

**Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Nebraska VR Office
Lincoln, NE
March 13, 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, Rose Dymacek, Pattie Flury, Brett Hoogeveen, Dale Johannes, Kristen Larsen, ML Lehman, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Peggy Reisher, Lori Terryberry-Spohr, Judy Vohland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Hausmann, Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Karen Hux, Frank Velinsky

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tania Diaz, Margaret Jensen, Vicki Rasmussen

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

VISITORS: Joyce Schmeeckle, Will Schmeeckle

The meeting of the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:08 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from December 12, 2014 were reviewed. Keri Bennett had a correction of a title listed and the change was made. A motion was made by Judy Vohland and seconded by ML Lehman to approve the December 12, 2014 meeting minutes as amended. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. Tiffany Armstrong stated a slight rearrangement of the agenda needed to be made to accommodate scheduling of all voting members. A motion was made by Lori Terryberry-Spohr and seconded by Brett Hoogeveen 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

Keri Bennett wished all a happy Brain Injury Awareness Month. Keri also shared a thank you from retired council member, Mary Gordon.

BRAIN INJURY GRANT ACTIVITY PROGRESS

Keri Bennett reported that on March 3rd the grant progress report was submitted and was reviewed a few days later. Keri shared that she and Tresa spent many hours working with MPHI on customizing the

Michigan TBI modules for Nebraska. The modules are almost complete and will be ready for distribution soon. Keri stated an agreement between Nebraska VR and Injury Prevention Program is in the works to develop training modules for healthcare providers. Peg Ogea-Ginsburg reported the concussion coalition is working to ensure healthcare providers are informed and aware of their job within the law. Peg stated to do that they are working to design these training modules and the first 3 are close to complete; there will be a total of 6 modules. Keri stated these modules are a great collaboration, meeting both HRSA and council objectives as well as Injury Prevention objectives. Keri shared a copy of the Ohio State TBI Identification Method form being used in the Area Agency on Aging TBI screening project with UNK. Keri reported herself and Brett participated in some phone calls regarding the balancing incentive program grant through NASHIA. Keri shared a copy of the NASHIA Medicaid balancing incentive program recommendations for core assessment tools for individuals with brain injury. Keri proposed with council review and approval, possibly writing a letter from the council accompanying the BIP guidelines to those at Health and Human Services who are stakeholders in this program to increase awareness and share council support. Keri shared a letter provided by DHHS sharing their updates regarding the BIP grant. Brett asked for clarification that there is no longer a BIP program, but they are supportive of continuing its programs. Different assessment tools for brain injury were discussed. Lori shared there is not one tool out there that captures all the different areas of an individual in one assessment, different assessments are needed/used for different facets of an individuals life.

BIRSST AND SUMMIT EVALUATION RESULTS

Joyce and Will Schmeckle shared results from the BIRSST team training evaluations and the recent Resource Facilitation Summit. Will shared handouts including Council website analytics and discussed statistics on website sessions. Will shared results of location of website visitors as well as new versus returning users to the website. Joyce shared they are hoping to analyze where website visitors are using the resource page to see where users are visiting from and stated this is currently being worked out to see if it is possible to analyze that usage. Will shared handouts summarizing the evaluation results from surveys of BIRSST team members. Results were reviewed and were overall positive. ML Lehman shared she attended the training and the materials and information was very good and well done. Keri shared they focused on concussions and concussion management within schools. Will shared a handout of the evaluation results of the Brain Injury Summit on Resource Facilitation survey. Will reviewed the survey results with council members. Joyce shared the PARTNER Social Network Analysis from December 2014 that collected baseline data from several TBI system partners. Joyce stated 13 partners completed the survey. Joyce reviewed and explained the outcomes of the analysis.

NEW COMMITTEES OR TASK FORCES

Keri shared with council members the TBI grant objectives as they relate to the target populations and the potential need for Council sub-committees. The first potential committee presented through grant objectives was a Committee on Children & Youth; objectives and activities were reviewed. Other potential committees were: a Committee on Elderly with TBI and a Committee on Reaching Diverse Populations was also proposed. The correlating grant objectives were shared and reviewed by council members.

Judy Vohland moved that an additional committee be created to reach diverse populations, Dale Johannes seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Dale shared as he is leaving the council he is hoping someone will take over the Committee on Elderly with TBI. Members discussed that currently the committees do not have high participation and need

restructuring as well as strong leadership to make them successful. Keri clarified that committee work is an option but not mandatory but would help make the council and its work stronger. Members discussed roles of task forces and how they have functioned in the past and what is needed to make committees the most effective moving forward. Keri stated she is looking for additional investment and involvement of council members in meeting grant objectives. Keri stated she is available to help facilitate meetings of committees. There was discussion of potential committee structures. Keri stated she would commit to, if she has a list of names of members who are interested in committees to coordinate conference calls and facilitating them to start the process of committee organization. Members discussed how diversity needs to be intentionally thought of and sought out throughout all areas and not just within one singular area. Keri sent a sign up sheet for members to sign if interested in participating in committees

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members must annually declare any conflict of interest. Keri read the council by-laws definition of conflict of interest to members. Tiffany asked members to make their declarations:

- Tiffany Armstrong declared Maxim Healthcare Services.
- Pattie Flury declared the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
- Dale Johannes declared he has no conflicts of interest.
- Kristen Larsen declared the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in regards to Developmental Disability Grants
- ML Lehman declared no conflicts of interest.
- Peg Ogea-Ginsburg declared no conflicts of interest.
- Peggy Reisher declared no conflicts of interest.
- Lori Terryberry-Spohr declared Madonna Rehabilitation.
- Judy Vohland declared no conflicts of interest.

ADDENDUM TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The following conflict of interest declarations were obtained from absent BI Advisory Council members following the March 13, 2015 meeting via email:

- Gary Hausmann
- Michelle Hawley-Grieser declared no conflicts of interest (March 23, 2015).
- Karen Hux
- Frank Velinsky declared Care Tech, Inc. (March 20, 2015).

RESOURCE FACILITATION SUMMIT

Minutes and notes from the Brain Injury Resource Facilitation Summit that was held February 12, 2015 were shared with council members and council members reviewed the final summit report. After reviewing the report Peggy shared overall she felt it was well done. Keri shared that this report has not yet been widely distributed. The council discussed the potential of funding for resource facilitation services and where to start. The TBI grant budget includes an amount for a three-year demonstration pilot. Discussion took place on the Ombudsperson role and how resource facilitators would take over that role. It was asked where this pilot program would serve. Keri stated at this point it could start regionally. Keri stated dates could be changed. Council members discussed the draft request for proposals (RFP). Keri stated the release date of March 16th will be slightly later depending on its approval. Members discussed if the turn around time for submittals was sufficient. Members stated they felt the resource facilitation RFP is ready to move forward. Transition possibilities and concerns regarding the change between the current Ombudsperson services to the resource facilitation pilot

were discussed. Nancy shared the brain injury registry is backed up and has not been received recently as the registry is spending extra time rechecking and certifying information is correct. Members proposed to change the implementation date written in the RFP from June 1st to June 30th. Keri asked the council if they felt eligibility requirements were necessary. Members discussed the possibility of eligibility requirements and intake options. Members agreed some type of screening would be useful if individuals do not have a diagnosis. Lori shared concerns about anoxic brain injury not be included in services. It was proposed to add a clause to the proposal including ABI. Keri stated both TBI and ABI can be included in the proposal.

ML Lehman moved to move forward with the Resource Facilitation RFP with the noted amendments; Judy Vohland seconded the motion pending the plan's approval by the VR director. Amendments made by the council included: Adding the word million to the typo on page one, taking out "4 years" on the data page, including both TBI and ABI, changing the grant launch date to June 30th, stating that until there are statewide services available the Ombudsperson will stay in place, correction of April dates, no restrictions will be placed on population.

VOTE:

Aye – Armstrong, Dymacek, Flury, Johannes, Larsen, Lehman, Ogea-Ginsburg, Terryberry-Spohr, Vohland
Nay – none

Abstain – Reisher

Absent – Hausmann, Hawley-Grieser, Hoogeveen, Hux, Velinsky

The motion carried.

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY TBI GRANT ACTIVITY REPORT

Tania Diaz reported they have been working on a few legislative bills related to brain injury. LB 31, which is the helmet law, was passed out of committee with amendment 359. Tania discussed with council members the progress and testimony that has been shared in regards to the helmet law. Tania reported the other bill they have been working with is LB516, which is the brain injury trust fund. Tania stated they have shared their support for LB516.

BY LAWS AMENDMENT

A copy of the proposed by laws amendment was provided to all council members. The amendment proposed was to revise page 9 to state under the Meeting Schedule: The meeting dates for the next year shall be established as a matter of BI Advisory Council business at the last meeting of each calendar year. Lori Terryberry-Spohr motioned to approve the by law amendment, Dale Johannes seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Aye – Armstrong, Flury, Johannes, Larsen, Lehman, Ogea-Ginsburg, Reisher, Terryberry-Spohr

Nay – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Dymacek, Hausmann, Hawley-Grieser, Hoogeveen, Hux, Velinsky, Vohland

The motion carried.

BIA-NE REPORT

Peggy shared a copy of the Brain Injury Association 2014 Annual Report. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy were:

- The annual conference will be held April 16th & 17th in Kearney.

- There will be a one-day presentation by Jeremy Warner in Lincoln and one day in North Platte with the Developmental Disabilities grant that is geared towards providers and their primary focus is to bring in new participants.
- There was a veterans conference held that was very well received in Grand Island with approximately 170 participants.
- Moving forward with Bowling for Brain Injury fundraiser likely in August or September.
- Had a club sports training in Omaha with about 30 participants. The training is giving information on concussion awareness and how directors can be compliant with the law. Additional trainings will be held: April 12 in Grand Island, and April 19th in Lincoln.
- Held training on February 16th for private schools in the Lincoln area with 30 participants and they will hold another on March 23rd.
- Have been working with the legislation LB516 & LB31. The Brain Injury Association supported ADRC bill.
- Peggy shared that currently, about 1200 persons receive updates regarding veterans affairs and about 1400 receive statewide updates from the Association.

OMBUDSPERSON REPORT

Peggy shared a written report of calls taken by the Ombudsperson from December 2014-February 2015.

NEBRASKA TBI TRAINING MODULES

Keri shared with members a demonstration on the training TBI training modules. Keri showed how the website is very similar in design to the Brain Injury Advisory Council's webpage. Listed under the resource tab is the menu of available training modules. The modules are open to anyone and will be marketed to state government employees and service providers. The pediatric module will be promoted to the early development sector. Keri stated that by the end of next week a Constant Contact email will go out providing the link. Peggy stated they could also add a link on the BIA webpage. Kristen shared she reviewed the modules, in particular the pediatric module, stating she thought it will be very helpful for teachers. Keri provided a brief overview of each module. Keri stated that the presentation slides can be downloaded and printed that correspond with each video. Keri reported there is a test and transcript at the completion of each training module. Keri reported they are able to track who is utilizing the trainings and they will be sent a follow up survey to gauge the modules' efficacy.

2015 ANNUAL BI CONFERENCE

Nancy shared that the Brain Injury Advisory Council is registered for a booth at the annual Brain Injury Conference. Nancy requested volunteers to man the booth during conference breaks. Nancy shared hand outs will be available at the booth.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- June 26, 2015
- September 25, 2015
- December 11, 2015
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ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2015, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 2:24p.m. with a motion made by Dale Johannes and seconded by Rose Dymacek. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**