

**Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council  
Center for People in Need  
Lincoln, NE  
September 16, 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, Hawley-Grieser, Hoffmann, Hon, Hux, Johannes, Lehman, Terryberry-Spohr, Velinsky, Verzal, Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Hausmann

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** Diaz, Rasmussen

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bennett, Kasl, Noha, Schultz

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Kate Kulesher Jarecke, BIA-NE;

*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. Some additions were suggested. A motion was made by Karen Hux and seconded by Mike Hon to approve the agenda as amended. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 24, 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of June 24, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made by Karen Hux and seconded by Dale Johannes to approve the June 24, 2011 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 back table.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Keri Bennett announced that it was Margy Hoffmann's last meeting as she is retiring at the end of September. A gift was presented to Margy from the Council and advisors.

Tiffany Armstrong announced that she is starting a new job at Maxim Health Care in Omaha. She is claiming it as a potential conflict of interest.

**VIDEO ON VETERANS WITH BRAIN INJURY**

Tiffany Verzal announced that the Veteran's Task Force is moving forward with the video on Veteran's

who have a brain injury. Two Veterans, from Omaha and Grand Island, will be on the video with some of their family members. Both had hit rock bottom before asking for help. Professionals will be in the video to talk about the process of getting help. The VA and Military One will be a part of the video as they both provide assistance to Veterans. A New York BIA produced video will be used as a segment of the show. They have allowed Nebraska to use the video for free and to edit it to make it relevant to Nebraska. The show will air on November 10 with promotions on TV, radio and the web. The video can then be added to the Advisory Council website and the BIA-NE website. Anything that is produced by grant funds can be shared with the entire country. Other states will also be able to benefit from Nebraska's work.

### **PEDIATRIC ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY ACT**

Lori Terryberry-Spohr presented on the Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (PABI) Act that has been introduced in the house in federal legislation. Nebraska has begun to make some plans on how they will implement the Act if it passes. The Act was founded out of the Sarah Jane Brain Project by Patrick Donahue and has a \$900 million fiscal note attached. The goal is to integrate medical, education, judicial and social service systems to facilitate long-term rehabilitation. It intends to build on existing resources but to improve on all of them and provide universal access for all. The target age range is birth to 25. It was introduced in July and has a number of co-sponsors. The vote has been delayed but will hopefully take place this fall. There are several guiding principles of the plan that can be found in the executive summary at [www.thebrainproject.org](http://www.thebrainproject.org). Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is the Nebraska State Lead Center, with the regional lead identified as Children's Hospital in Denver. In Nebraska, the level one center is Madonna; level 2 centers are in Omaha, Kearney and Scottsbluff; level 3 centers in Norfolk, Valentine and North Platte. Facilities in these communities that would take on the role will need to be identified. The plan identifies that the Nebraska budget is \$4.7 million in year one and \$8.7 million in years 2 and 3 and will require approximately 80 new staff. More information will follow on this topic as it moves through the legislature.

### **MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON GRANT UPDATE**

Susan Buettner provided an update on the Money Follows the Person Grant. The purpose is to get more people out of institutions and into community living. They continue to develop a statewide provider recruitment and enrollment campaign. The web portal is done and they will start to enroll providers in approximately a week. There will be provider agreements and standards to be met. Each coordinator will receive a stipend to help the client transition. As it uses federal funds, there will be several reporting requirements. A media campaign will begin shortly.

### **AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER**

Susan Buettner shared that Nebraska HHS was notified that they received a two-year grant to develop an Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The network of partners needs to be developed. Regional advisory boards have been started and will become more active. In the next few months some marketing will begin. The website is [www.adrc.nebraska.gov](http://www.adrc.nebraska.gov), which is currently in a test environment. The project must be done by 2014.

### **OTHER HHS TOPICS**

Susan Buettner also reported that full risk management care for mental health/substance abuse cases is

being developed. HHS is holding meetings with Developmental Disabilities about waivers, as all waivers are currently excluded from managed care. They will discuss whether this policy can be revised. The waiver must be submitted by July. Anyone with an interest in this topic can have some input. Much discussion was held around care for these individuals and changes being made in HHS.

#### **WORK GROUP POST NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Mike Hon reported that a group was formed to identify what the possible services are that someone could qualify for when being treated for a brain injury. After listing possible services they tried to identify the gaps in available services. A second group will meet to look more specifically at the gaps to see if they are indeed a gap and not a misconception. After gaps are identified they can start to look at some solutions.

#### **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.

- BIA-NE has met and is meeting with approximately 30 groups to discuss concussion awareness, including youth sports, Lincoln Parks and Rec, Children's Trauma Conference and Safe Kids. The bill takes affect in July.
- Media outreach on concussion awareness will be done through an Injury Prevention Outreach grant.
- A feasibility study on the Brain Injury Community Center is being done. The study is due to be completed in June.
- The TBI Work Plan for BIA was shared in writing.
- Peggy Reisher is working on the Conference. Keynote speakers are being established. The conference will be held March 29-30 in Kearney. The bowling fundraiser will be done again this year. An autographed Husker football will be given by raffle for supporting Tiffany Young's team.
- The purpose of Cranestorm is to bring awareness of TBI. A grant from Serve Nebraska was awarded toward the project. Of the 36,000 cranes, 1000 red, white and blue cranes will be made in honor of Veterans who have come home with a brain injury. Several different groups have volunteered to fold cranes. It will be completed in an art installation at the Conference to represent each of the 36,000 people in Nebraska that are living with a brain injury. Kate is also trying to get photos of famous Nebraskans holding a crane, have is signed by them and then auctioned off at the conference. Roe Sanctuary and Museum of Nebraska Art are partners in the project.

#### **TBI ADVISORY COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT**

Keri Bennett shared that a TBI Council Self Assessment would be a good tool to help in rewriting the State Plan and to use in conjunction with the Statewide Needs Assessment. The Council Needs Assessment was distributed and completed in small groups by the Council members. Keri Bennett and

Tiffany Armstrong will compile the results for review at the next meeting. Some comments from members were that institutional history should be shared with the group as membership changes. Sustainability is a key discussion that needs to be had as federal funds are likely to be cut in the future.

#### **PLANS FOR UPDATING THE STATEWIDE TBI ACTION PLAN**

Keri Bennett shared that the current State Plan needs to be updated. Some of the goals have been completed and some additional objectives could be added. In December, Keri would like the Council to talk about the self assessment, accomplishments of the task forces and accomplishments on the state plan and put it all together in a report that can be used for goal setting. A professional facilitator will be used to guide the discussion.

#### **SEPTEMBER HRSA SITE VISIT**

Keri Bennett reported that the grantor, Rebecca Desrocher from HRSA, will be in Nebraska on September 28 & 29. She is excited to see the things that Nebraska has accomplished and is still working on. She is interested in how Nebraska was able to get a TBI registry in place.

#### **TASK FORCE REPORTS**

##### Marketing

Nancy Noha shared that the Marketing Task Force is pursuing a new website design and layout. More information should be available in December.

##### Task Force on Children and Youth

Rose Dymacek reported.

- The Safe Child Validation Study: The screening tool pilot was done for six months at well child check-ups. Just under 2% of children screened positive for a possible brain injury. The next study will be done by pediatricians in Lincoln and Columbus. 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 and include additional offices in Lincoln, and daycare centers. Follow up with daycare providers is needed to give them more understanding of the project so that they see the validity in participating. Three schools have committed to the project that will help in developing a protocol for 5 year olds.

##### Veterans Task Force

Tiffany Armstrong reported. A written report was in the member packet.

- To date, the PTSD training has reached 435 Nebraskans with 73 registered to attend at Madonna. Further trainings are being considered at Metro Community College, Columbus and North Platte.
- A web-based training on Nebraska resources has been developed and will be shown on Oct 11. Another training opportunity allows viewers to logon when they wish. Both are free and the second offers CEUs.

### Juvenile Justice Task Force

Keri Bennett reported.

- 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. The parental consent issue is putting the project on hold. If it is conducted as an internal HHS study, parental consent would not be needed. This could be a possibility and is being discussed.

### Senior Task Force Report

Tiffany Young reported.

- The Senior Task Force found a questionnaire that may be a good start for screening with this age group. Area Agency on Aging in Kearney will meet with them to develop a pilot study. The program will also provide education to Area Agency on Aging staff. There are three research questions: the number that screen positive, the comfort level of case managers, and does having training in place help them to find better community resources. This project will provide some good information to ADRC.
- Dale Johannes shared that there is a webinar on Sept 22 discussing the elderly and falls. It is being put on by TBI Serves, from 12:30 – 1:30.

### Hotline for Disabilities

The Hotline report was provided in the member packets.

### **ADJOURN**

Frank moved and Tiffany Young seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 9, 2011.