# **Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting**

**Center for People in Need**

**Lincoln, NE  
March 28th, 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, Lori Terryberry-Spohr, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

**MEMBERS ABSENT**: Rose Dymacek, Gary Hausmann, ML Lehman, Tiffany Verzal,

**ADVISORS PRESENT**: Vicki Rasmussen

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

**VISITORS PRESENT**: Peggy Reisher

*The meeting of the Nebraska 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 Karen Hux and seconded by Frank Velinsky to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motions. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**The minutes of December 6, 2013 were reviewed. Some typographical errors were pointed out and corrections to the documentation of which members made motions were made. A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Karen Hux to approve the December 6, 2013 meeting minutes as amended. 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**  
Frank Velinsky shared that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have implemented new regulations for defining settings for home and community based services. Comments were shared on current confusion of how the new regulations will possibly affect services of those with a BI, and if these new regulation will constrain or increase services. Mary Gordon shared she believes the new regulations will have a positive impact and that states will have 5 years to implement the new regulations. Pattie Flury shared that she does not think assisted living will be affected as they are already meeting most of the requirements of the new regulations. Keri Bennett questioned if the BI Council should take any action to research these new regulations. Brett Hoogeveen stated he would look into the Brain Injury Waiver and report his findings at the next Council meeting. Council members agreed that the BI Advisory Council should be aware of these new regulations in case of any concerns or needs. Mary Gordon shared that the transition plan does require public input to be enacted and the BI Council would be a good organization to provide that. Further discussion of the CMS regulations will be added to the agenda for June.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Ashley Hernandez was introduced as the new council recorder.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members must annually declare any conflict of interest. Tiffany asked for members to make their declarations:

* Tiffany Armstrong declared Maxim Healthcare Services.
* Dale Johannes declared he currently has no conflicts of interest he is aware of.
* Mary Gordon declared the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
* Frank Velinsky declared Care Tech, Inc.
* Lori Terryberry-Spohr declared Madonna Rehabilitation and The University of Nebraska.
* Judy Vohland declared Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation.
* Pattie Flury declared the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
* Karen Hux declared The University of Nebraska.
* Brett Hoogeveen declared Quality Living, Inc.

**ADDENDUM TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The following Conflict of Interest declarations were obtained from absent BI Advisory Council members following the March 28, 2014 meeting via email:

* Gary Hausmann declared no conflicts of interest (April 9, 2014)
* M.L. Lehman declared no conflicts of interest (April 10, 2014)
* Tiffany Verzal declared V2 Content (April 14, 2014)
* Rose Dymacek declared the Nebraska Department of Education for educator training (April 22, 2014)

**MEETING DATES**

Meeting dates were set for the next year. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

* June 27th, 2014
* September 26th, 2014
* December 12th, 2014
* March 13th, 2015

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Task Force on Children and Youth

* Karen Hux shared that an individual out of George Washington University will be doing research using a multi-state survey on the Safe Child Screen and other developmental testing to see if there is any correlation.
* Rose Dymacek was not available to share on BIRSST teams activities.
* Karen shared the task force was part of the recent OSEP call. The federal Office of Special Education wanted to know about the Birth to Age 3 screening tool and putting that to use in various settings. Cindy Brunken from Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) has been using the Safe Student Middle/High tool with all students being referred for special education services of all types. The task force has been getting strong positive feedback and interest. Over 120 people were on the OSEP call. The Safe Student tool has not been revised. The task force will plan to contact Cindy Brunken for additional feedback.

Juvenile Justice Task Force

* Shortly after launching the pilot, Nebraska VR offices stopped receiving juvenile justice referrals due to changes resulting from system reform efforts. Mark Mason (VR’s Program Director for Transition) and Keri have been working with Juvenile Probation administrators who are very interested in TBI screening and in increasing referrals to the VR offices. If the grant no-cost extension is approved the pilot will continue with UNL’s Center on Children, Family & the Law.
* Targeting the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference for 2015 to present on TBI.

Senior Task Force

* Dale Johannes reported currently waiting on the grant decision to dictate moving forward. Dale stated there are possibilities to go forward with or without grant funds. Dale shared he has a strong hope for increasing assistance the elderly population receives and a great potential to make progress with this population.
* BI Registry data was requested for the last 3 years to present to agencies to show the impact of TBI on the elderly population.
* Keri has been participating in the Nebraska Older Adult Falls Coalition. Falls are a very large concern for this group and many falls result in TBI.

Council Wellness Committee

Tiffany Armstrong reported that a power point presentation was created and is ready for member review and/or input.

**BIA-NE QUARTERLY REPORT**A written Brain Injury Association of Nebraska report was provided by Peggy Reisher. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy were:

* Awareness & outreach continued using the Forever Shaken video. They have found more places to distribute that video to. Connected with KFAB to have events posted. Did a half hour show for KZUM and they will be running PSAs.
* Bowling for Brain Injury needs assistance with promotion. Materials were provided to Council members. This year 100% of proceeds will benefit the local programs. Any ideas for sponsorship are appreciated.
* BIA board of Directors is currently looking for a new member with a financial background.
* Concussion awareness committee is giving guidance to state leadership. The 2nd Concussion Coalition meeting is scheduled for the end of April; the focus is how we can better educate physicians, club sports and return to learn outreach. If Return to Learn legislation is passed, Nebraska would be one of very few states to have this.
* The Annual Report was provided. Peggy stated that this was a productive year for the organization increasing diversity in their funding stream.

**TBI OMBUDSPERSON QUARTERLY REPORT**A written report was provided by BIA-NE including the NBIIC Data Set for the reporting period of December 2013 – February 2014. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy Reisher regarding the report were:

* Numbers of calls received per month: December- 64, January- 49, February 59. Averaging approximately 68 hours spent on calls a month.
* Examples of call types that are received were provided and what type of referral work is done.

**HRSA BI GRANT APPLICATION STATUS**

Keri Bennett shared that the current HRSA TBI Grant ends Monday, March 31st. A no-cost extension was requested to continue working on unfinished business of the grant. At this time the request has not be approved or denied. In the no-cost extension, “just in time” computer-based teaching modules were included. Michigan’s modules could be modified for Nebraska information and could be used in our state for training. Also, if approved the new grant would continue to fund staff time around Council meetings, etc. Ombudsperson and Brain Injury Registry activities will also continue if the extension is granted. The new grant would likely maintain the current funding level of $250,000 per year for 4 years. Award date of the new grant is June 1st.

Contingency Plan

If the grant extension or new grant is not granted a contingency plan option to continue BI Council meetings could be to use the video conference system through Nebraska VR. Another option is possibly shortening meetings to eliminate the need to provide meals. Council members discussed possibilities of using other donated meeting spaces, although mileage reimbursement and other expense reimbursement would not be available with no funding.

BI Advisory Council Vision for the Future

A document outlining the objectives and activities related to both the State Plan for Brain Injury Services and the new HRSA TBI grant application was reviewed by the Council. Keri shared that this document shows how the goals the Council has set can be met through the grant. This new grant will continue to assist the Council to move forward with its goals. Keri shared that the funding application for this new HRSA grant (the prescriptive requirements) were different than the grant 4 years ago. This new grant required a more comprehensive evaluation plan. The TBI Ombudsperson is not required in the new grant but it would make sense to continue until the state has Resource Facilitation services in place. Keri recommended that additional task forces or committees may be needed to meet new goals but that would be a decision of the BI Council members.

**BI COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Federal guidelines for Brain Injury Advisory Council membership was provided to Council members. Keri Bennett offered a few suggestions of ways to continue meeting these guidelines through membership. Currently the Council does not have a voting member of an organization or foundation representing individuals with traumatic brain injury in the state. Keri also suggested including a member representing Injury Prevention either as a voting member or technical advisor.

Keri reported that Lori Wardlow resigned as a technical advisor for the Council. Tiffany Davis’s position representing acute care still needs to be filled. It was also recommended to include someone from Western Nebraska as currently no one west North Platte is represented on the Council.

Council members discussed possible additions to the Council, but it was decided not to consider or change the structure of the Council until word on the grant is received. Keri shared that the Council application is posted online and will be distributed to Council members who can forward them on to potential new members.

**ADJOURN**The next meeting is scheduled for June 27th, 2014, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. with a motion made by Karen Hux and seconded by Frank Velinsky. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent**.