# Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) Meeting

Monday April 8, 2024

The BIAC Meeting was held in the Multigenerational Activity Room at the International District Library located at: 7601 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

5:04 PM- The meeting was called to order by Adrienne Bratcher, Council Chairman.

**Roll call of members:**

Adrienne Bratcher Present

Joanne Azulay Present

Michelle Cohen Present

Nandei McAnally Present

Ralph Frakes Absent

Alfred Benalli Present

Sandra Turner Absent

Valerie Klopp Present

Jason Kerkmans Present

Dominic Moreno Absent

Melanie Buenviaje Absent

Victoria Herrera Present

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

Angelia Velarde-Logsdon, BIAC Coordinator

The agenda and minutes from the previous meetings were available. A motion was made by Michelle Cohen to approve the agenda and was seconded by Jason Kerkmans. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Michelle Cohen to approve the minutes from July 21, 2023, December 20, 2023, and February 16, 2024. It was seconded by Al Benalli. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

**Mission Statement**

Members were to review the mission statement prior to this meeting and brain any suggested changes.

Valerie Klopp made a motion to adopt the revision of the mission statement to now read:

The BIAC supports evidence-based research and education and advises **state**, public and private entities to enhance the statewide system of comprehensive, community-based resources, services and supports that maximize the personal choices and functional independence of persons with brain injuries.

The BIAC also promotes prevention and increased public awareness to decrease the incidence and **consequences** of brain injuries.

I was seconded by Michelle Cohen. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

**By Laws**

There was discussion of changing the number of members that are on the BIAC, mainly due to the BIAC meetings often not having a quorum. There are currently 4 people going through the appointment process. It’s unknown how long the process will take. There was discussion to possibly remove the language, “minimum of 18,” and just keep the maximum of 24.

There was also discussion to change language from, “membership shall include 60% of persons with brain injury and family members of persons with brain injury” to “membership **aims to have at least** 60% of persons with brain injury and family members of persons with brain injury.”

There was discussion on the Executive Committee and who it includes. Further discussion revealed that the BIAC should research the statute before adopting these changes.

Jason Kerkmans made a motion table making any changes to the bylaws, so the committee can research more. It was seconded by Valerie Klopp. All in favor. None opposed.

**Strategic Plan**

We need to look at each of our goals to determine if the goal has been met, and if the goals been met, is there anything further we would like to continue doing with that goal? If the goal was not met, do we want to abandon that goal or do we want to continue moving forward with that goal, maybe developing new strategies changing it somehow so that it's attainable?

There was discussion about updating the BIAC website with more resources. The BIAC would like to offer education in the community for first responders, teachers, and sports coaches relating to brain injury prevention. There have already been several educational PowerPoints made by members of the committee. There was discussion on where or not they should be on the BIAC website for public access. Mark Pedrotty also made training videos pertaining to brain injury and domestic violence and there was question again whether those can be uploaded to the BIAC website.

With regards to the goals, it seems that all of them have been met to some extent.

Members are suggesting that as we revise the strategic plan that we make a 5-year strategic plan.

There was discussion about increasing educational efforts to address all sports. Soccer and football were discussed. Al Benalli suggests training with YAFL (Youth America Football League). Jason Kerkmans suggested that goal #3 add brain injury presentations at schools and increase prevention efforts to include safety measures in general to prevent brain injuries. There was also discussion on the BIAC brochures being current and having all the relevant information Angelia Velarde-Logsdon stated that BIAC is in the process of updating all their material. Michelle Cohen suggested that a goal be added to increase education about concussions to include all sports and recreation (including recreational vehicles).

Jason Kerkmans suggested the strategies be changed to include the additional education to increase awareness of brain injuries through helmet law and combine sports and recreation education while Angelia is already traveling and, in the schools, so It won’t create an additional trip. Strategy two is to create new material for schools encompassing all sports and education, and strategy three to educate additional community outlets like fire departments.

Michelle Cohen likes the idea of taking educational and prevention materials to community senior centers as well.

Michelle Cohen suggested that the BIAC create basic PowerPoints with the idea of adjusting content to meet specific populations.

Michelle Cohen would like an all-inclusive list of brain injury resources that are available in New Mexico organized by region.

Jason Kerkmans would like to include in the language that the PowerPoints and educational videos will be distributed through the BIAC website.

Jason Kerkmans suggested that BIAC rather than being a creator of a list, that BIAC is the collector of everybody else’s’ list. There was further discussion on educating organizations on the services that are available. For example, BIAC visits APS and lets them know what resources we have for people with brain injuries in our state. The BIAC will also collect resources from the state agencies. The BIAC should be a filter point between government and the general population and providers and that BIAC be the Nexus for nonprofit groups like the brain injury alliance, hospitals, and schools.

Joanne Azulay asked who would be responsible to look at the resources and determine whether they are appropriate to be associated with us and that we completely understand what they do. There was also discussion on providing research data / information that supports having a specific treatment or therapy for brain injuries listed on the website. Some therapies that the public may not know are available. This will also help with legislative efforts, as BIAC will identify the gaps in brain injury care and could ask for more funding. Adrienne Bratcher suggests the language be, The BIAC will research “evidence-based research.”

Jason Kerkmans suggested adding that the BIAC will provide state agencies a report card annually with resources available in New Mexico. Which would put pressure on the state agencies to look at the gaps in care.

The revision to the strategic plan will be drafted and sent out before the next meeting. BIAC will look at it again after the review of the statute.

**BIAC Update by Angelia Velarde-Logsdon**

Angelia continues to visit schools and fit and distribute helmets. She is also working on a brain injury presentation for the 2nd Annual Social Services Conference. The website is still being updated.

**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 August 23, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

Joanne Azulay would like to explore ADHD and autism spectrum disorders. In the schools it seems the more you dig the more you find out, “by the way at two years old they fell down the stairs” and from that point on it seemed very interesting that that's when the ADHD started, but general practitioners and folks in the systems aren't connecting the dots. In fact, there's a lot of pushbacks like, “no, you can't have ADHD and brain injury.” I say, “yes you can.” It's called ADHD secondary to brain injury. At some point, she would like to talk about it and discuss how we might share that information because it's been very relevant for us for kids in schools. What happens is then folks look at accommodations differently; they look at needs differently.

**Public Comment**

None

6:56PM- The meeting was adjourned by Adrienne Bratcher, Council Chairman.