

**Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council
Center for People in Need
Lincoln, NE
June 24, 2011**

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "conferences & meetings" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Buettner, Dymacek, Hausmann, Hawley-Grieser, Hoffmann, Brett Hoogeveen (for Hon), Hux, Johannes, Lehman, Terryberry-Spohr, Velinsky, Verzal, Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gordon

ADVISORS PRESENT: Jensen, Wardlow

STAFF PRESENT: Bennett, Kasl, Noha, Schultz

VISITORS PRESENT: Kate Kulesher Jarecke, BIA-NE; Peggy Reisher, BIA-NE; Deidre Isaac, Good Samaritan; Sheila Page, Senator Coash's office; Gina Simanek, Brain Injury Community Center; Barbara Schultz, ATP

The meeting of the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:30 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. Tiffany Young moved and Karen Hux seconded a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF MAY 19, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Changes suggested for the May 19 minutes include: the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.; Michelle Hawley-Grieser was absent not present; and Jen Karolski from Quality Living was present not Rondi. A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Gary Hausman to approve the May 19, 2011 meeting minutes 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 back table.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY HOUSE PROJECT

Gina Simanek reported on a feasibility study she is conducting for a Brain Injury Community Center. She received a grant of \$15,000 from the Community Health Endowment fund to perform the study. She has hired a consultant and needs to develop a business plan. The Nebraska Business Development Center is a good resource but they don't work with non-profit organizations. The vision is to develop a Brain Injury Community Center that will involve partnering with many entities in Nebraska. The Center will enable survivors and families to continue practicing their life skills in a post-rehab setting. Peer support groups and mentoring will be established. They are looking at a location for the Center in the Piedmont area of Lincoln for a pilot. The concept paper was provided to the Council along with the logo and a mission statement. The Brain Injury Community Center's mission is to provide hope, support, education, skills, formulate networks, foster relationships and facilitate access to professional and community based resources – maximizing life satisfaction and meaning. TBI Club Houses in other states provide a small amount of education and work on related skills for adults. Gina hopes the Nebraska Center will provide a broader range of services and will be open to any individual with a brain injury.

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON GRANT UPDATE

Susan Buettner presented on the recent changes in the Money Follows the Person Grant. The purpose of the grant is to get more people out of institutions and into community living. Transition Coordinators meet with individuals to transition out of institutions and provide follow-up services for one-year. They work with partners to get the resources the individual needs. With only four coordinators it was difficult to cover the entire state to meet with individuals. In October 2010, they started to update the referral process. They are currently working to increase the referrals and the positive outcomes. Also being developed is a statewide provider recruitment and enrollment campaign. Local area resources/providers will be able to become a Coordinator. There will be provider agreements and standards to be met. Each Coordinator will receive a stipend to help the individual transition. Stipends will be \$1000 for a non-qualifying residence, and \$2000 for a qualifying residence. A web portal is being designed for the providers to link in to the system information. Much discussion was held regarding the shortfalls of the system and the future plans to overcome these obstacles.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA UPDATE

Kate Jarecke reported on the recent events of the BIA-NE. A written report was also provided in the member packet.

- The bowling fundraiser made over \$7,000 with a profit of \$5,643 after expenses. Everybody had a great night.
- The Annual Meeting of the Board was held. Jacquie Cox was elected President, Judy Harvey was elected Treasurer and Rondi Kinney was elected Secretary.
- The Midwest Leadership Conference was hosted by Quality Living in June for regional Brain Injury Associations.
- Peggy Reisher started with the BIA on June 1. She is working on PTSD trainings.
- The BIA wants to host a support group leadership training on October 21 in Aurora.

- Kate will be having a meeting with Dr. Schaefer regarding the concussion trainings.
- An outline of the grant goals and objectives were provided in writing.
- Kate asked for feedback from the Council on Crane Storm. She is asking each member to make presentations to two community groups to assist in folding origami cranes. Presentation information will be provided. The cranes will be hung up at the Annual Meeting to represent each person (36,000) in Nebraska that is living with a brain injury. Members were supportive of the project. Karen Hux moved and ML Lehman seconded a motion to support the Crane Storm project and to help recruit groups to make the cranes. There were no objections to the motion.
The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONFERENCE REVIEW

Peggy Reisher reported on the May 19 & 20 TBI Conference. A written summary was provided. There were 265 people registered for the conference, generating a total income of \$25,585. Overall the comments about the conference were very positive. Peggy will begin the planning for the Conference for next year and welcomes additional members that would like to help.

AT 4 ALL WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION

Barbara Schultz from Assistive Technology presented on the AT 4 All website and how to search for equipment. Anyone can search for equipment but if you want to borrow, you have to create an account. Those without Internet access can get equipment by calling the office. There are many partners that are also listed on the website who have equipment that can be borrowed. Almost 12,000 pieces of equipment are available. In the last year, Assistive Technology gave 1,256 loans, 284 demonstrations, and had 257 items donated. It was suggested that a demonstration of the iPod touch and the AT 4 All website be done at the TBI conference next year.

MARKETING PLAN UPDATE

Tiffany Verzal reported that she, Tiffany Armstrong, Keri, Nancy and Jana met to look at website options. They are looking for suggestions of model websites in terms of setup and usability. Nebraska.gov does free website redesign for government agencies and may be an option for the group.

NEEDS AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT DISTRIBUTION

Keri Bennett made available the Executive Summary of the Needs and Resources Assessment that was completed by Schmeckle Research. It was asked how the TBI prevalence in this report compared to previous Needs Assessments. Keri shared that the prevalence is lower in this report because they only looked at documented injuries that have lasting disability impact. Previous reports also included estimated minor injuries. Discussion was held around the increase in emergency room visits over the past five years. Some thoughts were that it could be due to concussions, awareness and/or better reporting (electronic reporting). The Needs Assessment will be posted on the TBI website and NDE will do a media release. Sheila Page felt that Senator Coash would likely be willing to help in distributing the report to other Senators. The Assessment will also be used in revising the State Plan.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Task Force on Children and Youth

- Rose Dymacek provided a written report.
- Karen Hux discussed the Safe Child Validation Study: The screening tool pilot was done for six months at well child check-ups. Just less than 2% of children screened positive for a possible brain injury. The next study will be done by pediatricians in Lincoln and Columbus as well as some daycare centers. It will repeat the screening and use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire which is a parent report on development. The study will determine how many Safe Child screens that are positive also screen positive on Ages and Stages. This will help to determine the validity of the Safe Child tool. The validation study will run for six months. Will begin using the screening tools at schools in the fall.

Veterans Task Force

- Tiffany Armstrong is a Co-Chair with Peggy Reisher and gave the report.
- The Task Force will focus on four areas: awareness with NETV, a screening project, brain injury PTSD training, and a resource facilitation bill.
- They are working with NETV to produce a one hour awareness segment on TBI and Veterans. Nebraska has 2800 soldiers returning home this summer so would like to time this to come out in the fall. It could cost up to \$15,000 for a full production. They are considering using an existing New York half-hour presentation and adding to it with Nebraska specific information and examples of veterans who used the resources and have benefitted.
- They are looking into a screening project at Central Community College, a VA transitional living center and other VA centers.
- PTSD Training is scheduled for September 8 & 9 in Grand Island, and Sept 29 & 30 at Madonna. All of the trainings already offered have been well attended. They are looking into future trainings in Columbus and North Platte. Lori Wardlow mentioned that an online training option might be considered for sustainability.

Juvenile Justice Task Force

- Keri Bennett reported that the Juvenile Justice Task Force decided to contract with UNL's Children, Families and the Law (Jeff Chambers) to do a literature review and fine tune goals for a Research Study proposal at the YRTC campus' in Geneva and Kearney. HHS has given their approval but parental consent must be collected from each Youth's parent. Staff education and awareness will be valuable as well as finding the incidence rate for the youth. The project is being used to count the number of youth affected by TBI.

SENIOR TASK FORCE REPORT

- Dale Johannes shared that Tiffany Young is co-chairing.
- They have found a questionnaire from Ohio State University that may be a good start for screening with this age group. They will look into doing a pilot.

Hotline for Disabilities

The Hotline report was provided in the member packets.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION/MENTOR PROPOSAL

Tiffany Armstrong is recommending an orientation be provided for new members to the Council so they will know the role of the Council, their responsibilities as members, and to increase their comfort level. An established orientation would provide uniform information to each member. Tiffany expects that the orientation will cover the history, purpose, goals, task forces and member expectations for the TBI Council. Tiffany shared a Power Point that she had drafted. Another idea is to pair the new member with an existing member so they know someone who they can ask questions of and someone to guide them. The Council was supportive of the Power Point and the mentoring.

ADJOURN

Dale Johannes moved and Gary Hausman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on September 16, 2011.