundance of rules and regulations. Kathy shared questions related to brain injury have been included in the survey. Kathy discussed she is working to find ways to have brain injury recognized now and not two years from now. Kathy stated that now with brain injury included on the survey there will be data that can be used for programs and assessments. Chris Stewart asked how brain injury is being addressed in the mental health side of diagnosis. Kathy shared she will note and look into the behavioral health side.

Kristen Larsen discussed the Olmstead Plan development process beginning in the state. Kristen reported they are looking for diverse stakeholder input including that from council members. Kristen shared listening sessions for Olmstead Plan stakeholder input will be held, Wednesday, Sept 26th at the Autism Center of NE from 6:15-7:45, as well as two additional listening sessions scheduled in Grand Island. The listening session information will be emailed to council members.

INTEGRATED MASTER WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Tiffany Armstrong summarized the meeting held yesterday with Beth Morrisette breaking down the mission and vision and creating a plan of action to accomplish those goals for the council. Tiffany stated a lot of great discussion occurred and the process is beginning. Nancy Coffman shared that a main component from that meeting was to change the membership of the council to include at least 50% individuals with brain injury. Keri Bennet shared that future master work plan development dates have not yet been set but a doodle poll will be sent out soon to set future meetings. Keri discussed the positive work of the meeting sharing there was great categorization of priorities established. Zoe Olson shared she has been through a similar process in the past and she felt there was very good work, stating this type of process really does work. Tiffany stated additional information will be shared with the council as progress continues. Keri stated any individuals who did not attend are welcome to and please contact her to be included.

NEW TBI GRANT ACTIVITIES/MENTOR STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Keri Bennet reported Nebraska was successful in receiving a new federal grant from the Administration for Community Living. Nebraska is one of ten mentor states receiving grants. Keri reported a new budget was submitted with an increase of funding at \$450,000 a year for three years, which was awarded. Keri shared that all the other mentor states that NE will be working with are fabulous and it is an honor to be awarded the grant and have the opportunity work together. Keri shared that one of the mentor/mentee projects NE was matched up on is addressing underserved populations including rural underserved populations. Keri discussed that the mentor/mentee relationship is not one on one but instead in varying small groups based on skills and needs. Keri stated this group match up will allow a lot of collaboration and learning but also cause some challenges measuring outcomes. Nancy Coffman stated to utilize her agency in regards to visual impairment and brain injury. Mentor grant states are Nebraska, Tennessee, West Virginia, Indiana, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Colorado, Massachusetts, and Iowa. Partner/Mentee states include: Alaska, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Utah, Vermont, California, and North Carolina. Keri shared Nebraska will be mentoring regarding using data to connect people to services as well as employment and transition. Keri discussed that the data usage group is very large with nine partner states in the workgroup. Keri stated the groups will be meeting during the NASHIA Conference and they will report back. Keri stated Nebraska received a score of 96.33 out of 100 on the grant application and is very pleased with the result. Keri reported shared responsibilities of mentor and partner states include, a 2:1 state match, having an advisory board, creation of an annual state plan and creation or expansion of a TBI state registry. Keri reported that by the end of the project period the advisory council is required to include at least 50% of its members be individuals with brain injury as well as include representatives from AAA, SILC and a long-term care Ombudsman. Keri shared by-laws regarding membership will need to be updated. Keri shared the annual state plan will need to be completed by June and include how services are targeted and delivered as well as include known gaps. Keri reported she has been working with the Schmeekles to gather data regarding gaps and barriers for individuals receiving services with brain injury as well as data from the providers. Keri discussed the state brain injury registry requirement for grantees and how we could expand the use of the registry's data information. Keri shared she wants to make sure that there is consistent communication with the council and the mentor states back and forth. Keri discussed TBI workforce training development and materials will be reviewed by mentor states. Brooke Murtaugh discussed the trainings that have been developed by the Brain Injury Association of America. Frank Velinsky discussed his frustrations with the requirements of mandatory trainings and certifications for care providers. Keri reported grantees are required to develop a sustainability plan, which was submitted, but stated this will need to continue to be updated along the way. Keri reported there will be a spring grantee meeting which she we will report back on to the council. Keri shared the grant goal is to increase state and national capacity to provide access to comprehensive and coordinated services for individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families by building a statewide, voice driven network of individuals with TBI and their family members that are engaged and equipped to shape policies, programs and services. Keri summarized the five objectives of the goal. Objective 1: Build the foundation for a statewide, voice-driven network with the existing TBI support groups by providing leadership and capacity-building coaching to support group leaders and members in at least 10 of the 13 support groups during years 1-3 of the project. Objective 2: Equip the network of people with TBI and their families to advocate for policy, programs and service changes by making data, resources, tools and strategies accessible to leaders and members of all 13 support groups across the state during years 1-3 of the project. Objective 3: Engage network members from all 13 support groups in shaping policies, programs and services by providing education in advocacy strategies and offering opportunities to advocate during years 1-3 of the project. Objective 4: Connect newly injured individuals with TBI and their family members to the network and the existing system of services and supports in underserved, rural areas of the state by training a TBI Peer Resource Navigator from 6 of the 13 support groups during years 2 and 3 of the project. Objective 5: Increase national capacity to provide comprehensive and coordinated services to individuals with TBI by providing mentorship and technical assistance to Partner State Grantees in

years 1-3 of the project. Keri reviewed the priorities of the grant which include: underserved and inappropriately served populations, consumer direction, person centered planning, full participation by people with TBI, family members and caregivers, culturally and linguistically competent services, evidence-based practices, sustainability and statewide and national impact. Keri stated the slides from her report will be shared with council members via email.

BIAC BY-LAWS REVISIONS

Keri Bennet shared she has started working on a new draft of the council by-laws to include the new membership requirements. Keri stated she is looking to establish a membership committee to work on the revisions with her and then later assist bringing on the new members to the council. Members discussed possible changes with increased council membership. Zoe Olson, Carla Lasley, Frank Velinsky, Tiffany Armstrong and Tania Diaz volunteered to work on the membership committee.

BIAC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Peggy Reisher reported the committee has met three time thus far and has been working to review the by-laws and will bring recommendations to the council. The committee was previously called the legislative committee but the committee determined public policy is more appropriate and will remain the name moving forward. Peggy summarized the group still needs to determine and set the policy and council plan as to how the council will address public policy. Keri noted that the by-laws could set standing committees of the council. Peggy concluded this is currently a work in progress and will continue to report back as progress is made. Zoe Olson stated the AAA could add brain injury to their lobbyist's alerts. Tiffany Armstrong stated that as a committee they can not review all potential legislation so they are relying on council members to bring policy information to the council. Members discussed possible by-law updates including clarifying majority and how to determine that majority and establishing a clear process for handling public policy. Nancy Coffman shared the council does need to be careful about relying on other organizations regarding policy as conflicts of interest can occur. Brett Hoogeveen stated in his opinion the council is always eventually made of aware of legislation regarding brain injury but a clear process is not established of how to handle it. Tiffany Armstrong stated the committee needs to set another meeting to establish this process and bring it to the council for review.

BIA LEGISLATIVE PLANS

Peggy Reisher shared they are holding a legislation 101 webinar and is encouraging all council members to participate; members were provided a flyer with details of the webinar. Peggy shared with council members the pamphlet "How To Lobby" created by the Coalition for a Strong Nebraska stating the resource is also available on their website. Chris Stewart shared her efforts sharing information and recruiting for the Legislation 101 webinar. Chris stated this is the beginning of the process to build advocacy and share data. Peggy provided to the council the handouts that have been created and will be used title *Brain Injury is a Public Health Issue* and *Supporting the Establishment of a Brain Injury Trust Fund*. Peggy discussed Senator McDonnell is willing to write a trust fund bill and is hoping to get as many co-signers as possible, sharing the bill has not yet been drafted. Peggy stated the draft legislation will be available by the next council meeting in December. Keri Bennett shared the idea of placing the advisory council into state statute is being investigated.

NEW BUSINESS

Peggy Reisher shared that Brett Hoogeveen and Michelle Hawley-Grieser are both on the BIA-NE board and added they both now declare the BIA-NE as a conflict of interest.

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for, December 14, 2018, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 12:52p.m.

with a motion made by Mark Draper and seconded by Dale Johannes. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**