



Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM

June 14, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. CT

Zoom information for connecting: <https://educationne.zoom.us/j/94166263913>

To Join By Phone, dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) - Meeting ID: 941 6626 3913

Find your local number: <https://educationne.zoom.us/u/avQempuQZ>

Draft Meeting Minutes

Recording Link: https://educationne.zoom.us/rec/share/jrvcmhh2zMMsP-WyytxmGprOJ5yPgdJD6Oxgv_UvX8bYYtMOTQqNh5vp8be93M2v.SvOPZszVy1kMNEPJ
Passcode: 4c#@Xdc6

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): Emaly Ball, Jodi Bodnar, Penny Clark, Ashley Davis, RaLynn Jacobsen, Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Terry Levering, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Paula Dodds substitute for Peggy Reisher, Tamara Snider, Shawna Thompson, Madison Wurtele

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiffany Armstrong, Karen Houseman, Sarvinoz Kadyrova, Brooke Murtaugh, Darsha Pelland, Michelle Ploeger, Peggy Reisher, Dennis Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha, Shawn Roberts

VISITORS/PRESENTERS: Liz Gebhart-Morgan–PIE, Aubrey Gutierrez, Naomi Rolofson, Anna Cole–BIA-NE

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:05 a.m.

Approval Of March 22, 2024 Minutes:

The minutes of March 22, 2024 were reviewed. Judy was omitted from the list of Potential Conflicts and noted North Platte Brain Injury group as a potential conflict. **A motion was made by Emaly Ball and seconded by Carla Lasley to approve the minutes with these corrections. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Introductions – Judy Nichelson

Judy announced that we have a new member, Terry Levering, and invited everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Terry is the spouse of member Amy Levering.

Approval Of Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and Keri noted that Andrew Ngochoch of DHHS may not be able to report at this time; that agenda item may be removed and added to the next meeting's agenda. **A motion was made by Ashley Davis and seconded by Carla Lasley to approve the agenda with the changes. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Brain Injury State Plan – Keri Bennett

Keri updated the group on the activities in the State Plan. Priority 4, Goal 3 is to provide quarterly progress updates. We have 46 activities in the State Plan and 30% are in progress, and 28% are ongoing. There are 10 activities that have not been started yet and 7 that are started, one that is nearly completed. We have 13 ongoing activities. A major goal under Priority 4 Shaping Policy where all plan goals were to be revised as SMART Goals is complete.

Keri provided an update on the supplemental grant from the Administration for Community Living that ends in September 2024. The grant is for overcoming the effects of COVID-19 and there are several items in the state plan that directly relate back to the pandemic.

There are some unobligated funds that we have allocated to PIE's current contract to help facilitate some future discussions and identify additional strategies to address those issues that arose as a result of the pandemic for people with brain injury.

Keri also updated us that Liz of Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE) has created text only documents of State Plan to be more accessible for screen readers etc.

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

Liz provided an update on the preliminary results of the Statewide Brain Injury Needs Assessment.

The purpose was to identify progress, room for improvement, and activities as well as unmet needs. The goal is to have all the reporting complete for use by August 2024.

Breakout groups were asked to consider questions:

- 1) What surprises you about the data?
- 2) What seems to be working well in Nebraska for brain injury services?
- 3) Where are there still some concerns or gaps?

Group 1–Surprised about the data and how it can provide so much information from a few questions. Transportation is a gap that needs to be addressed in rural areas. Another gap is how to be involved when there isn't always a zoom meeting or telehealth. People with brain injuries are not being reached as the numbers continue to grow.

Group 2–Surprises were that medical conditions may not identify a brain injury, resources for respite care and whether there are enough resources available. There seems to be a lot of people in Nebraska that aren't being reached. There is a gap in the knowledge and education about the use of opioids by individual who experience a brain injury.

Group 3–It is nice to have so much data. A concern is transportation and the cost of transportation and the resources that are available in rural areas, such as modified vehicle repair. The data regarding the impact on work seemed surprisingly low. There are some gaps in education and outreach.

Group 4–There's a lack of data from rural areas and opioid use. The group discussed if there are any questions about cooccurring data and how it can have potential impacts on those with brain injuries.

TBI Registry Report 2023 – Andrew Ngochoch, DHHS Division of Public Health

Andrew was not able to report out at this time as the report has not been approved yet by DHHS. We'll add it to the September meeting agenda if it is approved by then.

TBI Registry Mailing Materials – Keri Bennett and Nancy Noha

Keri reported on the plans for the next mailing and invited the group to sit in on a small committee to recommend revisions to the TBI Registry Mailing List or materials. One State Plan activity is to suggest changes to the brochure to reach more people, making the materials more diverse, user friendly and accessible.

Another activity is to look at the mailings and try to reduce the number of letters returned for an incorrect address. It was decided to do a review of materials from other states, work with providers to get more info on how they use the registry, and also look at updating our brochures.

Keri asked for volunteers to suggest recommendations on the mailing and materials. Judy, Paula, and Terry volunteered.

Nancy suggested to start to modernize the brochures with QR codes to connect more people to resources.

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

Keri reported on the Needs Assessment component of the tool. It was developed to help close the gap between where we are versus where we want to be. Keri gave a background of how the current Self-Assessment came to be and listed the many past Needs Assessments that have been completed. There are past reports on the TBI website to review.

We do know how to assess needs and have created a plan to disseminate the surveys to more people. We could improve on using plain language, reaching more culturally diverse groups, disseminating the results, and sharing the costs of services.

Work continues to be needed on identifying a best methodology, training needs, barriers, and resources for family and caregivers.

The Brain Injury Summit is this fall, and we will get input on the draft State Plan.

Membership Recruitment – Carla Lasley and Nancy Noha

Carla reports the need for more members with lived experience of brain injury and Centers for Independent living, Independent Living Council, and public or private service providers.

Outreach has been handing out cards, meeting with support groups leaders and calling for membership in the newsletter. Nancy suggested looking to current members to recommend candidates for the council and updating the cards with photos, promoting that we meet remotely, and that we welcome the team approach of joining with a spouse or other caregiver. Small groups met to discuss ideas for recruiting new members and recommendations of new members.

Groups discussed the following ideas:

1. to reach out to medical providers, shelters, the VA and Goodwill.
2. Update the postcards and brochures and share with those agencies in your community, making connections and then letting Carla and Nancy know so they can follow-up.
3. Promote that members can be couples where they can be a replacement at meetings.
4. Have a pre-approved statement for posting to social media or emailing.

5. Promote materials at the Grand Island 7/20, Kearney 7/12 and Lincoln 7/27 Disability Pride events.
6. Jodi is on the State Independent Living Council and will send the group an email.
7. Connect with Special Education contacts, local churches, and specific contacts at hospitals or medical centers, and a pre-approved wording to provide to organizations or agencies to include in their own newsletters.

If follow up information is needed reach out to Carla or Nancy.

Contractor reports and ACL Workgroup Updates (written reports only) – Keri Bennett

Written reports were sent out with the meeting agenda. No questions or concerns were raised. Keri reported that there are not a lot of updates. ACL presentation links were sent out with meeting materials. Work groups continue to meet, contact Keri or Tresa if you'd like to be involved.

Annual BI Conference Report – Liz Gebhart-Morgan of PIE

Liz reported that it was a great conference and reported on her evaluation of the Brain Injury Conference. About 168 people were registered and 157 attended with most people attending identifying as professionals. One third of attendees had attended 5 or more Brain Injury Conferences.

Keri checked with Andrew again to see if he was able to present and he was not. It will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Roundtable Discussion: All Members

None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Add Andrew to meeting in September

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. was made Tamara Snider and seconded by Carla Lasley, motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.

Next Meeting Dates:

September 13 and December 13