

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
March 18, 2016**

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, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Courtney Lankford, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Heather Leschinsky (substitute for DHHS medicare), Brooke Murtaugh, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Peggy Reisher, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rose Dymacek, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Kilee Oetjen

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tania Diaz, Vicki Rasmussen, Larry Roos (substitute for Deanna Jesse)

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: Cathy Wyatt

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.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from December 11, 2015 were reviewed. A motion was made by Judy Vohland and seconded by ML Lehman to approve the December 11, 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. Keri Bennett reported that Will & Joyce Schmeekle will not be available for reporting but instead Peggy Reisher and Cathy Wyatt will report. Also, Kate Bolz will not be in attendance but Heather Leschinsky will report. A motion was made by Brett Hoogeveen and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the agenda 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.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members must annually declare any conflict of interest. Tiffany Armstrong shared a copy of the council by-laws definition of conflict of interest to members. Tiffany asked members to make their declarations:

- Tiffany Armstrong declared Madonna Rehabilitation.
- Michael Chittenden declared he has no conflicts of interest.
- Brett Hoogeveen declared Quality Living Inc.
- Dale Johannes declared he has no conflicts of interest.
- Courtney Lankford declared Madonna Rehabilitation.
- Kristen Larsen declared the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities.
- ML Lehman declared no conflicts of interest.
- Brooke Murtaugh declared Madonna Rehabilitation.
- Peg Ogea-Ginsburg declared no conflicts of interest.
- Peggy Reisher declared the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska.
- Frank Velinsky declared Care Tech.
- Judy Vohland declared Nebraska VR.

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT – PROGRESS REPORT

Cathy Wyatt shared a copies of the TBI Resource Facilitation Urogress update report with members. Cathy discussed the criteria for differentiation between intake and referral and case management. Cathy stated they determine if what is shared initially with them by a consumer can be assisted with a few referrals or if a more in-depth case management situation is needed as determined by the facilitator and consumer together. If case management is needed the Mayo-Portland assessment is conducted and then an Individual Service Plan (ISP) is created. Within the ISP long term and short term goals are established as well as identification of barriers and strategies are determined to overcome those barriers. After a case is closed the Mayo-Portland assessment is given again to measure change. Vicki Rasmussen shared she is glad the distinction has been made between information and referral and case management. Cathy shared that in regards to outreach to the target populations the key doorways to reaching those ages 5-26 is hospitals, schools, Nebraska VR and BIRSST teams as well as the new outreach to club sports teams. In the target group of those 65+ Cathy shared she has been working with this population in her career and she has been revisiting those and discussing resource facilitation for brain injury has been a great experience. ML Lehman inquired if Cathy's previous work with the radio program *Art of Aging* shows have been archived for access. Cathy reported they can be found at artofaginginc.com. Tania Diaz asked if resource facilitators attend IEPs (Individual Education Plans) with student consumers at their schools. Cathy stated they have attended a few IEPs via phone and they plan to be more involved in IEPs with consumers time permitting in the future. Frank Velinsky asked if working with the homeless population will occur. Cathy stated that yes they have a meeting set up with Match and they plan to make additional contacts and outreach to the homeless population. Peggy Reisher shared they have a project that has started with UNL presenting information on concussion to four selected schools in Lincoln. Peggy shared she feels they have been most successful with community involvement and spreading awareness of resource facilitators. Peggy shared data on where resource facilitators have been involved in community outreach. Cathy shared data regarding current case management cases showing the variation of those clients' cause of injury, living situations and needs. Tania Diaz inquired if data is collected in regards to a clients, ethnicity and veteran status etc. Cathy reported this type of data is collected and that information can be shared with the council in future meetings if there is interest in that data. Brooke Murtaugh shared it would be interesting to track data in regards to individuals who were not previously diagnosed with a brain injury but have had brain injury symptoms and have contacted the resource facilitators for assistance. Frank Velinsky shared that those individuals that have been living with an undiagnosed brain injury are those that are in the greatest need of resource facilitation services. Keri Bennett inquired in regards to intake and referral, how are calls received by staff? Cathy shared that through the 1-800 phone number Gina fields the phone calls

but if she feels an Omaha or Lincoln caller is in need of additional services she forwards those callers to Traci or Cathy for case management assessment. Peggy Reisher shared Gina is continuing to log all calls received and calls forwarded to Traci and Cathy are logged as well. Cathy shared that calls received from the brain injury registry are recorded as coming directly from the brain injury letter. Keri Bennett questioned the client demographics data in regards to the age of clients' ages, why 7 clients were listed as missing age data? Cathy reported some data still needs to be transferred better between their two entry systems as well as there are a few clients she needs to fill in missing data for stating there should be additional clarity to the data at the next meeting after those improvements are made. Keri asked the council if there is any additional information they would like to see included in the report in the future. Tiffany stated if there are any requests for the report to email those to Keri Bennett.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Peggy Reisher shared with members a hand out with information on legislative bills the BIA-NE has worked with this legislative session. Peggy reported that LB 900, the helmet repeal law, died Thursday in the legislature. Peg Ogea shared they have been following this bill closely for many years. Peg shared the bill will show up again and they will continue to share information and data on this issue when that occurs. Peggy Reisher shared that there have been several new senators that have entered the legislature that they will need to made aware of brain injury and its effects in the state. Peggy shared people can go to nebraskalegislature.gov to see who your legislator is and how they voted if anyone would like to share their opinions with their representative. Peggy reported the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska wrote a letter of support for LB 1032. Michael Chittenden stated this bill made it out of committee but is not doing very well. Michael shared LB 1032 is being led by Senator McAllister as Senator Campbell is terming out, and this bill is scheduled to go to the legislature on Monday. Peggy shared LB 1033 to create an advisory committee relating to persons with disabilities within the Department of Health and Human Services sponsored by Senator Campbell is supported by the BIA-NE. Peggy shared LB 1033 is written to establish an Olmstead commission in regards to serving those with disabilities in the least restrictive practice possible decreasing the cost and required use of institutional settings. Michael reported this bill seems to be moving well and he believes it will pass. Peggy Reisher said she appreciated that Senator Campbell specifically wrote brain injury into the bill. Peggy shared LB 516 to establish a Nebraska Brain Injury Council and Brain Injury Trust Fund passed out of committee on March 11th. Peggy stated the bill did not get priority and she does not see it getting much discussion on the floor but she has hopes it will get tagged onto an additional bill.

DHHS LTSS REDESIGN WHITE PAPER, STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Keri Bennett shared a copy of the DHHS Concept Paper with council members stating Heather Leschinsky the council's DHHS representative will field questions replacing Kate Bolz. Heather reported they have published their concept paper and are interested in feedback from stakeholders. Heather stated throughout the paper they outline their long term services and supports and they are looking for feedback on any possible gaps. Heather shared they are working on continuing work of the *No Wrong Door* effort through the long term services and supports. Heather reported they will be looking at the different authorities and the possibility of consolidating some waivers. Heather shared they are currently seeking the services of consultants and plan to award the contract in May, after which the consultant will hold in person stake holder meetings. Heather shared that feedback can also be shared at the redesign project website: dhhs.ne.gov/LTSSredesign or through the email address: DHSS.LTSSRedesign@Nebraska.gov. Peggy Reisher asked whose role it will be to assess the programs of other states. Heather reported the consultants will be assessing other states' programs and best practices. Heather also shared the RFP has been released and is anticipated to be awarded mid May followed by stakeholder meetings through the summer with recommendations by the end of the year.

Michael Chittenden asked if best practices will include fiscal goals as well as stakeholder satisfaction. Heather stated they will be a blending of both. Frank Velinsky asked if they are anticipating any large changes in Nebraska. Heather stated they do recognize Nebraska is currently in a 50/50 balance between community based services and institutions and will like to continue the balance away from institutions in the future. Brett Hoogeveen shared that QLI's waiver services specialized assisted living for people with brain injury created the unique model to create something geared towards a younger population with more cognitive services versus other assistive living facilities which are geared toward more physical services of a geriatric population. Brett shared they have been open and continue discussing what the criteria for an assisted living community for those with brain injury. Heather shared they have not found any other assisted living facilities across the state interested in serving the specific age group of 18-64 under the brain injury waiver. Heather shared they are looking at if they need a separate TBI Waiver and Community Based Waiver or if both populations can be served under a combined waiver. Heather shared she hopes the 50/50 rule will create a shift in the mindset for the possibility and options for individuals. Heather stated the plan of services for those in the TBI and AD waivers are very similar. Heather shared they are learning a lot from other states programs that may have been less than ideal and how to facilitate managed care more thoughtfully if Nebraska decides to go that route. Keri Bennett stated to watch for opportunities between now and the next meeting to share additional input.

DD PLANNING COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT – FINAL REPORT

Kristen Larsen shared a copy of the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities 5 Year State Plan Goal Development presentation and summarized the plan for the council. Kristen reported in addition to the five year plan they annually report outcomes and progress. Kristen highlighted within the mission their work to promote self determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion. Kristen said under new leadership they are seeing a lot of positive change. Kristen reported to establish the goals they conducted many varied focus groups as well as utilized surveys. Requirements to be included within the goals include: goals, objectives, expected outcomes, while addressing, self advocacy, targeted disparity, collaboration. Kristen reviewed the priorities of stakeholders.

Priorities shared included: 1) Employment – increasing access to competitive, integrated employment 2) Access to information- meeting the need for a navigator through the information 3) Housing – increasing awareness of potential resources and meeting the need for budgeting supports and financial training 4) Improving inclusion in special education & improvement in transition services from school to adulthood 5) Improving quality and access to healthcare

Kristen shared the current draft of goals and reviewed their objectives and measurements. Goal 1: Improve transition across the lifespan of individuals with intellectual and other development disabilities of all cultures and their families. Goal 2: Improve advocacy and self-advocacy for individuals with DD of all cultures and their families. Goal 3: Influence systems change to provide increased opportunities for individuals with DD to pursue an employment path of their choice. Goal 4: Increase community inclusion for individuals with DD of all cultures.

Kristen shared the draft goals will be going out for public comment and feedback. Vicki Rasmussen commented that when Nebraska VR is referenced they also include the Commission for the Visually Impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Older Adults Committee

Cathy Wyatt shared they have pulled together the older adults subcommittee to identify some goals and objectives that were feasible for the upcoming year. The idea established by the committee was to create a nursing care pilot program to improve the screening questions in regards to addressing brain

injury. Cathy reported Dale and herself gathered feedback from experts in the field. Cathy shared the outcome of her meeting with those experts generated the question of how would this be funded with clarification on existing grants. The committee also thought this project would require the work of a full time individual. The experts gathered thought the committee should focus more on the educational piece versus implementation with an emphasis of that education focused on emergency room personnel and doctors. The committee of experts also requested additional information on brain injury and all participants would like to meet again. Cathy shared she will create a comprehensive report when information is received from those at the meeting.

UNK/AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROJECT REPORT

Keri Bennett shared with members a copy of the Screening and Identification of Individuals with Brain Injury Seeking Services through the Area Agency on Aging in Rural Nebraska. Keri reported after the pilot program in Kearney it was able to occur in North Platte and Scottsbluff as well as the rural areas around those cities. The pilot data from two years ago in Kearney was able to be combined with the new data which included 558 participants using the OSU TB-ID tool. Of the total sample 43% had positive screens for BI. 36% of the sample were 65 years or older at the time of injury. Keri shared one dilemma with this process is that no other area on aging agency offices across the state were willing to participate. Keri shared additional information will be coming in the future as this report just came out a few days ago.

ANNUAL BI CONFERENCE IN KEARNEY

Tiffany Armstrong reported the Annual BI Conference will be held March 31st and April 1st in Kearney and registration forms are available on the side table. Nancy Noha requested council member volunteers to man an advisory council information table and provided a sign up sheet for members.

CLAS PRESENTATION

Danna Bacon from the Office of Health Disparities & Health Equity presented the training, *Introduction to the National CLAS Standards*, to the council. Danna reviewed the background of racial & ethnic health disparity, reviewed what Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) organizations do, what the National CLAS Standards are as well as ethical and practical motives, and practices and strategies for implementing CLAS Standards. Danna shared the link: <http://Bitly/individualClas> where a CLAS assessment can be taken and from that assistance on meeting CLAS standards will be given.

NEW BI REGISTRY DATA

Keri Bennett shared with members a copy of the Brain Injury Council Report which was created with the registry data compiled by the Schmeekles. Keri stated this report will be shared bi-annually. Keri reviewed and summarized the data provided in the report. Keri stated that any feedback on what is included or could be added or clarified is welcome.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Friday, June 17, 2016

Friday, September 16, 2016

Friday, December 16, 2016

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2016, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:38p.m. with a motion made by Dale Johannes and seconded by Michael Chittenden. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**