

**North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council
HIT, Inc., 2640 Sunset Drive NW, Mandan (on-site)
Videoconference (online)**

**August 26, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

BIAC Voting Members Present: Sarah Ring, Vice Chair; Sen. Howard Anderson; JoNell Bakke; Shannon Cook; Skipp Miller; Darcy Severson; Jessica Siefken; Nan Kennelly, Chair (joined intermittently while traveling)

BIAC Non-voting Members Present: Denise Harvey, ND Protection & Advocacy, Secretary; Tami Conrad, NDDHS–Behavioral Health; Morgan Edmundson, NDDPI

Absent: Rep. Clayton Fegley; Bobbiann Froemke; Elizabeth Oestreich, NDDOH–Injury Prevention; Christine Greff, NDDOH Trauma & Emergency; Barbara Burghart, NDDHS Voc Rehab; Dawn Pearson, NDDHS Medicaid

Presenters/Guests: Rebecca Quinn, ND Brain Injury Network (NDBIN); Jill Ferrington, National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHA); Daniel Gulya, Olmstead Commission Coordinator, ND Protection & Advocacy

Facilitators: Ann Crews Melton and Caitlin McDonald, Consensus Council

Call to Order and Welcome

Vice Chair Sarah Ring called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM CT. She welcomed BIAC members, presenters, and guests. Sarah offered a special welcome to Morgan Edmundson from the Department of Public Instruction, who is a new member. Morgan replaced Haley Lang, who has taken a different position with the State.

Quorum

A quorum was established with seven voting members present.

Introductions and Check-Ins

Members introduced themselves and responded to one or both of the following questions:

If you really knew me, you would know_____.

One thing you can't tell just by looking at me_____, and this is important for people to know because_____.

Brain Injury Survivor Stories

Sarah welcomed Council members Shannon Cook and Skipp Miller to share their survivor stories and take questions from the group.

Review of Agenda

Sarah presented the agenda [attached] and asked for additions or edits from the group. No additions. JoNell Bakke moved to approve the agenda, Denise Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes

Sarah presented the minutes from the May 20 Quarterly meeting and the July 11 Special Meeting. There were no changes. Howard Anderson moved to approve the minutes, Darcy Severson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved as written.

Denise mentioned that there is an error in the post-meeting responses distributed with the meeting materials. Denise *is not* able to attend the NASHIA conference, so if anyone else would like to attend, they can.

ND Brain Injury Network Update, Rebecca Quinn

Rebecca and Skipp Miller recently attended a Brain Injury Network conference. Rebecca shared highlights, including learning about how different languages describe 'brains' and 'brain injuries,' why that matters, and how that impacts work on this topic. There is a demonstrated need to cater curriculums and outreach specifically for Native American communities around brain injury.

Rebecca continued with NDBIN's efforts surrounding resource facilitation and identifying areas of high need, such as day programming, residential services, care coordination, transportation, etc. North Dakota is the only state to include brain injury in their Medicaid 1915i coverage, so NDBIN can continue to partner with others on development.

Education and Trainings

- Webinar Wednesdays have been popular and are accessibly archived at www.ndbin.org/events/webinars.
- NDBIN will also be offering a 3 part training for the ND Peer Support & Care Coordinators
- A concussion symposium will be held September 16, 2022.
- Certified Brain Injury Specialist Training October 3-4, possibly in person in Fargo as well as virtual

There is a new screening process, for which they have developed a Virtual Screen Toolkit and a data entry portal. This should streamline the process for many people seeking and providing services, and help prevent people from falling through the cracks. NDBIN has created 'Tip Sheets' which Skipp assisted in creating.

There is a new Brain Injury Survivor Group, which had their first meeting July 28, and plans to meet monthly going forward. Currently, the group is working on establishing ground rules, structure, and a mission. If you would like to assist with development and planning a kickoff event, please contact Rebecca, rebecca.quinn@und.edu.

Additional updates:

- NDBIN recently conducted a training for Community Violence Intervention Center in Grand Forks.
- They offer a support group, Living Life Fully After Brain Injury, and are seeking peers to serve as co-leaders for this course. 2022 saw this as a pilot project in Fargo, with hopes to expand.

- National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) Conference: September 7-9, 2022, virtual, and there is funding available for BIAC members to attend. Please let Rebecca know if interested, rebecca.quinn@und.edu.
- The Olmstead Commission would like more brain injury data. They want to form a group to examine what existing brain injury data is available in North Dakota, and what possible data sources could be explored in the future.
- Trenton Outreach Event “NDBIN ON THE ROAD” was a success, worked with healthcare providers for helmet fitting.
- Peer Support Subcontract-ACL Covid Funding has allowed NDBIN to subcontract with an organization in Devil’s Lake to do outreach, screening, and to provide peer support.
- Brain Injury Awareness Day will be March 22, 2023.

Member Provider Updates

Community Options, Darcy Severson

Community Options operates the Brain Injury Employment Contract throughout the state. CO is working with Tami Conrad (NDDHS) to navigate how to best continue offering services, including standard expectations for clients on what they can expect. More complete assessments will be helpful in placing clients where they need to be. CO is still taking referrals, feel free to send those with employment issues to Community Options.

State Agency Updates

ND Department of Health: No update

ND Department of Public Instruction: No update

ND Protection & Advocacy, Denise Harvey

P&A has done some recent trainings on individual justice planning. Many people with disabilities become involved with the criminal justice system, because of issues related to their condition. P&A wants to provide education on this issue, which can be done before or after any legal issues occur. P&A also has printed resources to offer clients on legal issues.

ND Department of Human Services, Tami Conrad

State agencies are seeing a lot of change and reforming, so it’s a constant goal to monitor changes in need and programs. Tami thanked Darcy for her efforts and everyone’s assistance at Community Options, in navigating those changes.

ND Department of Health and ND Department of Human Services are continuing towards a merger, which will have big impacts in many areas. A Mental Health Registry is being created. Currently, ND does not have a place for consumers to go, to identify programs in their area for services, this registry aims to help with that.

Funding is still available from Covid0-related grants for individuals needing mental health services. For more info, go to behavioralhealth.nd.gov/mental-health-services-disaster-grant-program.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

Denise Harvey provided a Strategic Planning subcommittee report. Denise also shared Century Code information related to brain injury services. JoNell plans to work with Legislative Council to bring this issue up in the next Legislative Session.

There are ongoing discussions about BIAC meeting venue options, such as virtual only vs hybrid options.

State Plan Development

Jill Ferrington presented an update on the ND State Plan, including timelines, identified themes, and next steps. [Slides attached]

Looking Towards the 2023 ND Legislative Session

Discussion included potential brain injury related language updates, funding concerns, and the importance of identifying needs and gaps. The group agreed that monitoring the Session will be important, as there are many moving parts and issues often intersect or overlap.

Open Discussion

Discussion included global workforce issues, funding ups and downs, intersection of brain injury and other services. Services and needs are complex, and it can be a frustrating process for both consumers and providers; more navigators are needed.

Public Comments

Sarah invited members of the public to provide any comments to the BIAC. No individuals offered comments.

Post-Meeting Survey

Ann will send members a post-meeting survey via email to gather feedback on topics presented today.

Next Meeting

The next BIAC quarterly meeting will be November 18 at 1pm CT, both onsite at HIT Inc. in Mandan and on Zoom.

Adjournment

Darcy moved to adjourn, Skipp seconded. Motion passed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitlin McDonald
Consensus Council

Brain Injury Advisory Council Meeting
Onsite: HIT Inc., 2640 Sunset Dr., Mandan, ND
Online Videoconference Connection*

Friday, August 26, 2022
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM CT

BIAC Materials: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_fMizcTfB8xrvejHLbEgB7uLIFBac5Ao

AGENDA

- 1:00 PM **Call Meeting to Order & Welcome:** Nan Kennelly, Chair
- Introductions & Roll Call**
 Check-in questions:
 1. If you really knew me, you would know ____.
 2. One thing you cannot tell by just looking at me is _____. The reason that is
 important for me to tell you is _____.
- 1:30 PM **Brain Injury Survivor Stories**
- 2:00 PM **Quorum**
 Approve Agenda
 Approve Minutes
 BIAC Quarterly Meeting, May 20, 2022
 BIAC Special Meeting, July 11, 2022
- 2:10 PM **ND Brain Injury Network Update:** Rebecca Quinn
- 2:20 PM **BIAC Provider Updates**
- 2:35 PM **Agency Updates**
 ND Department of Human Services
 Behavioral Health
 Medicaid
 Vocational Rehab
 ND Department of Health
 Injury Prevention
 Trauma and Emergency
 ND Department of Public Instruction
 ND Protection & Advocacy Project
- 2:50 PM **Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report**
- 3:00 PM **Administration for Community Living (ACL) Grant/State Plan**
 Development
 Jill Ferrington, Nat'l Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)

Council Development Updates
State Plan Updates

3:30 PM **Looking Ahead: 2023 ND Legislative Assembly**

Open Discussion

3:45 PM **Public Comments**
Member Survey—Distributed Electronically

4:00 PM **Adjournment**

Meeting Contact Information:

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. Masking is requested for all onsite participants. Members of the public can access the meeting and participate in the public comment period by attending in person or using the following videoconference contact information:

***Videoconference:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89106666790>

Meeting ID: 891 0666 6790

Phone Connection Option: 1-346-248-7799

Brain Injury Advisory Council Mission.

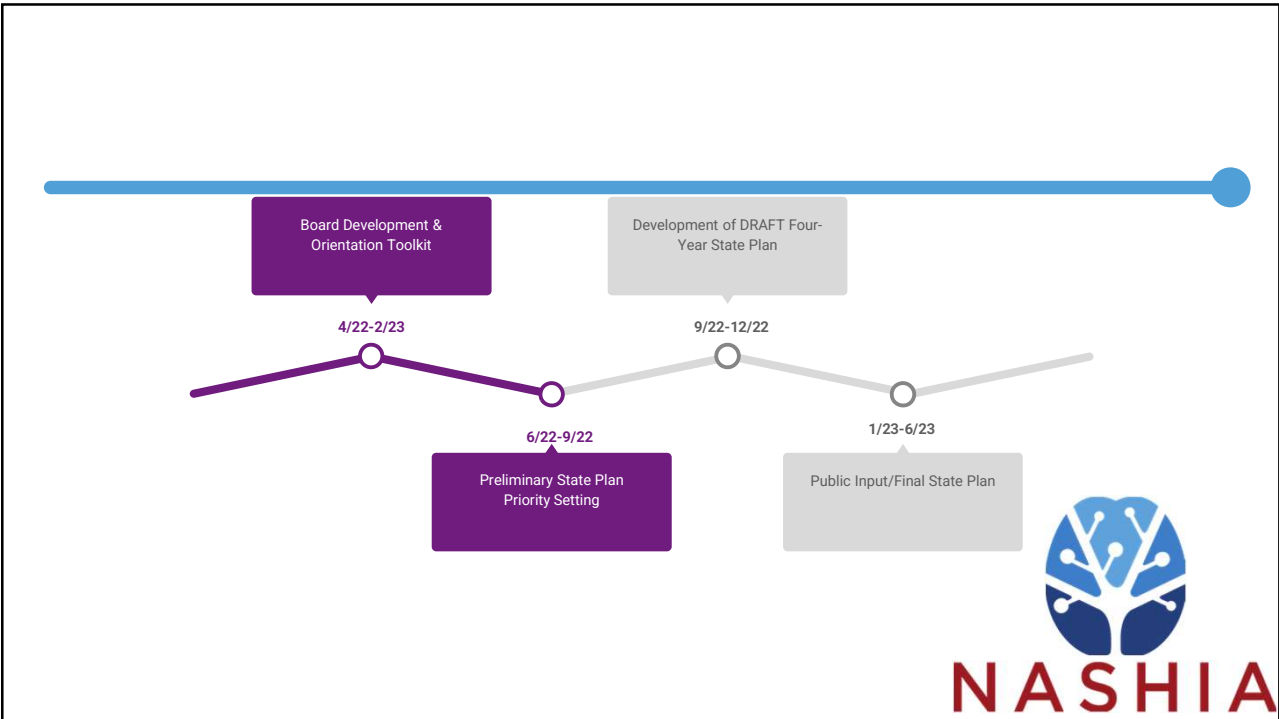
The Mission of the North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council is to improve the quality of life for all individuals with brain injury and their families through brain injury identification, awareness, prevention, research, education, collaboration, support services and advocacy.



ND Board and State Plan Development Business Meeting Update August 26, 2022

Jill Ferrington, MS, CRC, CBIS
jferrington@nashia.org

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What we've accomplished...

- Review of membership requirements crosswalk - preliminary plans for legislative action
- Board member profile matrix and roster - nearly complete
- Preliminary priorities for state plan
- Continued post-meeting surveys
- Getting to know one another!



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Today's Focus

- Council Member Matrix and Roster
 - Survey - Update
- Brief Review of Preliminary State Plan Priorities



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Board Matrix

ND AC Board -- Skills Matrix

Board Member	Miller	Cook	Ring	Baske	Kernally	Frigit	Anderson	Sethum
Term Ends	TBD							
Expertise								
Governance/Legislative				x		x	x	
Human resources			x					
Information technology								
Law								
Leadership development				x				
Marketing								
Advocacy	x	x		x				x
Media relations								
Medical/therapeutic service provision			x		x			x
Meeting procedures			x	x				
Grant writing								
Policy development			x	x				
Training development/delivery			x					
Program evaluation			x					
Strategic planning				x				
Personal Brain Injury Experience								
Brain injury - lived experience (self)	x	x						
Brain injury - professional experience working with individuals of people with lived experience (adj)			x		x			x
Brain injury experience as a family member or unpaid caregiver	x			x	x			x
Connections								
Employers/business community					x			



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Board Roster Development



Skipp Miller lives in Williston, North Dakota, and is presently retired from the Human Services field. She is an American Indian blessed with two Nations from the North and two Nations from the South. The northern tribes are on her mother's side, and the two southern tribes are on her father's side. She struggled during junior high and eventually dropped out of school.

Skipp returned to academics at the college level. After noticing challenges in her writing, one of her professors asked her if she had a head injury. She referred Skipp to the vocational rehabilitation program where testing confirmed head injury issues, and this opened up appropriate tutorial support. Throughout her college years, Skipp earned three certificates, an associate's degree, and finally a bachelor's degree in human services.

Skipp understands living with brain injury as well as mental health conditions she experienced in her younger years.



Sarah Ring is a Senior Therapist in the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Sanford Health Fargo where she has provided cognitive, communication and dysphagia services for 25 years. Sarah has a special interest in acquired brain injury rehabilitation and concussion management across pediatric, adolescent and adult populations. Her clinical practice has spanned acute care, inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient settings including coordinated care clinics. Sarah earned the designation of Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer from the Brain Injury Association of America in 2019, and was nominated Certified Brain Injury Specialist of the Year (2021) by the North Dakota Brain Injury Network. Sarah is the Vice President of the North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council and serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at Minnesota State University-Moorhead.



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State Plan - Preliminary Themes (high impact)

Services

- Clarify continuum of services and the pathways to getting started
- Address service engagement needs for people with BI

Self-Advocacy and Engagement

- Elevate voices and engagement of people with lived experience

Education & Awareness

- Training - family members, service providers, educators, etc.
 - Key training content:
 - Concussions are mild brain injuries
 - Non-traumatic BI (strokes, anoxia, etc.)
 - Brain injuries are not one size fits all - difficulties are unique to the person
 - Recognition of hidden brain injury

Other

- Housing
- Financial Resources



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Upcoming...

- Post-meeting survey
- Monday, Oct. 17th at noon CT - Special Meeting
 - > Toolkit Review
 - > State Plan Updates

**Next Business Meeting:
Friday, November 18th
1pm**



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Questions?

NASHIA Contact Information:

Jill Ferrington, MS, CRC, CBIS

Technical Assistance Advisor

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)

jferrington@nashia.org