

**Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council  
Center for People in Need  
Lincoln, NE  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

*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:** Tiffany Armstrong, Pattie Flury, Mary Gordon, Michelle Hawley-Greiser, Brett Hoogeveen, Karen Hux, Dale Johannes, Lori Terryberry-Spohr, Frank Velinsky, Judy Vohland

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rose Dymacek, Gary Hausmann, ML Lehman, Tiffany Verzal,

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** Vicki Rasmussen

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Peggy Reisher

*The meeting of the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:00 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. A motion was made by Karen Hux and seconded by Frank Velinsky to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motions. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of December 6, 2013 were reviewed. Some typographical errors were pointed out and corrections to the documentation of which members made motions were made. A motion was made by Frank Velinsky and seconded by Karen Hux to approve the December 6, 2013 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**

Frank Velinsky shared that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have implemented new regulations for defining settings for home and community based services. Comments were shared on current confusion of how the new regulations will possibly affect services of those with a TBI, and if these new regulation will constrain or increase services. Mary Gordon shared she believes the new regulations will have a positive impact and that states will have 5 years to implement the new

regulations. Pattie Flury shared that she does not think assisted living will be affected as they are already meeting most of the requirements of the new regulations. Keri Bennett questioned if the TBI council should take any action to research these new regulations. Brett Hoogeveen stated he would look into the brain injury waiver and report his findings at the next council meeting. Council members agreed that the TBI advisory council should be aware of these new regulations in case of any concerns or needs. Mary Gordon shared that the transition plan does require public input to be in-acted and the TBI council would be a good fit to do that. Further discussion of the CMS regulations will be added to the agenda for June.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Ashley Hernandez was introduced as the new council recorder.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members must annually declare any conflict of interest. Tiffany asked for members to make their declarations:

- Tiffany Armstrong declared Maximum Healthcare Services.
- Dale Johannes declared he currently has no conflicts he is aware of.
- Mary Gordon declared the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Frank Velinsky declared Care Tech, Inc.
- Lori Terryberry-Spohr declared Madonna Rehabilitation and The University of Nebraska.
- Judy Voland declared Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Pattie Flury declared the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Karen Hux declared The University of Nebraska.
- Brett Hoogeveen declared Quality Living, Inc.

### **MEETING DATES**

Meeting dates were set for the next year. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

- June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### Task Force on Children and Youth

- Karen Hux shared that an individual out of George Washington University will be doing research using a multi-state survey on the safe child screen and other development testing to see if there is any correlation.
- Rose Dymacek was not available to share on Burst teams.
- Karen shared the task force was part of the OSEP call. The office of special education wanted to know about the birth to 3 screening and putting that to use in various settings. Cindy Brunken from LPS has been using safe student middle/high with all students being referred for special education services of all type. The task force has been getting strong feedback and interest. Over 120 people were on the OSEP call. Safe student has not been revised. The task force will plan to get with Cindy Brunken for additional feedback.

### Juvenile Justice Task Force

- The task force is no longer receiving juvenile justice referrals. Mark Mason and Keri have been working with Juvenile Probation who are very interested in screening and increasing referrals. If the extension is approved committee will continue with children, family & the law.
- Targeting probation conference for 2015 to do presenting on TBI and justice.

### Senior Task Force

- Dale Johannes reported currently waiting on the grant decision to dictate moving forward. Dale stated there are possibilities to go forward with or without grant funds. Dale shared he has a strong hope for increasing the assistance the elderly population receive and a great potential to make progress with this population.
- Data was requested for the last 3 years to most recent data possible to have available to present to agencies to show the impact of TBI in the elderly population.
- Have been participating in the Nebraska Falls Coalition. Falls are a very large concern for this group.

### Council Wellness Committee

Tiffany Armstrong reported that a power point presentation was created and is ready for member review and/or input.

### **BIA-NE QUARTERLY REPORT**

A written Brain Injury Association of Nebraska report was provided by Peggy Reisher. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy were:

- Awareness & outreach continue to work with forever shaken. Have found more places to distribute that video to. Connected with KFAB to have events posted. Did a half hour show for KZUM and they will be running PSAs.
- Bowling for Brain Injury is needing assistance with promotion. Materials were provided to council. This year 100% of proceeds will benefit the local programs. Any ideas for sponsorship are appreciated.
- Board of Director is currently looking for a new member with a financial background.
- Concussion awareness committee is giving guidance to state leadership. 2<sup>nd</sup> concussion coalition meeting is scheduled for the end of April; the focus is how can we better educate physicians, club sports and return to learn outreach. If return to learn legislative is approved Nebraska would be one of very few states to have this.
- The Annual Report was provided. Peggy stated that this was a productive year for the organization increasing diversity in their funding stream.

#### **TBI OMBUDSMAN QUARTERLY REPORT**

A written report was provided by BIA-NE NBIIC Data Set for the reporting period of December 2013 – February 2014. Some highlights mentioned by Peggy Reisher regarding the report were:

- Numbers of calls received per month: December- 64, January- 49, February 59. Averaging approximately 68 hours spent on calls a month.
- Examples of call types that are received were provided and what type of referral work is done.

#### **HRSA TBI GRANT APPLICATION STATUS**

Keri Bennett shared that the current HRSA TBI Grant ends Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. A no cost extension was requested to continue working on unfinished business of the grant. At this time the request has not be approved or denied. In the new grant application just in time teaching modules were included. These modules could be accessed from the Michigan office and could be used in our state and receive CEUs. Also, if approved the new grant would continue to fund staff time around council meetings, etc. Ombudsman and brain injury registry would also continue if extension is granted. The new grant would maintain the current funding level of \$250,000 a year for 4 years. Award date of the new grant is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Contingency Plan

If the grant extension or new grant is not granted a contingency plan option to continue TBI council meetings could be to use the video conference system through the VR. Another option is possibly shortening meetings to eliminate the need to provide meals. Council members discussed possibilities of using other donated meeting spaces, although mileage reimbursement and other expense reimbursement would not be available.

## BIAC Vision for the Future

A copy of the objectives and activities related to the State Plan for Brain Injury Services was provided and reviewed by the council. Keri shared that this document shows how the goals the council has set can be met through the grant. This new grant will continue to assist the council to move forward with its goal, and she stated that there is also a lot of room for collaboration with BIA and ATP. Keri shared that the funding application for this new HRSA grant (the prescriptive qualifications) were different than the grant 4 years ago. This new grant required a very large evaluation system. Ombudsman is not required in the new grant but it would make sense to continue. Keri stated that a need for additional task forces or committees may be needed to meet new goals but that would be a decision of the BI council.

## **TBI COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Federal guidelines for Brain Injury Advisory councils were provided to council members. Keri Bennett offered a few suggestions of ways to continue meeting these guidelines through membership. Currently the council does not have a member of an organization or foundation representing individuals with traumatic brain injury in the state. Keri suggested that the handbook should add a member of the BIA to be a voting member. Keri shared there is no longer a conflict of interest to have the BIA as a voting member in the new grant. Keri also suggested including a member representing injury prevention either as a voting member or technical advisor.

Keri reported that Lori Wardlow stepped down as a technical advisor for the council. Tiffany Davis's position which represented acute care still needs to be filled. It was also recommended to include someone from Western Nebraska as currently no one west North Platte is represented on the council.

Council members discussed possible additions to the council, but it was decided not to consider or change the structure of the council until word on the grant is received. Keri shared that the council application is posted online and will be distributed to council members who can forward them on to potential new members.

## **ADJOURN**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. with a motion made by Karen Hux and seconded by Frank Velinsky. There were no objections to the motion.

**The motion carried by unanimous consent.**