Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) Meeting

Friday February 16,2024

The BIAC Meeting was held at the First Floor Conference Room at 625 Silver Ave. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102.

1:06 PM- The meeting was called to order by Adrienne Bratcher, Council Chairman.

**Roll call of members:**

Adrienne Bratcher Present

Joanne Azulay Absent

Michelle Hawley Present

Nandei McAnally Present

Ralph Frakes Present

Alfred Benalli Present

Sandra Turner Absent

Valerie Klopp Present

Jason Kerkmans Absent

Dominic Moreno Present

Melanie Buenviaje Absent

Victoria Herrera Absent

**Staff present:** Lisa McNiven, GCD Deputy Director

Angelia Velarde-Logsdon, BIAC Coordinator

The quorum was not met. The agenda and minutes from the previous meetings were available, but they were not voted on.

**Member Introductions/Updates:**

Ralph Frakes has lived with brain injury for 23 years. He started a support group that meets every Wednesday in Albuquerque. He would like to share resources with people who have brain injuries outside of the metro area.

Dr. Michelle Cohen is happy that the meeting is scheduled on a Friday. She has a new office manager and explains some of the effects a brain injury can have on a person’s vison.

Alfred Benalli has been part of the BIAC for 16 years. He has recently had some medical issues. He is doing better now and glad that he can participate.

Nandei McAnally is gathering information on her providers and her contacts to create a resource library to share with providers and persons with brain injuries. Hatona Secatero at DVR is very helpful to her by helping her get the resources she needs.

Valerie Klopp is a mental health counselor. Much of her work is with veterans.

Dominic Moreno is director of sports medicine at NMSU and has been on the BIAC for a few years. It is important for him to be on the council because of the many concussions in college athletics. He is currently updating the concussion management policy. One this update is completed; he will share it with the group.

Adrienne Bratcher is a speech pathologist. Her interest in working with people with brain injuries came from her mother who suffered a brain tumor 38 years ago. She is currently working on the final stages of children’s return to learn in the school system.

**BIAC Update by Angelia Velarde-Logsdon**

Angelia is working on updating the BIAC website. She is working hard to distribute helmets to the youth across our state. In January she distributed 136 helmets to Free Bikes for Kids and 15 ski Helmets to the Academy for Technology and the Classics’ ski club. In February she distributed 764 helmets to schools and youth groups in Hobbs, Lovington, Roswell, and Ft. Sumner. She is going to Clayton, Raton, Springer, Mosquero, and Roy New Mexico in March to distribute more helmets and to conduct educational presentations for the students.

**2024 Legislation SB 203, Lisa McNiven**

Senate Bill 203 was proposed during the 2024 legislative session to replace funding that was removed from court fees on HB 139. We were seeking $2,500,000.00 to support the Brain Injury Service Fund which will expire at the end of June this year. This funding did not pass. This Bill also included the registry, which was originally a separate Bill, so neither went through this legislative session. It was a short session and primarily about the budget. There was a lot of interest in this Bill. The Human Services Department, which will change its name to the Health Care Authority in July, has some remaining funds from other programs which may go towards supporting the BISF for the upcoming year. The amount is unknown currently. Lisa would like Victoria Herrera and Crystal Cantu to provide a report /plan for the BISF to have available at the next BIAC meeting.

Ralph Frakes asked if BIAC was planning to go in again at the next legislative session to ask again for the funds included in this Bill. Lisa stated that it would be a good idea. Ralph stated that we should start working in the spring to ensure we are organized and ready. Senator Ortiz y Pino was very helpful; however, he will no longer be with us. Senator Antionette Sedillo Lopez is also a supporter of this bill. Someone needs to spearhead this project for the upcoming year. We do not know at this time if Margot Feldvebal will continue as the lead on this Bill.

Adrienne Bratcher commented that the SM 30 was very well received, and we have a lot of the groundwork done.

Dr. Cohen asked when the Bills were combined. Adrienne stated it was does right before the hearing. Senators stated that the funding request on the original document did not match the amount on HB 203.

**Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Bylaws by Adrienne Bratcher**

The last time we updated our mission statement and strategic plan was in 2017 and was developed for 2018-2020. At our next meeting we will break into groups to go over the mission statement, strategic plan, and bylaws and make recommendations. During the pandemic it was reviewed over zoom, and everyone agreed to keep these in place until we are able to meet in person again. The mission statement needs to match the one in the bylaws. After we discuss changes if we choose to make them, then we can add the mission statement to the bylaws.

Ralph Frakes commented that the current mission statement is acceptable and should be incorporated into the BIAC bylaws.

Dr. Cohen suggested changing the wording from, “The BIAC also promotes prevention and increased public awareness to decrease the incidence of brain injuries.” To “The BIAC also promotes prevention and increased public awareness to decrease the incidence and consequences of brain injuries.” She suggested this because we are talking about treatment and continuity of care.

Valerie Klopp stated that she would be happy to take the lead on a side committee that reviews the mission statement, strategic plan, and bylaws. She also stated that she thinks we should include supporting research.

Angelia will resend the mission statement, strategic plan and bylaws for the BIAC to review with a deadline before the next BIAC meeting. This way everyone has an opportunity to give input of what if, anything, should be changed. Ask ourselves, What are the goals for next year? When we meet again, we can split up into groups and fine tune the changes.

The bylaws look good and could possibly remain the way they are with the inclusion of the revised mission statement.

Lisa McNiven spoke with the board and commissions office regarding the BIAC vacancies because we are short of several members. Lisa submitted 4 names and is waiting to hear back.

**Hozho Center by Ken Collins**

Ken Collins reported that they received some funds for the recovery housing program. They will use the HELPS (brain injury assessment tool) to help assess individuals in the program because he believes that its being overlooked. Those suffering from alcohol abuse may have brain injuries. He has been working with people with brain injuries for years and would like to be on the BIAC. Lisa is sending him an application to be on the BIAC.

**Brain Injury Alliance by Margor Feldvebal**

Margot introduced Maddie who is new brain injury specialist at the New Mexico Brain Injury Resource Center. They are planning to do more outreach and education in the community about the BIRC as well as options offered by the BIA. She is also working on getting the agency certified as a behavioral health agency so that we can offer therapies and increase the individual direct care services that they are offering to people.

Day of the Tread is a 20-year-old fundraiser held in Albuquerque and the BIA is a platinum sponsor. The last few years BIA ran the recharge station at the 4k fun walk in Old Town. They provide refreshments for walkers. They are hoping to get many teams from different organizations.

Ralph Frakes asked Margot if she would continue to work on SB 203 for the next legislative session. She will probably not be the lead. Mark Pedrotty is likely to be the lead. Senator Sedillo Lopez and Senator Campos agreed to work in the interim on sustainability for the BISF. We do want to go back next year for the other items in the bill. The registry has many components; the most developed registry is from Minnesota. The registry provides resource navigation. There needs to be a language change in the bill to include that we are talking about direct services. The bill did not have any details.

Lisa stated that there needs to be workgroup with all the stakeholders not only for SB 203 but also for future legislation to get organized and know who is doling what.

**Travel / BIAC Travel by Angelia Velarde-Logsdon**

Angelia reminded BIAC members that travel vouchers must be returned within 14 days of the meeting and have an original signature. She also reminded members to take a picture or write their mileage if they attend in person. Meal reimbursement must not have any alcohol on the receipt.

**Bios and Photos**

Angelia let the members know that we want to include members’ bios and photos on the BIAC website. She asked that the members work on writing a short bio and submit a photo before the next meeting.

**Next BIAC Meeting**

There was discussion about possibly having the meeting after 5PM, so more members can attend. Angelia Said she would check around to see if there meeting rooms available after 5pm. The tentative date for the next meeting is April 8, 2024.

**Public Comment**

The phone number and email on the legal ad may be incorrect. Lisa McNiven is looking into this.

2:50 PM- The meeting was adjourned by Adrienne Bratcher, Council Chairman.