



Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM

December 9, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Recording Link:

<https://educationne.zoom.us/rec/share/bGVgXBv529lLtQuQ3Z4tyhsfOsvbqmKNjCzhfc9u6-FskR6hrge5kKtsp4hxqzCy.cS0vUHTMsmRLB1dT>

Passcode: b+zh6YKX

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, Emaly Ball, Shari Bahensky, Penny Clark, Ashley Davis, Madison Wurtele (substitute for Tania Diaz), Karen Houseman, Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Zoe Olson, Michelle Ploeger, Peggy Reisher, Tamara Snider, Shawna Thompson, Darsha Pelland, Dennis Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cindy Hoffschneider, Sarvinoz Kadyrova, TinaMarie Fernandez

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha

VISITORS/PRESENTERS: Alyssa Burr and Chris Stewart, Resource Facilitator, Brain Injury Alliance; Dawn Rockey, CASA; Anna Cole; Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, Central Mediation Center

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 11:00 a.m. following the “**My Brain, My Self**” **Brain Injury Resource Facilitation and Surveillance Pilot Presentation**” at 10:00 am.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 MINUTES:

The minutes of September 16, 2022 were reviewed. **A motion was made by Zoe Olson and seconded by Peggy Reisher to approve the minutes. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Keri Bennett announced the TBI Registry Report will be postponed to the March Meeting. **A motion was made to approve the agenda with the revision by Karen Houseman and seconded by Carla Lasley. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

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. Will the proposed additions in red font make the State Plan strategies more responsive to the specific needs of children, youth, adults, older adults, and individuals from diverse groups who experience brain injury? 2. Which strategies do you believe you can help implement either as an individual or representative of an organization? 3. Do you think written letters of commitment from members would help demonstrate the Council's commitment to improving Nebraska's system of care for people impacted by brain injury?

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

General discussion carried forward from the breakout groups:

The state plan is broad and robust but focused to be achievable. We do need to identify which organizations will be responsible or able to participate for various parts of the plan, implementation steps and pieces needed to make the goals achievable. We need to ensure we are working on strategies and moving forward on the plan objectives. We need to have objectives for the goals to be measurable in our progress, a framework on

how to implement it effectively and timely. We will want to review and update resources periodically.

There was discussion about concerns of being asked to write letters of commitment. As a Council all are committed to moving the plan forward, but would like more concrete action steps and how it is going to be achieved before committing individually to specific pieces.

The intent is to take a section of the plan each quarterly meeting and focus on putting forth implementation strategies, identifying responsible parties, and fleshing out details of that section.

The state plan is an on-going document and not all of the steps will be accomplished within this grant cycle. The Administration on Community Living encourages/requires every state to have a state plan in place that helps direct the statewide work that is being done around brain injury. We can prioritize areas that the Council sees as top priorities, i.e. areas which are not being addressed by others in the state, with the resources available now and move other parts to the background to be revisited in the future. The plan itself does not spell out every step and all the work needed to accomplish the goals, as it is a guiding document of the work that needs to be done.

A motion was made by Ashley Davis and seconded by Karen Houseman to approve the plan as presented with additions. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 12 Yes, 4 abstained, there were no objections.

OPERATING PROCEDURES REVISIONS:

Keri Bennett reviewed the proposed revisions listed on the agenda. **Peggy Reisher made a motion to approve the revisions and the motion was seconded by Carla Lasley. Motion carried by unanimous consent, no objections.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership:** Carla Lasley reported the committee will be meeting soon to recruit individuals with brain injury/family members to meet the 50% quota for members. Dale Johannes resigned and representatives from the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and Aging are still needed.

- **Public Policy:** Tiffany Armstrong reported the committee needs members to review legislation and help process letters for and against bills during the 2023 Legislative Session.

Contracts: Keri Bennett reported the Council web page will no longer be using the Michigan training platform on the website as they are no longer supporting the material.

We will be either including our Nebraska specific information into the curriculum being developed by Dr. Dillahunt-Aspillaga, or as a separate training.

Peer Support: Elizabeth Troyer-Miller asked council members when they review the outcomes of the NIBIN project to not let perceptions affect their ability to recognize what is important and how we can make plans for the next steps. A meeting will be held on January 6 for this process.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business –

Set 2023 Meeting Dates:

March 3; June 23; September 8; December 15.

The format for future meetings was discussed. Support for virtual meetings outweighed in person meetings. Hybrid meetings were also discussed, and it was recommended to try one possibly in June 2023 to assess if it is a feasible option for the Council.

Roundtable Discussion

Karen Houseman:

The DD Medicaid Waiver for TBI is up for renewal in October 2023. There will be a stakeholder meeting this spring to solicit public comments about statewide expansion of services. There are challenges because of a lack of experienced providers, therefore, training would be needed.

Peggy Reisher:

Report of the Trust Fund will be available in February.

The annual conference will be March 23-24, 2023 in person in Kearney.

Working on establishing a national registry for brain injuries.

Brenda Horner has replaced Sheila Kennedy as the Resource Facilitator for the Grand Island area.

Training is being done for Lincoln Regional staff and Healthy Blue Behavioral Health.

Peer Mentor training will begin in January.

Keri Bennett:

The registry mailing of more than 6,000 letters for 2021 has been completed. She received more than 60 phone calls from letter recipients. The majority were inquiring why they received the letter. Due to the time lag between their injury and receiving the letter they had forgotten about their injury or did not associate it with a brain injury specifically.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. by Zoe Olson and seconded by Peggy Reisher, motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.