

**Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council  
Center for People in Need  
Lincoln, NE  
March 4, 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, Gordon, Hausmann, Hawley-Grieser, Hoffmann, Hon, Hux, Johannes, Lehman, Terryberry-Spohr, Velinsky, Verzal, Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** Diaz, Jensen, Rasmussen, Stortenecker

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Kate Kulesher Jarecke, BIA-NE; Joyce Schmeeckle, Schmeeckle Research; Tina Kimball, Catholic Health Initiatives

*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. Karen Hux moved and Mike Hon seconded a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by ML Lehman and seconded by Mike Hon to approve the September 3, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

According to the amended Operational Procedures, members are asked to declare any potential conflict of interest at the first meeting of the calendar year. Members declared as follows:

Mary Gordon declared the Department of Health and Human Services.

Karen Hux declared the University of Nebraska.

Mike Hon declared Quality Living.

Tiffany Armstrong declared Madonna.

Frank Velinsky declared Caretech, Inc.

Rose Dymacek declared the Nebraska Department of Education.

## **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.

## **NEEDS AND RESOURCES ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT**

Joyce Schmeackle provided an update on the progress of the TBI Needs Assessment. The written report shared that TBI injuries seen in the emergency rooms have increased over the years. States that have Brain Injury Trust Funds were indicated with about half having one. Survey results were shared and discussed. A suggestion was made that the data be evaluated by mild, moderate and severe brain injury categories. Joyce asked for feedback on who should be listed in the categories in the Nebraska TBI System of Care. Service Providers that agreed to contribute to filling in the chart are: Roger Stortenbecker, Mike Hon, Peggy Reischer, and Lori Terryberry Spohr.

## **PROPOSAL TO REVISE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

Tiffany Armstrong discussed the Operational Procedures. The Procedures have stated that the Council chair is a non-voting member. It may be a statement that has carried through history as the chair and lead agency have changed. Karen Hux moved and Mike Hon seconded a motion to revise the operational procedures to allow the chair to be a voting member. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

## **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.

- LB 312: The Brain Injury Act, Veteran's Resource Facilitation bill was heard in the Government Committee. Tiffany Armstrong testified at the hearing. They are working on a new fiscal note to make the bill more appealing to the legislators.
- LB260: Sports Concussion Act has been on the agenda for two weeks. It is out of Committee and waiting for hearing. No known opposition at this time.
- LB52: Helmet Bill was heard in the Transportation Committee. Gary Hausmann testified at the hearing. Has not made it out of committee.
- LB466: Mental Health Medicaid Prescription Drug Act allows anit-psychotics and other drugs to be part of Medicaid.
- TBI Awareness Day is on March 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Capitol, Rm 1023 from 9:30-10:30. BIA has a board meeting following. There is a presentation by the Senators that have sponsored the legislation. The Everyday Hero Award will be given to the Returning Veteran Resource Network. Proclamation Ceremony is at 1:30.
- Goals and Objectives are shared on the written report.

- Safe Kids Coaches Clinics will be held on March 6 for YMCA sports. Will be taped for broadcast on Channel 5.
- Peggy Reisher is moving to the BIA to work on program activities. Veteran's trainings will be under the BIA and provides capabilities to apply for additional grants.

### **CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

Keri Bennett shared that she is sitting on an ad hoc committee that is putting together an action plan for people who experience chronic homelessness. On the handout provided, Goal 4 talks about increasing strategies addressing prevention and discharge planning. The action item, identify the issues for re-entry, includes TBI. Keri has offered to help with a screening tool. A conference call of the committee is taking place next week. Keri asked for volunteers to help formulate a plan in this direction. Peggy Reisher and Tiffany Young volunteered to join the call with Keri.

### **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 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.
- The TBI Committee in Georgia wants to screen children zero to four for TBI but not acquired brain injury. It would require altering the Nebraska screening tool resulting in inconsistent data with Nebraska's. Will continue to talk with them.
- BIRRSST is working on a screener for grades 1 -5. A draft has been started and they will work to finalize the screener and the process. A pilot will be done. Training for school personnel will need to be developed.
- It was suggested that the new members on the Council be added to the task force.

#### Veterans Task Force

- Peggy Reisher shared information on the Veteran's Task Force. A written report was in the member packets that included a goals and timeline spreadsheet.
- Six trainings were provided in the last year; 323 attended training; the evaluations were shared; large number attending are providers.
- NETV wants to do a piece on brain injury. Peggy will continue to work with them.

- A Council member needs to be the chair of this task force as Peggy is now part of the BIA. Tiffany Armstrong volunteered to work with Peggy as chair.

#### 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. A research proposal will be submitted to HHS to see if it can move ahead. Staff education and awareness will be valuable as well as finding the incidence rate for the youth. Virginia has developed a screening tool for this population that the Task Force hopes to get permission to use. Will attend a meeting in May with the Virginia results. There is concern on the campuses about the amount of staff time that the screening will require. The task force is proposing that it will only take 15 minutes.

#### SENIOR TASK FORCE REPORT

- Dale Johannes shared that the Senior Task Force discussed the Medicaid Waiver Assessment Tool.
- Money Follows the Person Grant: Discussed how transition counselors can be of a benefit to the TBI population. Mike Hon contacted them to see what information could be added to the training from the TBI perspective.
- Working on a questionnaire replacement for HELPS.
- Keri is working on the Aging and Resource Center Advisory Board. She is seeing some good opportunities for the TBI task force to provide training information. Susan Buettner shared that the statewide system is being developed and revisions are being made from the pilot.

#### Annual TBI Conference

Peggy Reisher provided an update on the TBI conference planning. A written report was in the packet for members. The Conference will run from May 19 at noon until the 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:15, in Kearney at the Ramada Inn. The conference brochure should be available by mid March. Pricing for early bird registration is \$135 for professionals, and \$45 for families. Vendor booths are being sold at \$300. The TBI Council meeting will be held on May 19 and expenses will be reimbursed.

#### Hotline for Disabilities

The Hotline report was provided in the member packets. The Needs and Resources report will include some of the data collected by the Hotline.

#### **STRATEGIC MARKETING PLAN RFP UPDATE**

Nancy Noha shared that six proposals were received for the Strategic Marketing Plan. They were reviewed by a Committee and Snitily Carr was selected. Keri and Nancy are helping them with some of the background research they are needing to do. They met with a group in February to collect information. A report will be available next week to see what they propose as a marketing plan. The

plan will be shared with the Council via e-mail and will be reviewed on May 19. A conference call to discuss the proposal may be necessary.

#### **MAKING COGNITIVE CONNECTIONS TRAINING**

The Making Cognitive Connections Training will occur on March 10 with an Internet based training later in the month. The training will be held at Madonna and will be done by Michelle Wilde from California. All seats are filled. The Online course seats are also filled and will begin mid-March. The goal is to teach trainers of people with brain injury to use an iPod touch for organizational and memory issues. Web support will be provided after the training. The 66 iPods must be returned to AT 4 All after the training. They will need to work out a system for the trainers to continue to have access to the iPods for additional training opportunities. It was suggested that AT 4 All come to the next meeting to demonstrate and share how the loan program works.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 19 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m in Kearney.