

North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council
February 8, 2024
Meeting Minutes

BIAC Voting Members Present: Sarah Ring, Chair; Nan Kennelly; Jessica Siefken; Shannon Cook; Brad Hawk; Andrea Hochhalter; Michelle Westbrook

BIAC Non-voting Members Present: Brenda Ruehl, ND Protection & Advocacy; Morgan Edmundson, ND DPI; Erica Reiner, DHHS Adult and Aging; Tami Conrad, DHHS-Behavioral health Division; Barb Burghart, DHHS-Voc Rehab; Mary Waldo, DHHS-Trauma; Rebecca Quinn, NDBIN

Presenters/Guests: Jill Ferrington, National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA); Carly Endres, NDBIN; Nickie Livedalen, NDBIN; Shannan Stanke, NDBIN and Robin Swanson

Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Sarah Ring called the meeting to order. She welcomed BIAC members and invited them to introduce themselves.

Introductions and Check-Ins

Members introduced themselves.

Quorum

Quorum was established.

Review of Agenda

Sarah presented the agenda (*attachment*) and asked for additions or edits from the group. Andrea motioned to approve the agenda; Michelle seconded and so the agenda was approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Sarah presented the minutes from the November 9th Quarterly Meeting. There were no changes. Jessica moved to approve the minutes; Andrea seconded; minutes were approved.

Membership Update

Membership Update information was given by Tami. There will be some reviews and updates regarding councils that are run through the Governor's Office – so be on the lookout for that and what that may look like. Also, just a reminder that applicants are not technically council members until they have officially been assigned and received the official paperwork from the Governor's office.

Brain Injury Systems Study Overview

Jill Ferrington, NASHIA, provided an update on the systems study; slides are included. Council members are encouraged to share the study information as it becomes available to get as much community involvement as possible. *(slides attached)*

State Plan and Committee Updates

Jill reviewed slides regarding the ND State plan and the committees that have been formed. Reminder that goals and times frames are not set in stone. The state plan is designed to ebb and flow with what makes sense for the state at the time and leaves room for much growth and change opportunities as is necessary to benefit those living with brain injury in ND. There has been much PROGRESS and Jill has a slide that reflects that as well. Jill would like to come back to the Advisory Council Meeting to give an update on phase 2 of the systems study so that everyone can be aware of that progress as well.

Committee Updates:

1. Services and Resources Committee – this committee has reviewed the ND Brain Injury Guide that was designed to have a general overview of brain injury information. The committee felt that that is a good resource.
 - The Resource Directory on the NDBIN website is being reviewed as well. This directory has never been a paper copy since it seems to change rapidly and so with it being on the website those changes can happen and up-to-date information can be made available. There are some changes being suggested and ways to make the directory a little easier to navigate are being explored at this time.
 - The NDBIN directory has been more of a resource for brain injury specific information but there has been some thought about adding some financial resource information as well and how that may be benefit.
2. Education and Awareness Committee – in this committee, the Mind Matters Conference has been the topic of discussion currently since that is right around the corner. This year, there will be a videographer to help with the virtual portion of the conference.
 - There has been discussion around wanting some survivor videos on what is going well for them and what services have been helpful. The videographer at the conference could be able to do some interviews with attendees during the conference to gather those stories from survivors, family members, caregivers, and professionals. Another thought from the council was to have family members help with video graphing their loved ones and then be edited.
 - The Education and Awareness Committee is also looking into the educator resources that our state has on brain injury. What should be changed, what would be better for educators to have?
3. Data Committee – this committee is working on examining the types of data around brain injury in ND. There are a couple of different types of data information and weeding through all of that to determine best practices is becoming the main question. There seems to be large numbers, the overarching prevalence of Brain Injury numbers and then the specific programming numbers

around brain injury. Next step is to look at how other states look at data and NDBIN is working on a new data collection system that should be very helpful for this purpose as well.

4. Survivor Engagement – This is a group of survivors who meet monthly and have been looking at hosting a survivor event this summer in the western part of the state since the conference is in the eastern part. The group continues to try to modify to a structured group and will have a guest speaker from another state at the next meeting to get some ideas on how other states work. Survivors on the council are encouraged to be a part of this meeting as well.
5. Strategic Planning Committee – This committee is working on reviewing the system study and working with Jill on that effort. The in-person council meeting has been decided to be held in Fargo on May 9th from 10am -3 pm at 4165 30th Avenue South, Fargo, ND 58104

NDBIN Update

Rebecca reviewed NDBIN’s new data system; NDBIN is now working with Salesforce and the system is designed specifically for brain injury data collection and reporting for ACL grant. Since information is regarding client information, the Dashboard was only reviewed to show numbers and not client information. Sarah asked if this information will be used to adjust training and education from NDBIN; yes, this information will be used to inform the council of what is being seen across the state to better guide the council on what the needs are in ND for individuals with brain injury. Tami stated that this will be a huge piece in showing legislatures what NDBIN is doing as well. (slides attached)

Agency Provider Updates

The Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Study will be giving its presentation to the Health and Human Service Interim Committee on March 18th at 10:30am.

Barb wanted to let everyone know that Vocational Rehabilitation has taken over the Senior Employment project as well and to keep that in mind as well.

Tami stated that the Behavioral Health Division continues to have their Lunch and Learn Series and will be doing a Suicide Prevention focus coming up.

Sarah stated that Sanford is in the middle of its CARF review, and they are hopeful for their Brain Injury Rehabilitation program to do well.

Public Comments

Robin states that she is very excited to have been able to listen in today and has learned so much. She is thankful that she was made aware of this council and all this information.

Adjournment

Andrea moved to Adjourn the meeting; seconded by Nan. Meeting adjourned.

The Brain Injury Advisory Council follows established state guidance regarding the scheduling and management of state advisory councils. The Brain Injury Advisory Council currently holds scheduled meetings via onsite and videoconference options. Members of the public can access the meeting and participate in the public comment period by attending.

Brain Injury Advisory Council Mission.

The Mission of the North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council is to improve the quality of life for all individuals with brain injury and their families through brain injury identification, awareness, prevention, research, education, collaboration, support services and advocacy.