

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
December 11, 2015**

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, Michael Chittenden, Rose Dymacek, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Jason Kerkman (substitute for Peg Ogea-Ginsburg), Courtney Lankford, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Brooke Murtaugh, Kilee Oetjen, Peggy Reisher, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cameron White

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tania Diaz, Deanna Jesse, Vicki Rasmussen

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

VISITORS: Kate Bolz, Traci Miller, Tobias Orr, Cathy Wyatt

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:06 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 Frank Velinsky and seconded by Kristen Larsen to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from September 25, 2015 were reviewed. Two spelling errors were noted for correction. A motion was made by Michael Chittenden and seconded by Judy Vohland to approve the September 25, 2015 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 side table.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

BRAIN INJURY STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

Kate Bolz serves as Executive Director for the Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP) and Senator for Legislative District #29. She reported that NASP currently has thirty members. Kate shared NASP has been working with its developmental disability providers to provide assistance for those with

brain injury. Kate reported that unfortunately at this time these providers do not have a great funding stream to serve those with brain injury. Kate reported that NASP's first goal is to specifically train its providers on brain injury best practices as well as connect individuals with brain injury with appropriate services under the Aged and Disabled (A&D) Waiver. Kate reported at this time only two providers are working with the A & D Waiver and the goal is for all providers to have the necessary information on the waiver program. Kate stated they are positioned to do a training regarding the waiver in the next couple months and there will be the opportunity to serve more individuals with brain injury. Kate reported that the provider training will include the rules and parameters of the A & D Waiver, as well as staff training on the needs of individuals with brain injury and independent skills building training. Kate asked the council how to connect individuals with brain injury with the service providers. Courtney Lankford discussed a personal experience with brain injury in her family and the possibilities of the resource facilitators were discussed. Judy Vohland stated that in the western part of the state communities have community health partnerships which work to find services from many agencies and stated that could be a great resource to reach out to. The possibility of adding resources to the brain injury registry letter was discussed. It was discussed that at this time since programs are in the pilot stages it is best to keep the referral to the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska but additional resources could definitely be added to the letter in the future. Kate reported in addition to provider training they are working on answering the question, "How do we build capacity for those with brain injury in the state?" Kate stated they are concerned about creating excitement with providers to serve this population but then worry there may not have resources beyond the A & D waiver to sustain the services needed. Kate Bolz reported she and Peggy Reisher held a stakeholder meeting this fall and they will be reconvening that group to develop proposed administrative strategies to better serve those with brain injury. Some possible strategies include a Medicaid buy in, a cost sharing program that was modeled in Iowa, expanding services from the existing brain injury waiver, creating more access and flexibility in the A & D Waiver. Kate stated she hopes this meeting will occur late December or early January.

Tania Diaz asked about a brain injury trust fund, Kate reported there was a strategy session to discuss the traumatic brain injury trust fund. Kate reported they have been working on the legislation for a couple years and last year presented legislation that would establish the trust fund which was well received but was not voted out of committee due to needing a vehicle to establish funding. Kate reported this summer they established some potential funding sources and senators have been supportive in creating a bill with resources behind it to establish a brain injury trust fund. Senator Bolz shared she is working on a bill to establish the Brain Injury Trust Fund. Kate reported it is her understanding that the helmet repeal bill will be prioritized again which can create some challenging timing for presenting the Brain Injury Trust Fund bill. Peggy Reisher stated in regards to the helmet law it is very important for constituents to contact their senators. Kate shared there has been conversation about creating an Olmsted plan for the state. Council members discussed last year's filibuster of the helmet repeal as well as amendments that have and could potentially show up on the floor.

WIOA PRESENTATION

Pat Bracken, a program director with Nebraska VR was introduced. Pat discussed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which was passed in July 2014 to promote program alignment at the Federal, State, local and regional levels while reaffirming the ongoing role of American job centers and requiring coordination of key programs. Pat reported there are six core partners four out of the Department of Labor and two out of the Department of Education, which includes Vocational Rehabilitation. Pat reported that all states are to develop either a unified strategic plan or a combined state plan. Pat shared a major challenge in creating the plan is that final regulations have not been released yet. Pat reported that with WIOA there will be six core programs which will be required to

report on common performance indicators: percentage of workers that entered employment, percentage of workers that retained employment, median wages of workers, measurable skill gains of workers and effectiveness of services to employers. Pat shared that in Nebraska the plan is to create a combined plan which will be released to the public on January 4th with a public hearing to follow tentatively set for February 17th, and the due date for the final report is March 3rd. The effective date for state unified plans is July 1, 2016. Pat shared WIOA streamlines and strengthens strategic roles of workforce development boards. Pat discussed WIOA improvements to the American Job Center system. Pat reported some of the cross themes that are being emphasized include working with youth to provide pre-employment transition services (PETS). Five service activities will be implemented through PETS: job exploration counseling, work based learning experiences, post secondary training to meet job goals, soft skills, and independent living skills. Pat shared the role of VR will be to encourage and prepare individuals for competitive employment. WIOA moved VR from a single customer focus to a dual customer focus, now focusing on business employers as well as the individual seeking employment. Pat reported three new business account managers (BAMs) were hired to coordinate and assist employers. Pat shared they anticipate expanding BAM positions throughout the state over time. Pat discussed Rapid Engagement which is a philosophy that utilizes services that function to quicken the time a client can be engaged with an employer which is modeled from Vermont. Pat shared a Career Pathways grant was recently received by Nebraska VR which will be utilized to increase skills and training for individuals to progress within their careers. Keri shared she feels all of these new program opportunities that serve those with disabilities will be good for individuals with brain injury. In particular those with brain injury will benefit from the rapid engagement model.

BIA-NE REPORT

Peggy Reisher shared the BIA-NE Report from the last quarter. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy were:

- “Forever Shaken” is continuing to be distributed and viewed.
- Focusing this next year on a recognized attorney program.
- January 22nd hosting an attorney social in Omaha with a focus on concussion.
- Partnering with the NE Association for Trial Attorneys to include speakers on brain injury to present at their spring conference.
- Annual conference is scheduled March 31st and April 1st in Kearney with many great speakers including Dr. Steven Bonasera from UNMC, Dr. James Maddick and Rick Carter whom will discuss resiliency.
- Added a part time development director to the staff.
- Have been working to develop the resource facilitation brochure and intake forms.
- Working on finding interpreter services
- The word has begun to spread regarding resource facilitation case management and facilitators are serving individuals as well as still giving resource referral for those not receiving case management
- Veterans Task Force is meeting quarterly.
- Concussion awareness “When in Doubt Set Them Out” billboard is up on the Waverly exit of the interstate.
- “When in Doubt Sit Them Out” signs will be distributed throughout the state to school athletic directors in January.
- Press releases in regards to the *Concussion* movie starring Will Smith releasing December 25 are being worked on as well as information availability in local theatres where the movie is being played is being arranged.

- American Congress for Rehab Medicine is offering a training at Brian West on cognitive rehab best practice recommendations- at ACRM.org registration information can be found.

ATP DEMONSTRATION CENTER

Council members took a tour of the ATP Demonstration Center.

2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Armstrong reported two current openings on the executive committee. Tiffany reported herself, Judy Vohland, Rose Dymacek, and a representative from DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-term care are required to be on the executive committee in addition to the additional two council representatives council members are voting for today. Dale Johannes and Peggy Reisher were elected to the executive committee. Brett Hoogeveen was elected by unanimous vote as the council Vice Chair.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Tiffany Armstrong shared possible meeting dates for 2016 are March 18, June 17, September 16 and December 16. Judy Vohland moved and Dale Johannes seconded the motion to approve the proposed meeting dates as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Older Adults Committee

Cathy Wyatt shared that everyday 10,000 people are turning 65. 65 year olds are projected to live another 20 years and how are those 20 years going to be lived? Monday, December 21st the Older Adults Committee will be holding a conference call to set goals for 2016 with proposed steps to be reported on to the Brain Injury Advisory Council.

Reaching Diverse Populations Committee

Kristen Larsen reported they held a conference call on November 5th where they reviewed the brain injury registry letter that was translated into Spanish. Nancy Noha stated the brochure has also been translated into Spanish and will be ready soon. Committee members attended a 2 hour CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) training by Dana Bacon and are recommending the Council participate in a similar training with Dana at the March Council meeting. Frank Velinsky inquired if the training could be shortened to an hour. Discussion of the usefulness of the training and scheduling of the March agenda occurred. Kristen Larson moved that a CLAS training by Dana Bacon be added to the March 18th, 2016 meeting agenda, Judy Vohland seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous consent.**

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT DATE COLLECTION/EVALUATION

Keri Bennett shared with council members a Resource Facilitation Program Logic Model handout. Keri shared the handout is a snapshot of the discussions and work that has been occurring with the BIA-NE regarding data collection for the Resource Facilitation pilot. Keri reported data will be reported quarterly to the Schmeckles in order to show outcomes.

NE STATE PLAN FOR SYSTEMATIC SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BRAIN INJURIES

Keri Bennett provided the council with an update on the state plan for systematic services so members could see how the state plan and grant activities match up. Keri highlighted key information from the report. Keri summarized the state plan goal to promote individualized services for people with brain injury and the data collected and activities completed to meet that goal. Members discussed the key

performance indicator to increase the number of individuals who are identified as appropriately placed in neurobehavioral programs and the challenges collecting data on this indicator. Keri shared that under the information and referral component different states medical coding categorizations for brain injury are expanding and some testing is being done for the new categorization codes. Council members discussed which codes are being reported for the brain injury registry letters. Keri shared that goal #2 increasing access to community resources encompasses all areas of the grant. Keri shared copies of *The Cost of Traumatic Brain Injury in Nebraska in 2013* as part of the work for Goal #3: Increase funding for services. Keri reviewed Goal #4: Increase knowledge and awareness about brain injury and several of its key performance indicators. Members discussed the key performance indicator: increased media exposure about brain injury in Nebraska and cost challenges possible with media avenues.

TBI GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Keri Bennett reported that the TBI grant has moved to Administration on Community Living and shared a visual of who is included in the move. Keri shared that the NASHIA conference was held in October and she was able to present on a panel on TBI screening. Keri shared the TBI screening was well received. Keri shared there was a lot of positive informative sessions and there are PDF files available if anyone would like to be emailed copies. Keri reported that next year the conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio. Keri shared that one of the most powerful things she saw at the conference was a mask display created by individuals with brain injury.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Friday, March 18

Friday, June 17

Friday, September 16

Friday, December 16

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2016, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:44p.m. with a motion made by Dale Johannes and seconded by Frank Velinsky. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**