

**Brain Injury Advisory Council
Center for People in Need
March 8, 2013**

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "conferences & meetings" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Davis, Dymacek, Gordon, Hausmann, Hawley-Grieser, Hoogeveen, Hux, Johannes, Lehman, Stec (for Terryberry-Spohr), Velinsky, Verzal, Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADVISORS PRESENT: Wardlow

STAFF PRESENT: Bennett, Kasl, Noha, Ransom

VISITORS PRESENT: Kate Kulesher Jarecke, BIA-NE; Jeff Stec, Madonna Rehabilitation; Alicia Klein, Good Samaritan Hospital Intern

The meeting of the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:00 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. A motion was made by Gary Hausman and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motions. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of December 7, 2012 were reviewed. A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Mary Gordon to approve the December 7, 2012 meeting minutes 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 back table.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Johannes announced that March 30th is the 25th anniversary of his injury. He's having party and the Council is invited. In the past 10 years he's started to see some changes in the awareness and availability of resources around brain injury.

COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In an effort to learn more about the members on the Council, three members were asked to give a more detailed introduction of themselves and describe their interest in brain injury.

Dale Johannes – described the accident he endured at age 17. After college he worked for Quality Living for nine years so that he could use his experience to help someone else. He has been on the Council since 2006.

Tiffany Davis – works as a social worker at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. She worked at Easter Seals during college. She entered social work because she has a desire to help all people with a disability.

Rose Dymacek – taught at LPS in special education and now works at the Dept of Education in the special education office. In her position she was charged with working on the TBI grant and with this Council. She described that there has been slow movement with many roadblocks but progress is being made. Currently she is working with the BIRSST teams. Her nephew has a brain injury and has gone through many difficulties. She has both a professional and personal interest in brain injury.

HRSA FUNDING UPDATE

Keri Bennett reported that HRSA requested a one-year funding extension to the current grantees. The extension was given and Keri submitted the necessary paperwork. On March 4, an email announced that the grant amount could be reduced due to sequestration. Keri feels that the Council needs to move forward confidently with the goals. There are some funds left from the current year that will carry-over to the next year.

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Nancy Noha shared an awareness flyer that was created to celebrate the work that has been accomplished by the Council. A statewide ad will run in the newspapers over the next two weeks and a Department of Education news release was written. Information has been going out through electronic networks across the state.

BIA-NE QUARTERLY REPORT

A written Brain Injury Association of Nebraska report was provided by Kate Kulesher Jarecke .

- Nebraska is one of five states that have been picked by BIAA to pilot the national bowling fundraiser. It will be held on March 9, at a Lincoln and an Omaha bowling alley from noon to 2:00. Teams in other towns can participate and the town that raises the most funds will be the town added to the project the next year. Over 160 bowlers have registered with about \$23,000 raised so far. BIA is now a member of the Community Services Fund.
- The Brain Injury Conference will be held in Kearney, on April 4 & 5. About 100 participants have registered so far. A professional track that will begin earlier than the rest of the conference is being piloted this year. A social will be held on Thursday night. Nancy had brochures and registration ends March 25.
- March 13 will be Brain Injury Awareness Day at the Capitol. Kate provided legislative bill talking points for members to use when talking with Senators.
- The Cranes are currently at the Hastings Museum and then will go to Ballet Omaha.
- A written annual report of achievements was shared.

- A Head Trauma video is being created with Tiffany Verzal.
- Trainings were held in Bellevue, Council Bluffs, and Lincoln.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Certificates were awarded to members for their commitment to and work with the Brain Injury Advisory Council.

Susan Buettner has resigned from HHS and will be leaving her position with the Council.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Juvenile Justice Task Force

Keri Bennett reported:

- A screening pilot with VR clients will be done since parental consent restrictions in the juvenile justice system were prohibiting a pilot there. VR Transition Counselors will apply this screen as well as VR counselors who work with Juvenile Justice Programs. The HELPS screen is going to be used as was suggested by the Council. A contract is signed with the Center on Children Families and the Law (CCFL) to work on the project.

Task Force on Children and Youth

Rose Dymacek reported:

- Madonna, LPS, NDE, and BIA are involved in creating a document for parents, the medical community and teachers to inform them about “return to learn”. They are developing a “return to learn” model for Nebraska. They will put together information for BIRSST teams to share with parents, schools, doctors, etc.
- Working to further develop the screener.

Senior Task Force

Tiffany Davis reported:

- The task force is waiting for the screener data to be analyzed and put into a report. They will be able to set goals after the data is reported. All the screens have been collected.

Veterans Task Force

Lori Wardlow reported:

- Colleges are talking with the Task Force about their training needs. This has been a fruitful contact with Veterans returning to school.
- Training with the Council Bluffs police department and two-day trainings in Lincoln, North Platte and Bellevue were held.
- They are focusing a lot on the schools right now. There is more awareness to be done with staff.

Kate also mentioned that the BIA and the Veterans Task Force have worked closely together. With the Task Force being part of the Council it is not possible to apply for grants. It may be a good option to move the Veterans Task Force to the BIA so that they can apply for grants and charge for trainings. The Council can still be a supporting partner with the Task Force. The Council's grant included a section on Veterans so the initiatives would still fall under the grant proposal. Frank felt that separating this Task Force from the Council and other task forces would detract from the other task forces since the Veterans are a hot topic right now and bring a lot of attention to TBI. Others felt that it should be the goal for the task force work to grow enough that it can eventually move out on its own and sustain itself. Keri mentioned that the definition of task force is that it's a temporary group that is striving to meet a specific list of goals.

Rose Dymacek moved and Karen Hux seconded a motion to move the Veterans Task Force to the BIA.

VOTE: *aye* - Armstrong, Davis, Dymacek, Gordon, Hausmann, Hoogeveen, Hux, Johannes, Lehman, Verzal, Vohland

nay – Velinsky

abstain – none

absent – Hawley-Grieser, Terryberry-Spohr

The motion carried.

HRSA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Keri Bennett reported that the Federal TBI program staff has been talking about measureable outcomes. It's difficult to collect data from all the different states and make a report. They need to show the federal legislature the impact that the grant dollars are having. Next year there will be specific data points that each state will report on. Other points outlined in the federal call were shared.

A Council Wellness Standing Committee was proposed to set goals for the Council, determine how to measure success, keep Operational Procedures current, write membership term procedures, develop an orientation for new members and develop other Council procedures. Mary Gordon and Tiffany Davis are interested in the Committee. It was suggested setting up a web space such as Base Camp to share documents and post comments.

Tiffany Davis moved that a Council Wellness Task Force be establish and discuss later if it should be a standing committee or remain a task force. Karen Hux seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2013 in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 with a motion made by Mary Gordon and seconded by Frank Velinsky. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**