

**Brain Injury Advisory Council
Minutes, June 21, 2013
Center for People in Need, Lincoln, Nebraska**

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, Dymacek, Flury, Gordon, Hausmann,, Hoogeveen, Hux, Johannes, Lehman, Terryberry-Spohr, Velinsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: Davis, Hawley-Grieser, Verzal, Vohland

ADVISORS PRESENT: Diaz,, Rasmussen

STAFF PRESENT: Bennett,, Noha, Ransom

VISITORS PRESENT: Kate Kulesher Jarecke and Peggy Reisher, BIA

The meeting of the Brain Injury Advisory Council commenced at 10:00 a.m. Public notice of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda for the day was reviewed. Noha requested an addition be made to the agenda to discuss information on the Council web site. A motion was made by Gordon and seconded by Hoogeveen to approve the agenda with the addition. There were no objections to the motions. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF March 8, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of March 8, 2013 were reviewed. Velinsky clarified that his recommendation was to move all or none of the task forces from the Council to be sure TBI stays strong. Gordon reported Armstrong should be added to the Council Wellness Standing Committee listing in the notes. A motion was made by Hausmann and seconded by Lehman to approve the March 8, 2013 meeting minutes with the two revisions. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Armstrong announced that the meeting was an open meeting and the Open Meetings Law was posted on the back table.

The Council members and guests introduced themselves.

COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PATRICIA FLURY, DHHS, MEDICAID & LONG TERM CARE and NEBRASKA'S TBI WAIVER

Bennett introduced Patricia Flury and indicated she is replacing Susan Buettner on the Council as the DHHS representative. Flury reviewed the state's TBI waiver program which has 40 slots (not all being used) only for specialized assisted living. Quality Living, Inc., in Omaha is the only provider at this time. A consumer makes a choice between community based services or a facility. The choice has to be cost effective. Community based services are provided under the Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver (chore, respite care, transportation, etc.). The Council inquired why all the slots are not being used and Flury explained there are currently no other providers in the state who can provide the specialized intensive services.

Discussion was held on the lack of qualified independent living service providers who can provide IL training to individuals with brain injury under the waiver.

FEDERAL TBI PROGRAM UPDATE

Bennett announced the grant award notice was received on June 8 for the 2013 extension through March 31, 2014. The full amount of \$250,000 has been awarded for the year. Bennett reported moving the Veteran Task Force to the BIA should not impact the grant.

TBI Reauthorization has not yet passed. The National Association of Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) has met with the Brain Injury Association of America, congressional and senate staff, etc. They are recommending representatives to be contacted for support. The Nebraska BIA sent a letter of support. The annual NASHIA meeting will be in October and will have part of the agenda related to HRSA TBI grantees since their meeting was cancelled in March.

BIA REPORT

Reisher shared the organization is working on funding to support the organization. Future activities include:

- The Veteran Task Force is helping plan a caregiver retreat for 100 women. It will cost \$65,000 and is being sponsored by Mutual of Omaha, Nebraska Veterans Foundation, etc.
- A TBI/PTSD training will be held at Bellevue University October 17-18, 2013. A registration fee will be charged to help continue future trainings.
- The TBI conference made a profit of \$5,780. The next conference will be March 20-21, 2014 in Kearney.
- An Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialist (ACBIS) certification workshop will be held this summer. The BIA report indicates July 29-30, but the date is yet to be determined since many interested in the certification are not available that week.
- A Shaken Baby video is being developed which will document the signs and symptoms and information for new parents. Reisher asked for support from the Council to support the distribution of the video (letters/postage). A motion was made by Hux and seconded by Johannes to provide \$1,300 to the BIA. After further discussion Terryberry Spohr amended the motion to provide up to \$2,000 if needed and was seconded by Velinsky. **The motion was voted on and passed with no objections.**

Jarecke provided a legislative update. The helmet law was carried over to next year and will need priority status to be heard. The seatbelt and caregiver tax credit proposals did not get out of committee. Bills passed include LB 556 (includes behavioral health screenings in required school physical examinations before kindergarten and seventh grade and an additional one in ninth grade and also allows telehealth services to occur in schools) and LB 300 (see below in Gordon's report).

Reisher reported TBI Ombudsman calls to the BIA have increased. Gina Simanek has been volunteering to provide information/referral to callers and follow-up when needed. The BIA requested funding to make this a paid position. Gordon requested a proposal be made to the Council, which should include a job description, number of hours, etc. Rasmussen requested the BIA track the number of calls. Terryberry-Spohr recommended the Council fund up to 10 hours per week and reassess at the end of six months. Armstrong requested the BIA submit a proposal and the Council Executive Committee would review it instead of delaying a decision until the next Council meeting. The proposal should include a job description, clarify salary, benefits, how data will be tracked, etc. Hux made a motion that the BIA submit a proposal to the Council for funding a part time ombudsman position for review by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Dymacek. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

COUNCIL WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Gordon reviewed the changes recommended to the Council for the Appointee Handbook by the committee. An update to the history and some additional revision (new email addresses, etc.) is needed. The Council will review and vote on a revised draft during the September meeting.

LR 300

Gordon reported on the study to identify and make recommendations regarding the lack of behavioral health services for those with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Gaps in services and the impact of the Affordable Care Act will be studied. Bennett and Gordon will be meeting with the sponsor of the bill (Campbell) to discuss the role of brain injury in this issue, including providers of mental health services that are trained in brain injury.

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Noha explained that the newsletter that the Council received can be redesigned and shared with others who are interested in brain injury and the work of the Council. This would include state senators, congressmen, BI registry personnel, Centers for Independent Living, AAA's, BIRSST team, etc. Noha also asked the Council for their opinion on the continued use of the about brain injury modules developed by Hux. Since they are outdated, it was recommended the site provide links to brainline.org, Center for Disease Control, and the Brain Injury Association of America instead.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

• Children and Youth

Dymacek reported the Return to Learn Workshop will be held September 17 at ESU 10 in Kearney. It will be an opportunity for communication between BIRSST team members, education staff, health care personnel, and parents. It is being proposed that each school create a concussion management team.

A presentation will be made at Nebraska Department of Education Administrator's Day on concussion management in the classroom. There will also be injury prevention information provided to coaches at the Cornhusker Games and during the state nursing association conference.

• Juvenile Justice

A screening pilot is being conducted by VR with eligible clients from secondary schools and juvenile justice referral sources. There have been 40 completed screens at this time and up to 390 screens will be collected for each group.

• Senior

Bennett and the UNK researchers will meet with Regional AAA directors on July 9 to review the results from the AAA screening pilot (used Ohio's screening tool) in Kearney and discuss how to involve more AAA's in screening for TBI. Bennett provided a final report from UNK. Reisher reported the DHHS/Fall prevention grant is working to identify where falls are happening in the state.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2013 in Lincoln. A motion to adjourn was made by Hausmann and seconded by Armstrong. The motion carried by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.