



**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Online via ZOOM
June 19, 2020**

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, Tim Burton, Jerry Bryan, Penny Clark, Ashley Davis, Tania Diaz, Mark Draper, Cindy Hoffschneider, Karen Houseman, Sarvinoy Kadyrova, Kristen Larsen, Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Zoe Olson, Vaishali Phatak, Peggy Reisher, Larry Roos, Shawna Thompson, Frank Velinsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dale Johannes

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez

VISITORS: Teresa Coonts, Jo Gunderson, Chris Stewart

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:02a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 13TH MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from March 13, 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mark Draper and seconded by Peggy Reisher to approve the March 13, 2020 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 Kristen Larsen and seconded by Zoe Olson 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

Frank Velinsky discussed a document he provided council members earlier regarding Public Health Licensure Requirements that would impact Medicaid AD waiver requirements. Frank shared he thinks this is something we need to be concerned about sharing there has not been an answer to what home healthcare providers can be providing. Frank shared in his opinion he thinks it may be a mistake, stating this type of situation creates distraction from the daily needs of home healthcare. Frank stated he believes health and human services needs to comment on this sooner rather than later. Zoe Olson shared this ruling

came from CMS last year and chore providers had to be licensed and approved for bathing, stating this is not an anomaly. Frank stated there are huge implications with this. Zoe shared in her experience they did not have any healthcare providers last year who were licensed so they had to find people who would get licensed although those licensed individuals did not receive an increase in their pay. Zoe shared she is no longer in this field but suggested to reach out to the local Area Agency on Aging who are well aware of this licensing issue. Kristen Larsen suggested contacting Disability Rights Nebraska regarding an Olmstead complaint. Keri Bennett shared she would be willing to help organize and facilitate another call to discuss this issue further.

No additional public comment was shared.

INTRODUCTIONS & COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Judy Nichelson shared new members have joined the council. Keri Bennett announced new members. New members: Shawna Thompson, Cindy Hoffschneider, Karen Houseman, Penny Clark and Larry Roos, introduced themselves and shared their connection with brain injury and how they believe they can make a difference by serving on the BIAC. Current members and visitors introduced themselves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Judy Nichelson discussed committee written reports which were provide via email. Judy asked if there were any questions regarding the reports. Judy asked Emaly Ball if the Advocacy Committee needed any assistance regarding their work with BI Registry individuals currently only receiving a letter for one initial brain injury, and the committee's work to change this to have multiple letters sent if new injuries occur. Emaly shared they are waiting to hear back from Andrew Ngochoch for a public comment and hearing in order to submit comments. Keri Bennett shared that committee will be reviewing the statute during its next meeting and devising a game plan to address this issue. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg shared Andrew will be able to share data and information but not able to do any policy work. Mark Draper shared he appreciated this concern being brought up discussing a lot of things change over periods of time and it would be great to gather new information.

BRAIN INJURY TRUST FUND UPDATE

Peggy Reisher reported they are working to form the 12-person committee sharing approximately 14 individuals applied stating the Governor has 90 days after July 15th to make the appointments of members. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg discussed that UNMC will manage this funding and she has worked on completing this contract stating things are in the works which is positive things are moving forward. Peggy discussed UNMC has been working on drafting some by-laws. Keri Bennett asked what the time line maybe for the Governor contacting required agencies which Peggy reported she does not know.

BIA-NE SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Peggy Reisher shared as part of the ACL Grant they are working to develop a Speakers' Bureau. Peggy shared they would like any council members or other individuals who would be interested in sharing their stories living with brain injury as well as willing to share Brain Injury Basics Education. Peggy discussed they would utilize speakers in their individual areas of interest such as the aging community, education, etc. Peggy reported if you are interested or know someone who may be to please contact Chris Stewart at (402)423-2463. Christ Stewart discussed sharing your story inspires others and is of great benefit; reporting currently there are about 15 speakers they utilize for presentations. Peggy Reisher discussed different organization who the bureau will actively reach out to via member contacts to spread brain injury information, sharing initially the bureau will need to do outreach and advocacy. Peggy stated if anyone has contacts or speaking opportunities to please reach out to herself or Chris. Amy Levering shared Bob Gomez had a Speaker's Bureau with the League of Human Dignity which she was a part of sharing she spoke about once a month, sharing they reached out to groups via an education packet and there were many different groups that were interested in the speakers sharing there are not a lot of

disability groups with speakers bureaus stating she thinks this will be something great. Chris Stewart discussed community groups are where she would like to start their focus. Peggy Reisher shared if anyone is interested, they will be given assistance and talking points and will have support as a speaker. Sara Kadyrova discussed if individuals do not have transportation or ability to attend speaking opportunities asking if there would be any transportation or meal assistance available. Chris Stewart discussed if an individual is more comfortable sharing via writing survivor stories can be shared via the website. Carla Lasley discussed resources for travel expenses for the Speaker Bureau if this was addressed. Peggy reported at the current time there are not funds for those expenses.

2020 LIVING WITH BRAIN INJURY SUMMIT

Keri Bennett reported they are working on the 2020 Living with Brain Injury Needs Survey with Will and Joyce Schmeekle discussing things have been delayed due to current situations. Keri reported they are currently drafting the questions and looking at how they can accomplish the Summit this Fall. Keri shared she is looking to moving the summit into October and offering several different sessions online with possibly a few during the day and some in the evening to hopefully increase participation. Keri stated she is looking for council volunteers to help assist and plan the summit. Peggy Reisher, Amy Levering, Chris Stewart, Judy Nicholson, Emaly Ball, Sara Kadyrova and Frank Velinsky volunteered. Karen Houseman asked if for the survey if they have had success in reaching a variety of demographics and cultural backgrounds such as individuals with English as a second language. Keri Bennett shared that she does not believe they have reached a very wide variety of demographics in the past stating they are definitely open to assistance and ideas to expand the reach of the survey to a more diverse group of respondents.

NE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Kristen Larsen reported the council has launched a program hiring a consultant, Mark Friedman to help bring person-centered planning and training to Nebraska. Kristen shared person-centered planning is a system to ensure a plan is based on what a person wants not based upon what the system has to offer. Kristen stated they have an advisory committee and it will be beneficial to work in collaboration with the BIAC and the ACL grant which also have a person-centered component. Kristen discussed training 500 service providers is a large undertaking and to look for more information coming soon. Peggy Reisher shared there will be a ZOOM training offered as well for individuals who may not be comfortable utilizing ZOOM for these trainings. Keri Bennett asked where people can look for updates on this. Kristen reported she will reach out to Mark Friedman for the website information where all this information will be available. Peggy discussed this project is still currently in the very preliminary stages so not much information is available but it will be shared in the future when more things are made available. Karen Housman reported DHHS will be the owners of the training materials and she likes the idea of having a central place for the public to access the information.

COVID-19 CHALLENGES

Keri Bennett discussed resources that have been shared for individuals with brain injury and COVID-19. Keri asked members if they have been made aware of any situations of those effected by brain injury and Covid-19, asking how things are going and if individuals are able to access resources. Peggy Reisher shared they are planning on have Dr. Mike Hall present July 22nd from 1-2pm discussing how COVID-19 is causing neurological problems. Brooke Murtaugh reported she is in contact with different rehab hospitals across the country with patients experiencing neurological impacts from Covid-19 as well as questioning if those with brain injury are more impacted by COVID. Brooke shared there are not a lot of answers but a lot of questions and discussion. Cindy Hoffschneider shared the experience of a family member without a brain injury that did contract COVID-19 now experiencing a lot of neurological issues. Brooke Murtaugh discussed that a lot of these patients who were critically ill there is a lot of critical care syndrome with many issues they are trying to filter out and determine the cause and effects of the

neurological injuries. Peggy Reisher shared this is an important thing for the community to keep aware of and continue to learn more about and how we can help educate and advocate for these individuals.

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 11:58a.m. with a motion made by Emaly Ball and seconded by Mark Draper. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**