

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
January 6, 2017**

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, Rose Dymacek, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Brooke Murtaugh, Judy Nichelson, Kilee Oetjen, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Peggy Reisher, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland (via tele-conference)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Chittenden, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Heather Leschinsky

ADVISORS PRESENT: Shari Bahensky, Tania Diaz, Deanna Jesse

STAFF PRESENT: Keri Bennett, Nancy Noha

VISITORS: Tim Burton, Andrew Ngochoch

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:05 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from September 16, 2016 were reviewed. A motion was made by ML Lehman and seconded by Frank Velinsky to approve the September 16, 2016 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. Tiffany Armstrong noted the BIA-NE report and correction discussion needed to be moved to the afternoon and the afternoon agenda items would be discussed in the morning. A motion was made by Kristen Larsen and seconded by Brett Hoogeveen to approve the agenda with the schedule adjustment. 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 shared.

INTRODUCTIONS

Council members and visitors introduced themselves to the group.

LB 1033 OLMSTEAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Kristen Larsen shared that LB 1033 was introduced by Senator Campbell during the last legislative session. Kristen reported the bill is closely tied to the Olmstead decision and Americans with Disabilities

Act. Kristen stated the bill requires that DHHS develop a comprehensive, effective, working plan in placing qualified persons with disabilities in the most integrated community based service setting. Kristen shared this particularly addresses that individuals in an institutional setting have the option to leave that setting if they wish, as well as addressing those individuals waiting to receive TBI services. Kristen shared the committee has the opportunity to work alongside DHHS in creating this plan. Kristen summarized the members and background represented on the committee. Kristen reported the work group came together and advocated to change the committee title to include the name Olmstead. The committee is now titled, Disability Stakeholder Olmstead Planning Advisory Committee. Kristen gave a summary of the committee activities and discussion thus far. Kristen shared the meetings are and will continue to be well advertised as an open meeting and encourage attendance of those living with disabilities. Gaps in services for those living with brain injury were discussed by the committee. Kristen reported the committee recommended they hire a consultant to facilitate the stakeholder engagement and build upon recommendations from the Medicaid long-term redesign. A request for information (RFI) will be issued soon to select a consultant. Kristen stated she will send her summary notes to Keri to be forwarded to BI Council members. Kristen stated that if any council members have concerns in regards to creating the strategic plan to please share them with herself, Keri Bennett, or Frank Velinsky so they can be presented to the advisory committee. Frank Velinsky shared with the council a summary of national efforts related to the Olmstead Act. Council members discussed experiences with “money follows the person” regulation.

MLTC REDESIGN PROJECT UPDATE

Keri Bennett shared on behalf of Heather Leschinsky an update on the Medicaid Long Term Care (LTC) Redesign. Heather’s report stated the Long-term Care Advisory Council held a meeting on December 5, 2016 and the power point from that meeting is available on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid/Pages/LTCResources.aspx>. The stakeholder engagement report is also posted on the website. Heather’s report stated Mercer is working on the recommendations that will become the foundation of the LTC redesign plan. The preliminary plan is due to MLTC in February. The plan will be posted to the website and another round of stakeholder sessions will be held at the end of February into March. Those stakeholder sessions will inform the final redesign plan due in June. Heather Leschinsky can be contacted for any questions regarding the LTC redesign project or any questions related to Medicaid or Heritage Health at heather.leschinsky@nebraska.gov

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Keri Bennett reviewed that there is a vacant council member position for a family member of someone affected by brain injury due to a resignation. Keri shared that the council member application can be found on the Brain Injury Advisory Council webpage (braininjury.ne.gov) and submitted to her. Council members discussed the need for representation from northeast or northwest Nebraska. Keri noted that someone from the Scottsbluff and surrounding area could utilize the VR teleconference system if needed due to travel difficulties. Keri shared that once applications are received they will be reviewed by the Council’s Executive Committee to make a recommendation to the council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Armstrong reported members of the Council’s Executive Committee include, herself as chair, Brett Hoogeveen as vice-chair, Rose Dymacek, Judy Nichelson, Heather Leschinsky, Peggy Reisher, Dale Johannes and ML Lehman. Tiffany reported all members wanted to continue in their roles on the executive committee. The executive committee will remain as is.

2017 MEETING DATES

Tiffany Armstrong proposed the 2017 council meeting dates of March 17, June 16, September 22 and December 15. Members discussed the possible meeting dates. A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Kilee Oetjen to approve the 2017 meeting dates. There were no objections to the motion.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

OSU SERVICE PROVIDER BOOKLETS

Keri Bennett shared they were able to purchase some of the Ohio State University Booklets, “Accommodating the Symptoms of TBI”, discussed at the last council meeting. Keri stated booklets are available for council members to take, but to please write down how many you take and provide feedback on their use. If the response to the booklets is positive, feedback will be used to work to customize the booklets to Nebraska or purchase additional booklets. Brett Hoogeveen asked who the target audience is for this booklet. Keri shared the booklet was created at OSU around screening with the intention for use for professionals but shared she could see it being useful for other audiences as well. Dale Johannes provided feedback on the booklet stating he would like to see information regarding TBI in the elderly in nursing homes included in the booklet. Deanna Jesse stated the booklet needs to be provided in an electronic format to accommodate the visually impaired. Keri stated the booklet was not available electronically when they were purchased but she will contact OSU to continue working on customizing the booklet for use in Nebraska.

NEW BI ADVISORY COUNCIL WEBSITE

Keri Bennett reported she met with Nebraska Interactive whom audited the current BI Advisory Council webpage and discovered a few issues which they corrected. Keri shared she was able to see a demonstration of what the webpage could look like when updated by Nebraska Interactive. Keri reported the proposed page looked very streamlined and user friendly. Keri shared they could build in features like a login page for council members, a calendar, as well as the possibility of a self-screening tool. Keri stated the updates could make the webpage a much more usable tool. Keri stated a bid for the webpage redesign has not been received yet. Keri shared she will bring more information regarding the website to the March meeting. Tiffany Armstrong noted to the council the new council logo which is shown at the top of today’s agenda. Council members shared they like the new logo.

STRATEGIC PLAN RFP

Keri Bennett reported that the Strategic Plan Request for Proposals went out December 12th. The RFP is meant to get stakeholders together from across the state to come up with a plan to sustain the positive things currently happening if grant funding is no longer available as well as discussing what things still need to be worked on. Keri reported the RFP responses are due January 20th and she would like to put together a small committee to review those responses. Keri asked if any council members would like to volunteer for that committee or if the entire council would like to be involved. Brett Hoogeveen stated he feels better engagement would come from a smaller group of volunteers and that he was willing to volunteer for that committee. Keri stated she will develop a scoring sheet to be used by committee member volunteers. Dale Johannes and Frank Velinsky also volunteered for the committee. If any other council members would like to volunteer, please contact Keri Bennett.

NE BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE BOOTH

The Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council will have a booth at the Nebraska Brain Injury Conference held March 23rd and 24th in Kearney. Keri Bennett stated council member volunteers will be needed to man that booth.

NASP PROPOSAL UPDATE

The Nebraska Association of Service Providers submitted a proposal to expand the brain injury introductory training they developed for service providers of the developmentally disabled. The training

will be expanded and they will be working with four providers directly over the course of one year. Keri shared they are in the process of completing that contract with NASP. Experts from Iowa, Ben Woodworth, and Tom Brown, will conduct the trainings. The completed proposal will be shared at the March council meeting.

TBI REGISTRY PRESENTATION

Andrew Ngochoch, Health Data Coordinator with DHHS Division of Public Health presented on the Traumatic Brain Injury Registry. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was provided to council members. Andrew summarized the regulatory authority and data sources of the registry. Uses of the registry including mailers and data requests were also reviewed. Statistics from the registry were shared providing information on brain injury cases per year and month, gender and age distribution of brain injury cases, and frequency of TBI injuries by month and age group. Andrew discussed the transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM and the TBI inclusion criteria under ICD-10-CM. The distribution of primary diagnosis was also reviewed. Council members discussed the removal of laceration codes from the registry. Andrew reported that the registry software checks for duplicates, so there should be no duplication of individuals on the registry, other than between hospitalization and death, etc.

COUNCIL TECHNICAL ADVISOR ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Michael Chittenden was not available to report and Tiffany Armstrong shared the subcommittee did not meet. This item will be moved to the March agenda for report and discussion.

BIA-NE RESOURCE FACILITATION PILOT PROGRESS

Peggy Reisher from the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska shared with council members a report on the resource facilitation pilot from September to November. Peggy summarized highlights from the report. Many inquiries were social services related to meeting basic needs and attaining personal goals. Resource facilitators are focusing on community outreach. Peggy discussed case management measurements and data collection. Peggy shared that the average age of individuals inquiring about resource facilitation is 43. Peggy summarized some of the barriers in service resource facilitators are facing and their proposed solutions. Peggy discussed the pilot's plans moving forward in 2017. Peggy reported they want to continue building partnerships with hospitals, increasing referrals and connecting with individuals in the hospital setting. Resource facilitators are also working to build stronger partnerships with managed Medicaid and corrections. Peggy shared they are also working to create the resource guide by gathering and storing information for reference. Peggy reported in February an unpaid intern will be joining BIA-NE and working to develop a rough draft of the resource guide. Peggy shared that within the report the phone calls Gina takes are recorded under information & referral.

BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE OF NEBRASKA UPDATE

o Domestic Violence Shelter Screenings

Peggy Reisher reported the BIA-NE has been working on a domestic violence project. Council members were provided with a copy of the evaluation results of the Brain Injury Screening at Domestic Violence Shelters from October 2016. Peggy reported four domestic violence shelters participated including Friendship Home in Lincoln as well as shelters in, Columbus, Fremont and North Platte. Participating shelters were given a ninety-minute brain injury training and asked if they would participate in a screening project. Peggy reported they utilized the HELP screening tool. The HELPS screening tool was modified removing the "S" due to the shelters being uncomfortable utilizing that question. Peggy shared the shelters felt it was important to discuss strangulation in the screening, so that was also included in the "H" question. Peggy shared during staff training many training participants had "aha moments" and were thankful for the information. Peggy reported 93 screenings were conducted and 56 of those screened positive for brain injury. Peggy shared she felt the project was very successful stating shelter staff are still utilizing some of the questions and stated they gained a better understanding of how to assist some of their clients. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg stated she will give a short presentation on this information showing the

intersection between violence and TBI at their National Annual Injury Prevention Conference that is coming up.

- **Advanced Concussion Training for Schools**

Council members were provided with a copy of the BIA-NE's September 2016 report on advanced concussion training for schools. Peggy Reisher summarized the report. Peggy reported four schools: Schoo Middle School, Lincoln Northeast High School, Malcolm Public Schools and Pius X High School, participated in an advanced training with select staff members. Peggy shared that the findings from this training project will be published in the peer reviewed, scientific journal, *Brain Injury*.

- **REAP Manual**

Peggy shared there have been some challenges causing a delay of the manual production but they are hoping the manuals will be ready to print in the next couple of weeks. Peggy reported once the BIA-NE is received the completed manual they will be putting the electronic version up on their website.

- **Concussion Coalition**

A work group has been put together to work on developing a concussion support group. A concussion support group maybe developed for Lincoln, Omaha or both. Peggy shared there is currently a concussion specific support group being utilized through Facebook, and this is something they are investigating and considering. More information and work on the concussion support groups is yet to come.

- **Brain Injury Awareness Month**

Peggy reported that March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. The BIA-NE is planning to hold a Proclamation Day again this year, possibly on March 8th but the date has not yet been confirmed. Several other activities are also planned for the month. There will be four "Concussion Discussions" held in several parts of the state with panel discussions. More information on Brain Injury Awareness Month activities will be provided by BIA-NE as events are confirmed. Peggy shared that on Thursday evening of the Annual BI Conference, an "Evening at the Archway" will be held. They are working on lining up football players to speak on their experiences with brain injury as part of the evening.

- **Legislative Update**

Peggy Reisher shared that in 2015, BIA-NE introduced a trust fund bill that did not get to the legislative floor for discussion. Peggy stated Senator Wishart will introduce a very similar bill this year. Senator Bolz will also be introducing legislation on out-of-state car titling that if passed would help fund the TBI trust fund. Peggy reported that at most it could total \$140,000, but it would be a start. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg stated to watch for LB 42, the child passenger safety bill. Peggy Reisher reported there has been no word on a helmet law repeal bill this year, but BIA-NE will stay watchful. Peggy stated she will send out the draft trust fund bill when it is assigned a bill number and she will then be looking for individuals to testify.

- **Corrections Contacts**

Peggy Reisher shared they have been working with the Douglas County Corrections Department on brain injury screening. Peggy reported they will be adding TBI screening questions to their intake interview tool. Seven social workers will be conducting the 75-question intake interview. UNL and UNO will analyze the data from the tool. They are anticipating 5,000 completed assessments over six months. Peggy stated they are hoping to do some assessments following the data collection but that has not been confirmed. Peggy stated this will be a long process that she will continue to update the council on.

CORRECTIONS, JUVENILE JUSTICE AND TBI DISCUSSION

Keri Bennett shared that herself, Jen Papproth, Nebraska VR Program Director for Corrections and Juvenile Justice, Tania Diaz, Kristen Larsen, and Peggy Reisher had a phone conference earlier in the

week to discuss TBI in corrections and juvenile justice. Several resources regarding this topic were shared with council members via email prior to the meeting and several printed handouts were provided to the council in their meeting files today. Keri shared there are a lot of good things going on in other states with the TBI grant around corrections and juvenile justice. Keri reported they think there is enough interest and need in the state to create a task force to collect and examine evidence of what is happening to our youth in juvenile justice that have brain injuries. Council members discussed a collaboration between DRN, the DD Planning Council and the TBI grant activities. Tania Diaz stated they discussed on the phone call how this is a great time to work on this as the environment seems more receptive to change than in the past. Frank Velinsky shared he feels the word “treatment” is missing from all the provided reports. Frank stated we need to address “treatment” issues in the state to get buy-in from the juvenile justice and corrections systems. Frank stated that current juvenile justice and corrections systems’ staff do not seem to know that traumatic brain injury could even be an issue. Frank stated that just educating individuals on their brain injury can help them rehabilitate. Peggy Reisher discussed the “invisible wound” and need for data to create awareness in the corrections system. Council members discussed the need for additional work on TBI in juvenile justice and corrections, and their support of creating a task force. Keri discussed the variation in screenings and lack of cohesion in data collection for TBI in corrections. Kristen Larsen stated the DD Planning Council may have funding for a statewide task force to examine juvenile justice and TBI issues. Kristen, Keri, Tania, and Peggy will make additional contacts in the juvenile justice system and report back to the council at the next meeting.

ADRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Peggy Reisher shared the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) acts as the state’s “no wrong door” when individuals are looking for services and/or resources. Kristen Larsen shared that Nebraska’s ADRC started web based but there are now some brick and mortar offices. Peggy Reisher shared a lot of the funding of the ADRC has been focused on the aging community and they are working to bring in more disability resource awareness. ADRC offices are in Beatrice, Lincoln, Omaha, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff. There is also an ADRC 1-800 number and website. Peggy reported the ADRC is currently focusing on training and awareness. Peggy summarized the Network of Care, and reported the ADRC is working to expand and improve that system. Shari Bahensky stated the hotline has not been involved with the ADRC or Network of Care recently. Keri Bennett stated she will share hotline information and contacts with the ADRC committee. Peggy shared she is excited about the potential of the ADRC. Kristen Larsen stated she is also hopeful and they really want it to work. Deanna Jesse shared a call she made to the ADRC for a client she was working with and the positive results she received. Peggy reported the ADRC is working under a three-year grant.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Friday, March 17
- Friday, June 16
- Friday, September 22
- Friday, December 15

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2017, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m. with a motion made by Peggy Reisher and seconded by Dale Johannes. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**