

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Center for People in Need
Lincoln, NE
December 12, 2014**

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, Pattie Flury, Mary Gordon, Michelle Hawley-Greiser, Brett Hoogeveen, Karen Hux, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Peggy Reisher, Lori Terryberry-Spohr, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rose Dymacek, Gary Hausmann

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tania Diaz, Vicki Rasmussen

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Tresa Christensen, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha, Angie Ransom

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Council members introduced themselves to new members and staff of the council. Keri Bennett introduced Tresa Christensen who is now working part time under the HRSA grant. Peggy Reisher, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg and Kristen Larsen introduced themselves as new members to the council. Peggy Reisher is the executive director of the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska serving as a public member to the council. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg is the program coordinator at the Injury Prevention Program also serving as a public member. Kristen Larsen is replacing Mary Gordon following her retirement at the Department of Health & Human Services in DD Planning also serving as a public member to the council.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from September 26, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Karen Hux and seconded by ML Lehman to approve the September 26, 2014 meeting minutes. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. Tiffany Armstrong added an item regarding council bylaws for the afternoon. A motion was made by Karen Hux and seconded by ML Lehman to approve the agenda as amended. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tiffany Armstrong thanked and acknowledged Mary Gordon for her time spent serving on the council and presented her with a gift from council members. Mary thanked the council and shared her appreciation for her time spent with the council and her fellow council members.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Tiffany Armstrong announced that the meeting was an open meeting and the Open Meetings Law was posted on the side table.

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY TBI GRANT ACTIVITY REPORT

Tania Diaz shared a written report with the council sharing the work of Disability Rights Nebraska Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury. Tania shared they have been working on outreach with the Latino community and they have now hired a Spanish speaking employee who will now be able to increase their outreach and service to clients who are only Spanish speaking. Other highlights Tania shared from the report included:

- Developing a self advocacy education curriculum for persons with disabilities; 3 of the 5 modules have been completed to date.
- Collaborating with juvenile justice to collect data on juveniles' disability information. Tania shared currently the justice system is not collecting data on disabilities or brain injury but this will be changing thanks to the collaboration.
- Tania shared facility monitoring is a very crucial part of her job where she visits facilities and speaks to residents regarding their rights and reviews conditions.

Vicki Rasmussen stated she feels hearing from Tania regarding Disability Rights Nebraska is great, and suggested they share a report at every council meeting. Tania agreed this is something she could do.

RESOURCE FACILITATION SUMMIT PLANS

Keri Bennett reported the resource facilitation committee has met a few times via phone. February 12th, 2015 is the scheduled date for a one day summit to bring together persons from all over the state and gather their input regarding Nebraska's resource facilitation model. A copy of the summit agenda was provided to council members. Keri shared Susan Vaughn will help lead the summit conversation. Keri stated participants will be able to attend the summit via the VR video conferencing system if travel is prohibitive. Nancy Noha reported the following VR sites will be utilized for video conferencing of the Summit: Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte, Downtown Omaha, West Omaha, and Scottsbluff. Keri stated they are looking for volunteers to facilitate small group discussions at the VR sites during the summit. Keri shared the invitation for the summit is being prepared and will be sent out soon to the list of invitees that was contributed to by council members. Nancy Noha stated when council members receive the invitation they will be able to forward the invitation to others they feel should be included, and that can be tracked electronically. Nancy Noha reported the objectives for the meeting are to develop a state definition for resource facilitation, develop guiding principles for implementing a resource facilitation model in NE, and to prioritize services under the resource facilitation model of NE. Keri stated that as part of the summit there will be a working lunch but no food will be provided to attendees. Discussion took place of how to make clear to participants to bring their own lunch. Keri stated the invitation and agenda will be worked on and sent to members to review before its distribution. Keri stated they are looking for participants for the summit who are aware of what persons with brain injury need.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015

Tiffany Armstrong shared with members a ballot to elect the 2015 executive committee. Tiffany shared the executive committee needs to contain one individual who has sustained a brain injury, one family member of an individual with brain injury and two additional committee members. The council chair,

Tiffany Armstrong and representatives of each coordinating agency Pattie Flury, Rose Dymacek and Judy Vohland are appointed to the executive committee. Council members completed an anonymous ballot. Members elected for the executive committee were Gary Hausmann, M.L. Lehman, Brett Hoogeveen and Lori Terryberry-Spohr.

The new executive committee met and elected Lori Terryberry-Spohr as the BI Advisory Council Vice-Chair.

BYLAWS ADDITION

Tiffany Armstrong provided a written amendment to the council bylaws regarding renewal of council membership. Council members reviewed the new bylaw. Additional clarification to the written bylaw was added. Tiffany Armstrong read the finalized bylaw to the council. *“Prior to a council member’s term expiration the council chair or staff will ask the member if he or she desires to continue serving on the council assuming the council member wants to continue. The council chair or staff will create a ballot that each council member will use to vote privately at the beginning of the meeting before a council member’s term expires, the council chair or staff will compile the results and report to the council by the end of the meeting. Renewal of council membership will be determined contingent on majority vote.”* A council vote of the new bylaw was conducted.

VOTE:

Aye- Armstrong, Flury, Hoogeveen, Hux, Johannes, Larsen, Lehman, Ogea-Ginsburg, Reisher, Terryberry-Spohr, Velinsky, Vohland

Nay- None

Abstain- None

Absent- Dymacek, Hausmann, Hawley-Grieser

The bylaw amendment carried by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Senior Task Force

Dale Johannes reported he has been working with different administrators of nursing facilities regarding the correlation between falls and brain injuries. Dale shared he has been frustrated that many are not seeing the correlation of the behaviors following a fall to a head injury. Dale stated he believes progress is being made but not as quickly as he hoped.

Juvenile Justice Task Force

Keri reported this task force is winding down as it is not a targeted demographic. Keri shared some data from the UNL study of family and the law is still being received.

Council Wellness Committee

Tiffany Armstrong reported the PowerPoint is complete and the bylaws have been reviewed. Tiffany stated they will be touching base to see what else is needed of this committee.

Discussion of the current task forces and their utilization for the council was had by members. Council members stated they feel having small task force committees is important to get work done for the council, but perhaps the current task forces need to be restructured to be more useful.

BI REGISTRY REPORT & PACKET REVISIONS

Nancy Noha reported the changes to the registry report to remove personal information from caller stories were made. A copy of the report was provided to council members. Nancy stated that revisions to the brain registry letter are being made to make it more client friendly. The option of a Spanish letter will be noted on the new letter as well as referral to the website. Nancy stated she will provide the council a draft of the letter when it is completed.

BIA-NE QUARTERLY REPORT

Peggy Reisher provided a report of the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy were:

- Grant money was received for development disability provider training. A training will occur February 13th for DD providers.
- The veteran's task force continues to be strong. February 3rd a training dealing with traumatic brain injury and PTSD will be held in Grand Island.
- Work with the concussion coalition focusing on community club sport programs continues. 48% of survey respondents reported having concussion protocols in place. On February 15th a 90 minute training for club sports leaders to learn about concussion policies will be held in Omaha.
- Working on an injury prevention grant to fund club sport program trainings and to offer additional trainings in other parts of the state.
- Will be meeting with Lincoln parochial schools to address how they are incorporating Return to Learn as private schools have not been as informed on Return to Learn and its implementation as public school systems.
- Met with Senator Kate Boltz and discussed the possibility of the introduction of a brain injury trust fund.
- Has been sitting in on the Medicaid reform hearing committee.

TBI OMBUDSPERSON QUARTERLY REPORT

A written report was provided by BIA-NE including the NBIIC Data Set for the reporting period of October 2014 – November 2014. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy Reisher regarding the report were:

61 calls in October, November 36 calls

Have been reviewing the 60 hours allotted for Ombudsperson per the contract and Peggy stated that historically more than 60 hours per month have been needed and Peggy herself has spent over her allotted 6 hours a month on Ombudsperson calls. Peggy stated she feels they need 69 hours for Gina and 9 hours for herself to handle Ombudsperson calls. Vicki Rasmussen shared she believes the hours needed will always need to be increased as word spreads of the Ombudsperson, calls will continue to increase requiring more hours. Currently the grant funding contract of the Ombudsperson calls is only set up through May. Karen Hux inquired what the average monthly hours are as some months have been under 60 while many have gone over. Karen asked if months that are below 60 hours if those extra hours could add to funding for months that are over. Peggy stated yes those budgeted hours are available but an average of the year will need to be done. Brett Hoogeveen shared if the hours are close to what is necessary at this time it maybe more useful to wait to increase or evaluate the hours needed at the end of the budget year in May. Keri Bennett stated as the contract currently states an estimated

amount of 60 hours per month that some months going over and some below should work for billing, but she will verify this with Cathy. Keri stated there is typically a surge of calls following the distribution of the brain injury registry letter. Nancy Noha stated 1500 letters will be going out next week, but letters will not be going out again until late January.

OUTREACH & INFORMATION DISSEMINATION TO DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Keri Bennett reported that under grant guidelines it is required to reach out to linguistic and geographic diverse communities. Keri state Nebraska has an Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity, and stated they offer all kinds of training opportunities free of charge. Keri reported she has reached out to them for diversity training for grant staff and stated council members are welcome to participate in these trainings as well. Keri stated if interested training could be made available during a council meeting or class information could be given to members as to what the council may be interested in. Keri stated one of the issues she will be discussing with office is the brain injury registry letters that are in English and how to put in place steps for those who do not speak English to receive something they can read as well as how to handle callers that do not speak English. Keri stated if anyone is interested in the diversity discussion and trainings to email her and you can be included in the discussion.

2015 ANNUAL BI CONFERENCE

Tiffany Armstrong reported the Annual BI Conference will be held April 15th & 16th in Kearney. Tiffany stated the council has a booth at the conference and volunteers to staff the booth are needed. Karen Hux, Kristen Larsen and ML Lehman volunteered to assist at the booth.

2014 NASHIA SOS CONFERENCE

Keri reported the National Association of State Head Injury Advisors was held in October. Keri shared that Maryland did a study of nursing home data with a traumatic brain injury or anoxic brain injury and costs for those services. Keri reported the study found that the individuals with brain injury were among the most expensive in the facilities and those with anoxic brain injuries were receiving the most expensive care. Keri reported at the conference, John Corrigan presented data from the national TBI database and he stated well how a brain injury is not a singular event but a long term chronic disease process that needs to be managed. In general, systems of care do not view brain injury as a chronic disease. Keri reminded the council in her opinion we should look at brain injury as a lifetime event.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Keri Bennett proposed the following dates for 2015 council meetings:

- March 13, 2015
- June 26, 2015
- September 25, 2015
- December 11, 2015

No council members had objections to the dates.

Members discussed moving meetings to the NE VR office instead of the Center for People in Need. Members agreed meeting at the VR would be best.

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2015, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:15p.m. with a motion made by Judy Vohland and seconded by Frank Velinsky. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**