

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
September 25, 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, Pattie Flury, Gary Hausmann, Brett Hoogeveen, Karen Hux, Dale Johannes, Courtney Lankford, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Jason Kerkman (substitute for Peg Ogea-Ginsburg), Cathy Wyatt (substitute for Peggy Reisher), Lori Terrryberry-Spohr, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michelle Hawley-Grieser

ADVISORS PRESENT: Deanna Jesse, Vicki Rasmussen

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

VISITORS: Traci Miller, Cameron White, Kilee Oetjen, Will Schmeeckle

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.

APPROVAL OF June 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from June 26, 2015 were reviewed. A motion was made by Gary Hausmann and seconded by Frank Velinsky to approve the June 26, 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 Karen Hux and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the agenda with an adjustment to the order. 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.

INTRODUCTIONS

Keri Bennett introduced new members and upcoming new members who will replace exiting members. Cameron White was introduced as replacing Pattie Flury from DHHS with Medicaid and Long-Term Care. Courtney Lankford was introduced as a family member of a person living with brain injury and an employee of Madonna. Deanna Jesse was introduced as a technical advisor with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Kilee Oetjen was introduced as an incoming member whom works with

patients living with brain injury as a physical therapist at Bryan Health. Michael Chittenden was introduced as a public member with the Arc of Nebraska. Cathy Wyatt was introduced as Peggy Reisher's substitute from the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska. Traci Miller was introduced as the resource facilitator for the Lincoln area with the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska. Current members made introductions.

RECOGNITION OF EXITING MEMBERS

Tiffany Armstrong acknowledged and thanked members exiting the council including: Pattie Flury, Gary Hausmann, Karen Hux, Lori Terryberry-Spohr and technical advisor, Margaret Jensen.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VOTE

An anonymous ballot was distributed-o vote on the renewal of the membership for Frank Velinsky. Frank was approved by anonymous council vote for another term.

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT PROGRESS

Cathy Wyatt reported on behalf of the team at the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska. Cathy Wyatt and Traci Miller shared their backgrounds prior to coming to work as resource facilitators with the BIA-NE. Cathy explained that their jobs are broken down into three components: informal support, education & training, and resource facilitation. Cathy shared thanks to QLI for their support as well as resource facilitators and organizations from other states offering and sharing their information and resources. Cathy discussed the difference between intake and referral versus resource facilitation. Cathy explained that generally a consumer that can be assisted with one phone call is considered intake & referral and anyone who requires additional assistance will be a part of resource facilitation. Cathy shared that all age groups will be served but the main focus is ages 5-25 and 65+. Currently, they are looking at serving two counties in the Lincoln area and 5 county area in Omaha. Anyone outside of those areas will be referred to Gina Simanek. Cathy stated that initial case loads are expected to be approximately 25-30 at one time. Cathy shared as a pilot program she is proud they are working on a qualitative approach. Cathy shared that cases will be closed when either short term or long term goals are met. Traci Miller shared that the starting point for outreach will be working with area hospitals as well as nursing facilities for referrals.- The telephone intake form was shared with council members and its use was discussed. Frank Velinsky suggested questions regarding Medicaid and the Medicaid waiver be added to the form. Cameron White asked what plans are in case of a high volume of demand how that will be handled. Cathy shared they discussed a possible waiting list system but they do not want to do that so they are working to be able to refer or help all who need it in at least a small way. Options and referral of services following intake was discussed by council members. Lori Terryberry-Spohr shared she feels Nebraska has great acute care for brain injury but feels there are gaps in long term care which the resource facilitators will be identifying and assisting with filling in those gaps. Council members discussed case loads, closing cases and potential challenges that will be faced as well as anticipated callers the facilitators will be receiving. Vicki Rasmussen suggested adding to the phone intake adding where callers have received the phone number. Cathy shared that a goal of theirs is to create a resource guide.

BIA-NE REPORT

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

There are currently 7 staff members at BIA-NE. The ten member board's strategic plan is being developed with an emphasis on return of hours worked. Database management, and recognized attorney program are important tasks for the year. The annual conference in Kearney is being planned. *No Wrong Door* will be held in Beatrice on November 4th. Bowling for Brain Injury will be held this weekend in Seward. New modules have been put in place and are available on the website. "When in Doubt, Sit Them Out" publicity has been increasing with new signs and a new billboard

will be put up near the Waverly exit on I-80. They have been working with state senators in regards to LB 516, the brain injury trust fund. Keri Bennett shared she attended a meeting regarding the development of the bill and reported the conversation centered on where to go with the bill and its next steps. Brain injury training will be given for DHHS. Cathy shared Gina Simanek, the TBI Ombudsperson took 55 calls in June totaling 68.75 hours, July: 40 calls for 50.5 hours, August: 55 calls with 69.75 hours spent.

COST OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REPORT

Will Schmeekle shared with all members the Cost of Traumatic Brain Injury in Nebraska report and reviewed its highlights. Will shared they utilized the CDC WISQARS program for data. Will reviewed tables reporting traumatic brain injury statistics from 2013 and cost estimates. Will shared the estimated costs of TBI by emergency department visits, hospitalization, and deaths in Nebraska including medical costs and work loss costs. Total costs in 2013 were \$802,110,849. The report showed the costs by age and gender. Will shared that rehospitalizations were included under the estimation of medical costs. Will reviewed a portion of the report that included funding sources for the 12 states with a TBI trust fund that use the trust fund for resource facilitation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diverse Populations Committee

Kristen Larsen reported on behalf of the committee. Kristen shared with council members visual translators for reference and use. Kristen also provided council members with a copy of the Profile of the the Minority Population in Nebraska, created by the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity.

Senior Committee

A webinar regarding fall prevention will be held on September 30th at 11:00am central, registration is available on the NASHIA website. Frank Velinsky shared he attended a dementia education seminar called “Aging with Grace” in Pinder, NE and he feels the senior committee should possibly collaborate with those professionals working with dementia in the future.

BRAIN INJURY REGISTRY CONTACT REVISIONS

Nancy Noha reported herself and Keri have been working on an update to the brain injury registry brochure. Nancy shared a copy of the brochure draft for council review. Nancy highlighted the brochure photos capture diversity of those on the registry. Nancy also shared with council members a copy of the brain injury registry letter.

TBI GRANT ACTIVITY REPORT

Keri Bennett reported that the injury prevention modules were supported in part with the HRSA grant. Keri stated many terrific minds are contributing to the modules including Lori Terryberry-Spohr. Jason Kerkman shared that modules 1 through 3 are available on the Injury Prevention website. The website view of the modules was shared with the council. Keri reported that there is an agreement with the Office of Special Education. Rose Dymacek was working with schools for concussion awareness training and brain injury training. As part of this initiative individuals will be attending some brain injury trainings throughout the country and will be bringing that information back to their schools. Keri shared that herself and Pattie Flury have been working on increasing life skills service providers utilization within the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver. Keri reported that TBI is going to be moving to the Administration on Community Living (ACL) at the federal level which will elevate the brain injury population and allows more crossover and will possibly increase attention and stability at the federal level. The HRSA grant will be staying in its current location until May 2016.

NEBRASKA STATE PLAN FOR SYSTEMATIC SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BRAIN INJURY REVIEW

Keri provided the council with the Nebraska State Plan for Systematic Services for Individuals with Brain Injuries for council review. Keri stated she wants to bring the plan to the council more regularly for review to determine if any updates or changes are needed. Keri shared that she was unclear if the State Independent Living council as a potential collaborator was still an accurate goal. Vicki Rasmussen suggested adding a goal of reaching diverse populations. Keri shared that the goals of the state plan do fit within the HRSA grant goals but not one to one. Brett Hoogeveen shared that reviewing these goals is very helpful in reminding and keeping an eye out for the big picture goals. Keri shared she sees the state plan as the large umbrella with the grant objections falling underneath that umbrella. Keri stated she will go through the annual report and mesh that information with the state plan goals for review and discussion at the next council meeting. Council members discussed the possibility of reevaluating committees and their need as part of the state plan goals to possibly better meet those needs.

NEW BUSINESS

Tiffany Armstrong asked members for any new business or suggested agenda items for the next meeting. Michael Chittenden suggested key legislative committee representatives be invited to the upcoming council meeting. Angie Ransom suggested having an ATP tour to see the use of their services at the next meeting. Kristen Larsen suggested a WIOA discussion and informational session.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- December 11, 2015

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2015, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:12p.m. with a motion made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Dale Johannes. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**