

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Center for People in Need
Lincoln, NE
June 17th, 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, Rose Dymacek, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Brett Hoogeveen, Courtney Lankford, Joni Dulaney (substitute for Kristen Larsen), Heather Leschinsky, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Kilee Oetjen, Peggy Reisher, Frank Velinsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Judy Vohland

ADVISORS PRESENT: Shari Bahensky, Deanna Jesse

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Ashley Hernandez, Nancy Noha

VISITORS PRESENT: James Bowers, Chris Stewart, Cathy Wyatt

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:07 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

INTRODUCTIONS

New council member, Judy Nichelson and Interim Director of the Client Assistance Program, Shari Bahensky were introduced to the group. Council members and visitors introduced themselves.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Peggy Reisher to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motions. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of March 18, 2016 were reviewed. A motion was made by Michael Chittenden and seconded by Brooke Murtaugh to approve the March 18, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted. 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.

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT PROGRESS REPORT

Cathy Wyatt shared a personal story of a brain injury survivor and highlighted the role of a resource facilitator. Cathy shared highlights of the past year's resource facilitation pilot including, case management, community outreach and education, conference participation, presentation creation to share the pilot goals and purpose, as well as the creation of two, 5 minutes videos used to start a conversation about concussion.

Cathy shared a list of lessons learned over this past year: 1. Take more time up front to set a solid foundation for cases. 2. Prior to accepting cases get into the community more pursuing resources. 3. Research and implement a database that works with a case management model 4. Consider resource facilitators that can work well together and from home offices. 5. There are many important qualities and experiences necessary for successful resource facilitators.

Cathy shared they are currently working on transferring databases and will provide a written report at the next meeting. Cathy reported there are currently eleven active cases in case management, three cases have been closed, and there are currently three cases in intake and referral that will likely be moving into case management. Cathy reviewed the referral sources for clients this past year. Cathy shared with council members a handout showing figures of the community outreach activity of the resource facilitation program from June 2015 – May 2016. Cathy shared that there were some staff changes including bringing in a new resource facilitator both working 24 hours a week for Omaha & Lincoln as well as her position moving to 24 hours still working cases but also focusing on community outreach and marketing. Cathy shared they have been communicating with Minnesota who have a wonderful database and are implementing this database system which will function well for not just intake and referral but also case management. Cathy stated she is very excited for the improvements the new database will bring. Chris Stewart introduced herself as the new resource facilitator for the Omaha area and shared some of her background. James Bowers introduced himself as the new resource facilitator for the Lincoln area and shared his career background. Cathy stated she feels the biggest benefit for the pilot going forward is going to be the team approach. Frank Velinsky shared some of his experiences with clients with similar situations as the personal story Cathy shared and discussed how some of the individuals possibly without a diagnosis or medical resources could be assisted. Keri Bennett noted that there has continued to be a lot of calls (roughly 500) served by Gina Simanek with information and referral. Cathy shared that Gina has become more confident in passing on information and referral calls for the Omaha and Lincoln areas to the resource facilitators.

BIA-NE REPORT ON ANNUAL BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE STATISTICS

Peggy Reisher reported a summary of the 10th Annual Brain Injury Conference which was held March 31 – April 1. Peggy shared with council members a handout showing the results of the conference participants' evaluation forms. Peggy shared that overall the conference was very successful and feedback was positive. Peggy requested feedback and suggestions for future conference topics. Keri stated she can send reminders to council members when the Brain Injury Alliance will be needing members and input for a conference planning committee.

DHHS LTSS REDESIGN WHITE PAPER

Brett Hoogeveen shared with council members a copy of a letter that will be submitted pending council support to the Director of Health & Human Services sharing the input of brain injury stakeholders in regards to the DHHS LTSS Redesign White Paper. Brett discussed the initiatives of the Redesign White Paper and some of the topics of the stakeholder letter. Heather Leschinsky stated DHHS did award a contract for a community engagement contractor. Brett summarized the feedback discussed in the letter including cross division services and level of care. Feedback on tools and methods to ensure that the long-term care needs of clients are assessed fairly and uniformly across programs was discussed in

the letter. Brett also highlighted the letter's feedback on methods to promote care management and care coordination to match services with care needs especially the need and benefits of resource facilitation. Brett summarized the feedback on where additional supports and services not currently provided could help achieve the principles of better matching resources with need and promoting the least restrictive setting for clients. Feedback regarding provider management and reimbursement, data driven service management and timeline were discussed. Frank Velinsky discussed his challenging experiences working with the Iowa changes and shared concern that non-medical issues are not addressed in the redesign. Frank stated he has concerns working with incentivized insurance companies. Brett stated that this feedback letter is not intended as a letter of endorsement for the direction the state has decided to go, but instead is feedback from stakeholders on things they feel are important. Brett stated the signors of the letter do not have an opinion on the direction the state is going, but instead wanted to provide feedback on the needs of the state as seen by the stakeholders related to brain injury. Michelle Hawley-Grieser shared that reading this letter from a feedback prospective as a parent of a child living with brain injury she sees a lot of positive content and wants to applaud the contributors to the letter as it addresses several of the challenges and roadblocks she has experienced. Michael Chittenden discussed his experience with managed care companies in another state. Michael stated he has met with the managed care companies here and he feels they are open and wanting the experience of stakeholders and believes they would be very willing to come to the council for discussion. Keri Bennett stated this letter is only an introduction to the conversation as there will be many additional opportunities to share input.

A motion was made by Frank Velinsky to support the response letter to the DHHS LTSS Redesign White Paper and have the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council as a signor on the letter, Brett Hoogeveen seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Aye – Armstrong, Chittenden, Hawley-Grieser, Hoogeveen, Lankford, Murtaugh, Nichelson, Oetjen, Reisher, Velinsky

Nay – none

Abstain – Leschinsky

Absent – Dymacek, Johannes, Larsen, Lehman, Ogea-Ginsburg, Vohland

The motion carried.

TBI ACT 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Keri Bennett shared that the TBI grant which put the grants in place for TBI services will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on July 29th. Keri stated she thought it would be great to celebrate and generate outreach in regards to brain injury. Keri asked the council for input and suggestions for a celebration. Michael Chittenden suggested having a local politician share a proclamation noting the anniversary at a public event. Keri stated they will likely be holding a webinar in regards to the anniversary. Deanna Jesse shared she has seen a lot of success having an individual share their personal story and add as an addendum information and available resources. Peggy Reisher shared a contact at the Lincoln Journal Star that may be helpful and Frank Velinsky shared he could send some contacts for Omaha radio stations.

REAP

Keri Bennett shared that several months ago the Columbus Community Hospital contacted her in regards to REAP (Remove/Reduce, Educate, Adjust/Accommodate, Pace) concussion materials which are produced out of Colorado. Keri stated Columbus Hospital is interested in customizing and printing the REAP materials for Nebraska. A draft copy of the REAP materials was provided to council members for

review. Keri stated these materials are not to replace current education materials but to enhance and increase awareness. Keri shared the reason she has brought the materials to the council today was to discuss the possibility of using grant funds to assist in the production of the materials. Peggy Reisher discussed work being done by the Concussion Coalition including social media and other outreach programs including club sports program outreach. Peggy shared that the REAP manual is a good tool to be provided to individuals from an emergency or medical clinic. Peggy reviewed specific customization changes made for Nebraska's use of the REAP manual. Peggy shared the manual is laid out very well and user friendly. Peggy stated they are working to update sponsors as well as include photos from local Nebraskan athletics in the Nebraska manual. Peggy shared there was an opportunity to add a local story to the manual and this was included in the draft being reviewed by the council. Peggy reminded council members that the current copy provided to them is strictly a draft and changes are still being made. Peggy stated if there is any feedback on the manuals or suggestions for additional information to please let her know. Rose Dymacek noted there was an amendment to the Nebraska Concussion Awareness Act in 2014 that should be noted. Rose also stated that information in regards to *Return to Learn* and *Return to Play* should be added which she would be happy to assist with. Peggy stated the initial purpose of this manual is for use by emergency rooms while working with patients and is youth specific. Peggy reported some challenges are deciding how many manuals to order, including costs and potential changes and updates to information after printing. Keri shared the manual is a proprietary manual and the only changes that can be made is to Nebraska specific information. Members asked if copies would be available in Spanish. Members discussed estimated costs of the manuals and potential donors. Peggy shared there will be a PDF version of the manual available online. Heather Leschinsky stated she feels this manual has some great information and would also be useful to distribute from doctors' offices and clinics. Brooke Murtaugh shared that the Safe Kids Coalition is currently working to gather data on the rates of youth concussion. Brett Hoogeveen stated he likes that the state is utilizing comprehensive, well made resources from other areas. A copy of the Alabama REAP manual was also provided to council members to show different uses of customization within the manual. Keri shared that if the council decides to support the manuals additional updates and financial information can be sent to members as more information is gathered. Peggy stated she hopes to find marketing dollars through donors to make the manual self sustaining beyond grant funds. Keri Bennett noted there is an annual fee associated with the manual as well. Peggy stated that distribution of the manuals will be a group effort between the Concussion Coalition members led by the Brain Injury Alliance and Columbus Community Hospital. Council members discussed the possibility of using grant funds to support production of the manuals. Peggy stated she would like to work with donors from hospitals and only look at grant funds to fill any gaps in what maybe needed for production. Michael Chittenden suggested it may be best to focus on a number of manuals to be produced and then after donors are exhausted the council may approve adding financial support to reach that number. Brett Hoogeveen stated he would like to focus on sustainability with donors without much grant funds so this production does not become a one time distribution. Rose Dymacek stated she feels there needs to be a written distribution plan to be used when proposing sponsorship. Rose noted that if less than 10,000 manuals are printed there is a higher cost for printing. Rose stated she feels the hospitals need to be surveyed and report back before a council decision can be made. Brett Hoogeveen stated he is supportive of assisting in the manuals but a limit should be set on the funds that could be used. Cathy Wyatt stated she feels comfortable tabling this discussion at this time and focusing on finding sponsorship and that at this time the most helpful component from the council would be review and feedback on the content of the manual.

Frank Velinsky moved to endorse the REAP manual and that the Brain Injury Alliance pursue it's funding. In the event that additional funding is needed the council executive committee will review the request if accompanied by a sustainability and distribution plan, keeping the funding request in line with other

funding sources. Michelle Hawley-Grieser seconded the motion. Discussion of the term endorse within the motion occurred. Frank clarified the term endorse means to support the content and development of the materials.

VOTE:

Aye – Armstrong, Chittenden, Hawley-Grieser, Hoogeveen, Lankford, Murtaugh, Nichelson, Oetjen, Velinsky

Nay – none

Abstain – Dymacek, Reisher

Absent – Johannes, Larsen, Lehman, Leschinsky, Ogea-Ginsburg, Vohland

The motion carried.

COUNCIL TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Tiffany Armstrong reviewed the current technical advisors that are currently serving with the council. Tiffany asked for discussion regarding council technical advisors to determine their role and expectations as there is not anything written in the by-laws. Deanna Jesse shared that as a technical advisor she listens to subject matter and to the possibility of discussion where her area may require additional information as well as taking information from the meetings back to her group. Michael Chittenden asked if a committee could be created to address this specific topic while also bringing in some guidelines from other councils as resources. Tiffany shared that there are specifications in the by-laws for voting members but no specifications for technical advisors. Keri Bennett shared that she thinks it is time to put some structure on the roles of technical advisors and likes the idea of a committee to look into this further. Tiffany stated they are not looking to restructure the role of technical advisors but instead defining what they are. Tiffany shared definitions of technical advisor. Deanna shared as a technical advisor it would be nice to have additional guidance. Michael volunteered to chair a committee to develop technical advisors roles and expectations. Tiffany Armstrong and Deanna Jesse volunteered to participate on the committee. Tiffany stated they will also reach out to the other technical advisors including Vicki Rasmussen, Tania Diaz and Roger Stortenbecker to see if they are interested in participating. Michael stated he will initiate a conference call for the committee soon after the Fourth of July holiday.

NASP PROJECT

Keri Bennett shared with council members a copy of the NASP(Nebraska Association of Service Providers) Project Outcome Summary provided by Kate Bolz. Keri shared that the letter discussed earlier today came partially out of the NASP Project work. Keri reviewed the NASP Project Outcome Summary with the council. Keri stated that as a result of this project there are several service providers that are interested in increasing services to those with brain injury. Keri stated she should have a narrative prior to the next meeting that shows a bigger picture of this project. Keri stated they will work to post the presentations from the project to the Brain Injury Advisory Council webpage. Keri shared she will send out the final report when it is received.

TBI IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Keri shared the federal transition to ACL has occurred and she is working to move over all grant information and she does not anticipate any additional changes. Keri stated they are hopeful they will bring grantees in for a meeting to discuss the transition of administration but otherwise it is business as usual.

NEW BUSINESS

Michael stated the Arc is currently in contract with Disability Rights Nebraska to provide guardianship trainings and if anyone is interested in more information to please contact him.

Tiffany asked council members for any items for the upcoming council meeting agenda. Michael stated he will contact managed care organizations (MCO) for their availability to attend the upcoming meeting. Peggy Reisher inquired if the Mercer Group would be willing to provide an overview at the next meeting.

MEETING DATES

Meeting dates were reviewed. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

- September 16, 2016
- December 16, 2016

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for, September 16, 2016 in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:29p.m. with a motion made by Michael Chittenden and seconded by Frank Velinsky. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**