



**Council Members Present**

Nan Kennelly, Lisa Anderson, David Biberdorf, Shannon Cook, Jean Herauf, Austyn Kloehn, Sarah Ring, Representative Dick Anderson, Skipp Miller, Cheryl Hess-Anderson, Kevin McDonough, Denise Harvey, Mandy Slag, Tami Conrad, Krista Fremming, Janna Pietrzak

**Council Members Not Present**

Senator Ralph Kilzer, Nikki Brunelle

**Others Present**

Rebecca Quinn, Nickie Livedalen, Danielle, Kerry, Randee Sailer, Jeannie Pedersen

**Call to Order**

1:06pm by Nan Kennelly, Chair. Quorum is present.

**Approve Agenda**

Mandy Slag would like to add to the agenda that the Department of Health will be opening up the Administrative Rules and it has been brought up to add Brain Injury as a reportable condition. Would this group like to discuss this?

Jean motioned to add this to the agenda and approve the rest of the agenda; Austyn seconded. Motioned passed.

**Review of Minutes**

Mandy Slag noticed that Nikki Brunelle's name is spelled incorrectly.

Sarah Ring stated that she was not present at last meeting.

Janna Pietrzak moved to add the changes above and approve minutes from last meeting; Lisa seconded. Motion passed.

**Introductions**

As a way to get to know one another better, Nan suggested that everyone introduce themselves again.

**Administrative Rules Discussion**

The Department of Health is planning to open up the administrative rules; would the council like to pursue brain injury to be a reportable condition? This would mean that brain injury would be a mandatory reportable condition. Discussion was had about how this would be different than a registry that has not seen approval in past legislative sessions. This may be a better avenue to try.

Mandy states that if the council wishes to pursue, she would bring that forward to the Department of Health's epidemiologist to find out what needs to be done to move this forward.

Representative Anderson and Kevin stated some concerns regarding HIPAA. What would the council do with the information that is received from this report? Would individuals be contacted? The information may just give us numbers and no personal information. Lisa stated that it is her opinion and view that if there was someone who had contacted them at the time of her daughter's injury, she would have welcomed the assistance and support as they often felt alone in figuring out what to do next.

Krista wanted everyone to know that she believes this to be a great idea, but to keep in mind that even though it will be a mandatory reportable condition, it does not mean that we will get all of the data and information. For example, the autism registry is mandatory, but they are seeing that not all cases are being reported.

Skipp Miller joined the meeting by phone.

Brain Injury definition was brought up. That would have to be a conversation with the Department of Health as what definition of brain injury would be used for the mandatory reportable condition since the legislative definition is moving to include stroke.

Representative Anderson cautioned everyone that when trying to be all-inclusive it ends up being more restrictive when brought in front of the legislative, therefore everyone is excluded.

It was also brought up that we will still miss those who do not seek treatment.

When researching what reportable conditions are included in the administrative rules already, it is mainly infectious diseases, but cancer is also reportable.

The council feels that the numbers ARE important and that we need to see what we can do to pursue this avenue in obtaining these numbers through the Department of Health. Shannon moves information be brought back to the Department of Health that the advisory council is in support of adding brain injury as a reportable condition and that Rebecca can assist Mandy in working with the Department of Health regarding what needs to be done moving forward; Lisa seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Brain Injury Definition Bill Update**

At the August meeting, Senator Kilzer assisted greatly in making changes to the definition. The new definition for Brain Injury was brought to the committee hearing on September 12 and passed that hearing. It will be introduced during session.

Representative Anderson enlightened us with the process. Senator Lee will carry the definition bill to the legislature. Often times a simple language change is not a big deal; it should happen within the first couple of weeks of session. He also mentioned that catching the Chairman the day before the hearing and having a conversation regarding the bill can be very beneficial as well as they may have time to really listen to you and what is going to be brought before them.

This would be the time for stroke advocates to testify – Janna stated that they will work on getting that lined up.

Council members may testify on behalf of the Council with approval from the Chair.

With the formation of the Advisory Council and the joined forces with the ND Heart and Stroke Association we are at a better position to show that we are united and not duplicating services. There should not be barriers.

### **Staying Informed**

Rebecca brought up the fact that the Governor's budget will be coming out in December. From there, we will be able to see what will be funded in the Department of Human Services budget. That is where we will be able to find if current resources will remain in the budget.

In the past NDBIN has sent out the information regarding what bills are related to brain injury through our email database. Rebecca has also worked with survivors and family members on preparing their testimony and offering support.

Denise brought up that during legislative session, Protection and Advocacy has legislative updates every Friday afternoon at locations throughout the state. Brain Injury is included in those meetings and so that may be the best way to receive those updates and not duplicating with weekly phone calls or emails.

Discussion led to the finalization that NDBIN will send out brain injury specific legislative updates. There will be special Council meetings as requested if there is an issue that needs to be discussed. NDBIN will promote interested parties to attend the Protection and Advocacy weekly legislative updates. Skipp moves to support NDBIN to provide legislative information to the council; Denise seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion was had regarding the Governor's Budget. Nan stated that she is not aware of what that is and so asked if everyone was aware of what the current budget looks like. No one was really aware of what that means for brain injury and so Skipp stated that she would like to have more information and the rest of the council agreed they would too. They would like to review this information before the next meeting. It was agreed that Tami and Rebecca would work to get each line item for brain injury that is in the Governor's Budget explained for the council to view.

### **Next Meeting**

Nan asked if the Council should meet in January, earlier in the legislative session in order to be on top of any bills that need attention. The Council agrees that this would be a good idea to review the Governor's Budget and what is going to be coming out in legislation that would be of interest to this Council. February feels too late. It was agreed that Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 3:00pm would be the best fit for a face to face council meeting – weather permitting. An earlier start time is due to the Protection and Advocacy legislative updates that are held Friday afternoons during session.

### **Continuum of Care Committee**

This committee met on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Austyn shared that this group is working on a flow chart for employment services. He, Cheryl, and Tami met to develop the chart and it should be ready to share

with the Council soon. Rebecca stated that she wanted to let everyone on the Council be aware of the flow chart and then will share via email once it is completed. Tami and Cheryl stated that they are still clarifying some of the terms and funding sources and then it will be ready.

Rebecca pointed out NDBIN's Resource Directory, which is currently on-line. NDBIN would like to be sure that it is up to date and accurate so if everyone could help to assure that it would be helpful.

Nan would like to add to the January Agenda the training that Cheryl is planning for the flow chart in April for all VR staff and HCBS case managers.

### **Education and Awareness Committee**

This committee met right before the Advisory Committee meeting today. There was a lot of discussion regarding training and how certification should look.

The Brain Injury Fundamentals Training book was brought up. This is a nationwide training that Rebecca is trained to be able to train others. This could be used as a 7 hour training to train front line support staff and then receive a certificate. That certificate can then be used to take the test to receive the nationwide certification. That test costs \$150.00. HIT, Inc. has expressed interest in getting all of their staff trained by Rebecca.

Tami wanted to let the group know that the Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division will be adding resources to their website as well which will include Brain Injury resources.

NDBIN is looking for any ideas or suggestions for the Mind Matters Conference Agenda.

NDBIN is also going to be offering a lunch and learn opportunity via WebEx instead of the polycom monthly Support Group. The plan is to begin this in January.

A Concussion Symposium is also in the works. This will be a way to get professionals together to be able to be helpful with individuals with brain injury and to be able to work together as professionals to find the best solutions.

Brain Injury Awareness is March: NDBIN is looking at how to get into other areas/locations to host events across ND. NDBIN is looking at options regarding development of an awareness month toolkit and possibly awarding mini-grants to communities who would be willing to promote brain injury awareness. This would involve setting up a way to submit unique ways to bring awareness to brain injury and then be able to share those ideas with other communities who may be willing to host an event. Shannon suggests that a possible event could include some creativity or art activity as a community event. Denise stated that Protection and Advocacy would be happy to coordinate and collaborate with NDBIN on this. Another suggestion would be to involve the Independent Living Centers across the state.

Moving forward with the Know Your Noggin campaign materials. Rebecca is going to follow up regarding what the cost would be to rerun these materials particularly through low cost options such as Facebook and YouTube.

**Member Updates:**

Tami Conrad stated that Peer Support Trainings are being offered in Fargo and Bismarck. Peer Support is designed for addiction, mental health, and can ultimately be used for any disabling condition. Through the trainings you learn how to share your condition to be a good peer support. Go to [www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov](http://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov) to register. Peer support is offered through the Free Through Recovery program and SUD (substance use disorder) voucher.

Rebecca will be tracking in the budget on how Brain Injury is added into Behavioral Health. This will help broaden services to be inclusive.

Kevin stated that schools in Bismarck are working on doing peer to peer training as well and growing their own peer support program in the public schools. Peer supports can be a good start in the helping profession.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**2019 Meetings:**

Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>: Noon to 3:00pm

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 to 4:30pm

Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 to 4:30pm

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 to 4:30pm

Agreement to continue face to face meetings.

Jean motions to adjourn the meeting; Skipp seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.