

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
June 26th, 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: Rose Dymacek, Gary Hausmann, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Brett Hoogeveen, Karen Hux, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Peggy Reisher, Lori Terryberry-Spohr, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiffany Armstrong, Pattie Flury, ML Lehman

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tania Diaz

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

VISITORS: Danna Bacon, Jeff Chambers, Brad Meurrens, Joyce Schmeackle, Will Schmeackle, Ryan Spohn

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:12 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Lori Terryberry-Spohr 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.

INTRODUCTIONS

Brad Meurrens was introduced as a visitor from Disability Rights Nebraska. All members present introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF March 13, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from March 13, 2015 were reviewed. A motion was made by Dale Johannes and seconded by Gary Hausmann to approve the March 13, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. A motion was made by Gary Hausmann and seconded by Karen Hux to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

DISABILITY ACTS NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Brad Meurrens shared his experiences in regards to bills pertaining to individuals with disabilities during the recent legislative session. Handouts summarizing the legislative agenda and report from Disability Rights Nebraska (DRN) were provided to members. Brad stated he feels this past session was a good session for disability related bills. Brad said approximately 10% of bills discussed during the legislative session directly or indirectly affected those with disabilities. Brad shared a few pieces of legislation that were proposed that DRN believed to have negatives for persons with disability were killed. LB 31 also known as the motorcycle helmet repeal law, which is opposed by DRN, was successfully stalled. Brad reported LB 472 or Medicaid Redesign Act which DRN supports for the expansion of Medicaid to eliminate the gap between Medicare and the open marketplace coverage was not killed but stalled. Legislative Resolutions 32, 33, 34 which continue the work of three investigative committees which DRN supports were adopted. Brad shared LB 516 to establish the TBI trust fund was stalled in committee but stated there is a very likely chance it will be brought up in the next session since it was not killed. LB 591 the Able Act is federal legislation that establishes savings account for persons with disabilities which models after 529 savings accounts for college students. Nebraska is one of the first states to introduce legislation to enact the Able Accounts. Brad stated the able accounts will allow persons to have savings accounts added to by any person up to \$14,000 a year for the disabled person to use for disability related expenses. The money in the account does not count against your eligibility for services. Part of the eligibility requirements is that the disability has to have been acquired by the individual before the age of 26. Second, if there is money left in the individuals account and the person passes away the money is given back to state aide and not the individual's successors. Brad shared that in the legislative interim period from June – January the legislature will have resolution sessions for information gathering. These will occur for LR 314 which will discuss the use of restraints and seclusion in schools and another resolution that deals with seclusion use in schools. Brad discussed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and reported there will be legislative work on how the new guidelines are to be implemented.

“PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE” TRAINING OVERVIEW

Danna Bacon from DHHS Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity was introduced. Danna presented an overview of trainings she can provide in regards to reaching culturally diverse populations. Handouts with the PowerPoint information and brochures were provided to all members. Danna gave a summary of the P3 (People are People are People) chapters and the different training options and CEUs available. Danna discussed training content on cultural intelligence. Danna noted that cultural intelligence is an ongoing journey following training. Danna discussed different training philosophies and perception. Danna shared examples of diversity exercises used in trainings. Danna also shared an overview of how history and the evolution of US Census categories are discussed in trainings in regards to diversity. Danna shared a game, “The Last Straw” used in training regarding the social determinants of health. Danna discussed the use of stereotypes and generalizations. Danna summarized the training on concepts and translated concepts. Danna also shared information regarding the National Standards on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). Danna reported that the CLAS training is a great starting point for those wanting and needing to reach diverse populations including advisory council members.

ANNUAL TBI GRANT REPORT

Joyce and Will Schmeekle from Schmeekle Research, Inc. provided the draft report to all members. Joyce reviewed the executive summary of Nebraska's TBI Implementation Partnership Grant, Year One Evaluation Report. Joyce thanked the partners and shared how crucial they were for the report. Joyce shared they are still working on fine tuning the documentation of visits and use from the webpage.

Joyce shared that over 350 reports and other informational reports were disseminated to the public. Will provided an overview of the HRSA grant requirement of trainings including participants and evaluation. Will shared that 95% of participants reported confidence and improved ability in assisting individuals with TBI from the trainings. Will reviewed the data regarding death rates, hospitalizations and emergency department visits due to traumatic brain injury. Keri Bennett asked the council after review of the report what areas and data need to be added or improved upon for future reports. Michelle Hawley-Greiser inquired if it would be possible to code or break down different types of brain injury and their causes within the report. Council members discussed looking at the CDC report and possibly modeling their data break down. Members discussed those with acquired brain injury and the possibility of including the data of those individuals. The council agreed that it is important that all brain injury, acquired and traumatic, is included in the report to the extent possible. Joyce shared the appendixes listed will be available via email when the report is complete and stated that most of the appendixes have been shared at previous meetings. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg provided the council with the *Nebraska Special Emphasis Report: Traumatic Brain Injury*.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TBI SCREENING PROJECT

Jeff Chambers with UNL Center on Children, Families and the Law and Ryan Spohn , UNO Nebraska Center for Justice Research were introduced. Jeff and Ryan provided handouts on their presentation regarding the Juvenile Justice TBI Screening project. Keri Bennett shared that the complete report will be available on the webpage. The focus of the study is the prevalence of youth in the NE juvenile justice system that screen positive for traumatic brain injury and whether that rate differs from same age youth not in contact with the justice system. Jeff shared the range of prevalence of youth varies greatly dependent upon which method of screening is used. Ryan shared the methodology used including referral sources. Ryan reported the description of the population used. The sample size used was 423 youth, 63% were under 18. Ryan reviewed the screening models and components used. Jeff reported the prevalence rate varies from 7% to 31% depending on which screening tool was used. Jeff stated using the HELPs screening tool and less conservative criteria 14.7% of youth screened were identified as TBI positive which is consistent with previous findings. Jeff reported males were about twice as likely to have a positive TBI screening (HH-LOC), controlling for other relevant factors. Youth with juvenile justice involvement were more than twice as likely to have a positive TBI screening (HH-LOC) than youth without juvenile justice involvement, controlling for other relevant factors. Keri Bennett stated the HELPs screening was conducted by VR staff who are trained on the screening. The accuracy of juveniles self reporting for the screening was discussed. Jeff concluded that no matter any small reporting discrepancies possible it is clear overall, youth in the juvenile justice system are much more likely to screen positive for traumatic brain injury than those in the general population.

BIA-NE REPORT

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

- “Forever Shaken” is still being utilized & viewed.
- Peggy has met with the NE association of trial attorneys
- This year’s brain injury conference had 188 registrants in 2015 which was lower than previous years.
- Annual brain injury conference is scheduled for next year: March 31st and April 1st 2016 in Kearney. Peggy is looking for anyone from the council who is interested in being part of the planning committee.
- Developmental Disabilities Council grant dollars are being utilized for training with service providers to developmentally disabled.

- Peggy shared a day long presentation titled “No Wrong Door” will be given around the state regarding how to better serve veterans and their families. The goal is to have 100 participants per training.
- The Women of Warriors Weekend Retreat will be held October 16-18 in Aurora, NE.

OMBUDSPERSON REPORT

Peggy shared a written report of calls taken by the Ombudsperson from March 2015 - May 2015. The June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015 Brain Injury Registry Report Year 7 was also shared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senior Committee

Frank Velinsky reported for the Senior Task Force. Frank stated the group agreed they need to be more targeted within the senior community. The pamphlet revised by the committee with permission from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Traumatic Brain Injury in Older Adults” was provided to the council for review. A few additions and edits for the pamphlet were discussed.

Committee for Children and Youth

Peg Ogea-Ginsburg reported for the committee for children & youth. Peg reported on the Nebraska Sports Concussion Survey. Peg stated there was a 61% response rate from coaches and 85% of athletic directors responded. Peg provided the council with the executive summary of both surveys and discussed highlights. The athletic director survey showed that only 23% are aware that BIRSST teams are available to them. Council members discussed increasing awareness of BIRSST teams and concussions. Rose Dymacek shared that the BIRSST team’s role is to be consultative.

Diverse Populations Committee

Kristen Larsen reported and shared that Tresa Christensen is going to be the point person of the committee. The goal of the committee is to meet the grant requirement of reaching diverse populations. Kristen shared they have worked with the brain injury registry to get data regarding what populations need to be reached. Kristen shared they arranged the overview with Danna, and are suggesting holding trainings for the hour prior to council meetings as an optional diversity training time ran by Danna. Council members stated they are interested in attending the trainings.

TBI GRANT ACTIVITY REPORT

Keri Bennett reported currently Nebraska VR is negotiating with the BIA of NE to pilot a resource facilitation model, and they are hoping to begin in July. Keri reported that the Area Agency on Aging Project has an agreement in place and their first training has already taken place in Scottsbluff. Keri also reported that the Brain Injury Registry follow-up agreement is in place including the follow up letters and data reporting. Also an agreement is in place with the Office of Injury Prevention to work on training modules 4-7. Keri asked the council that as the resource facilitation model begins that the council considers dedicating a time during each quarterly meeting to review and assess its progress and opening up that conversation to other stakeholders outside of the council. Council members discussed what the best use of that collaborative time would be and what the goals or outcomes are. Council members discussed how can they best collaborate with the BIA-NE and their role in the resource facilitation model. The council decided to table this discussion until a later meeting when an agreement is in place for the resource facilitation pilot.

Gary Hausmann made a motion to table the discussion of regular meeting collaboration time regarding resource facilitation until an agreement is in place with the BIA of NE. Frank Velinsky seconded. There

were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.** On the agenda for next meeting it is requested to have an item for review and discussion of the BIA-NE resource facilitation implementation.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- September 25, 2015
- December 11, 2015

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2015, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 3:04p.m. with a motion made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Gary Hausmann. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**