



Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM

March 22, 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
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Draft Meeting Minutes

Recording Link: https://educationne.zoom.us/rec/share/jrvcmhh2zMMsP-WyytxmGprOJ5yPgdJD6Oxqv_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): Tiffany Armstrong, Emaly Ball, Jodi Bodnar, Ashley Davis, RaLynn Jacobsen, Sarvinoz Kadyrova, Carla Lasley, Amy Levering, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Darsha Pelland, Michelle Ploeger, Paula Dodds substitute for Peggy Reisher, Shirley Doupnik substitute for Tamara Snider, Shawna Thompson, Madison Wurtele

MEMBERS ABSENT: Penny Clark, Karen Houseman, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Trista Peterson, Peggy Reisher, Tamara Snider, Dennis Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha, Shawn Roberts

VISITORS/PRESENTERS: Liz Gebhart-Morgan-PIE, Zaida Ricker, Maria Crowley, Aubrey Gutierrez

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions:

Members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Approval Of December 15, 2023 Minutes:

The minutes of December 15, 2023 were reviewed. A motion was made by Carla Lasley and seconded by Michelle Ploeger to approve the minutes. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.

Approval Of Agenda:

The Agenda was reviewed and Judy mentioned that Maria and Zaida only have a limited time to speak during the TBI Act Reauthorization and TBI Awareness Day section and recommended that Council Members wishing to speak about the Brain Injury Awareness Activities can speak during the Roundtable section. A motion was made by Madison Wurtele and seconded by Carla Lasley to approve the agenda with the changes. There were no objections, motion carried by unanimous consent.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Brain Injury State Plan – Keri Bennett

Now that we have the state plan nearly complete we will be posting the final documents and text only documents to the website. We have flexibility to when we can open the plan up for Public Comment. The goal is to do that every 2 years, and we would take some time to work through the Needs Assessment data and post it for public comment by the end of 2024 and potentially make changes going into 2025.

Keri invited members to provide letters of commitment outlining how they support activities in the State Plan. If you have any questions, contact Keri. Keri also provided a call for volunteers to go through the Needs Assessment data when it is available.

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

Liz provided an update on the 3 surveys that have been launched focusing on rollout, dissemination approach, and next steps.

The rollout was very intentional and broad, with a goal of reaching as many organizations and individuals as possible. A promotional flyer included the link and a QR code to the landing page where all three surveys were available.

Dissemination efforts were strategic and surveys were sent to 190 agencies, including support groups, nonprofits, health department, etc. A priority was to reach out to underserved regions and individuals across the state. The survey was launched and then promoted at the Brain Injury Conference with printed flyers in the attendee packets. Follow up will go out in April with the flexible deadline being April 12th.

Responses so far were reviewed, and Liz feels good about where results are at so far.

TBI Act Reauthorization and TBI Awareness Day activities recap – Maria Crowley and Zaida Ricker of NASHIA

Zaida presented an update and was excited to witness all of the support of the TBI Awareness Day activities by agencies and individuals advocating for reauthorization of the TBI Act and appropriations. The TBI Act is the only federal legislation that directly supports state TBI program efforts. Requested changes include expanding the legislation to include both non-traumatic and traumatic brain injury, and decreasing the required state match amount, which has been a barrier to some states applying for the grants. Work is being done to support the data system so that it provides better information.

The legislation went through and included almost all the changes and will now go to the House and Senate. It is expected to pass. Zaida reminded members to contact their members of congress to support the act.

Maria stated there was an impressive number of people at Capitol Hill supporting the TBI Act, there was a Brain Injury Awareness fair with 27 exhibitors and a lot of representation from veterans.

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

Andrew Ngochoch did not attend, so there was no presentation. Keri will reschedule with him for a future meeting.

Commented [BK1]: Add: Andrew Ngochoch did not attend, so there was no presentation. Keri will reschedule with him for a future meeting.

ACL's Strong Infrastructure Components for Brain Injury (BI): State Self-Assessment Tool, Small Committee Report – Jodi Bodnar and Keri Bennett

Jodi shared feedback from the small committee on how we could use the new tool. Members thought the tool should be more visible and available. Keri reported the committee took a deeper look at the tool, and though it is not required, it was originally developed as a tool for grantee states to gauge and measure their progress in developing TBI program infrastructure. Asked committee to take a deeper look at each question to see where we are with services. Keri proposed that this be a standing item on the agenda to review one or more of the components in each quarterly meeting.

Lunch

Mid-Year Report on the Brain Injury Assistance Act– Liz Gebhardt-Morgan on behalf of BIA-NE

Reports-Brain Injury Assistance Act Dollars received by BIA. Primary focus is on resource facilitation. The 1st priority is the growth of the number of resource facilitators providing services across the state. The 2nd priority is training for providers. 23 trainings were offered with over 500 individuals trained. See attached report for information on the remaining priorities.

The report goes to the Brain Injury Oversight Committee to demonstrate what resources are being used in supporting the 7 Priorities.

Committee Reports (written reports) – Written reports were sent out with the meeting agenda. No questions or concerns were raised.

Public Policy – Tiffany Armstrong

Update on motorcycle helmet law that is in the final reading; it will get rid of educational requirements and will likely pass. Lb1417- Bill to eliminate or change groups or councils that are not active. The Brain Injury Oversight Committee was included in this bill but an amendment will be made to keep the Committee as is.

Membership Recruitment – Carla Lasley

See attached report. Gave out postcards at Brain Injury Conference. The BIAC has 3 openings, and there is a QR code on the postcard to go to the application. Resource facilitators were approached recently to present information to support group members. The next membership committee meeting Carla will put on the agenda to dig deeper into finding more members with lived experience of brain injury.

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

There were no questions or comments.

Commented [BK2]: Add: There were no questions or comments.

BIAC Member Conflict/Duality of Interest Declarations – Keri Bennett

Every year council members declare any known or potential conflicts of interest. Following are any declarations of a potential conflict/duality of interest.

Name	Declarations of Potential Conflicts of Interest
Tiffany Armstrong	Madonna Rehab, Brain Injury Oversight Committee
Emaly Ball	None
Jodi Bodnar	none
Penny Clark	none
Ashley Davis	none
Karen Houseman	

Name	Declarations of Potential Conflicts of Interest
RaLynn Jacobsen	None
Sarvinoz Kadyrova	None
Carla Lasley	Nebraska VR
Amy Levering	None
Brooke Murtaugh	Madonna Rehab
Judy Nichelson	North Platte Brain Injury Group
Peg Ogea-Ginsburg	None per email
Darsha Pelland	NDE
Trista Peterson	None/Resigned from BIAC 4/8/24
Michelle Ploeger	None
Peggy Reisher	BIA-NE via email
Tamara Snider	Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska
Dennis Thompson	
Shawna Thompson	NP Brain Injury support group
Madison Wurtele	Disability Rights, Munroe-Meyer Connecting Families

Unfinished Business – none

New Business – Ashley asked for an update on the TBI Waiver. With Karen not feeling well, Keri will forward Karen’s slides from her presentation at the Annual BI Conference to Ashley. Tiffany reported that they are focusing on getting more providers for providing services.

Roundtable Discussion – Members reported on their Brain Injury Awareness activities

Paula Dodds of BIA reported that there were high numbers for the Brain Injury Conference in Kearney.

Keri updated the group on the My Brain, My Self pilot that works with 5 individuals. See attached report. The clinical team meets weekly, and the barrier is there are not enough people in the pilot for the project.

North Platte had a proclamation by the mayor declaring March Brain Injury Awareness Month. Shawna has a North Platte social media page and posts updates daily for Brain Injury Awareness Month. North Platte Brain Injury Awareness (We Get It) Damaged not Dumb, shares educational information.

Keri reported on the Functional Capacities Assessment service, a recently launched service within VR. As of March 1, 2024, Quality Living provides client evaluations which can be done virtually.

Amy shared that her family tries to support all the local businesses and organizations possible, by attending festivals and fairs. They take their grandkids and have found such wonderful organizations giving away bike helmets and promoting safety, and she wants to recognize all the things that are done to protect children.

Adjourned: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. by Darsha Pelland and seconded by Ashley Davis, motion carried by unanimous consent, there were no objections.

2024 Meeting Dates:

June 14, September 13, December 13