Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)   Minutes

July 21, 2023

9:17 am  - 11:04 am

Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting

9:17 am Call to Order A. Bratcher

9:17 am Roll Call A. Bratcher

Members In person -

Adrienne Bratcher

Jason Kerkmans

Valerie Klopp

Ralph Frakes

Dominique Moreno

Members Remote -

Crystal Cantu (proxy for Melanie Buenviaje and Victoria Herrera)

Nandei McNally (joined remotely at 10:30 am)

Staff/Guests-

Lisa McNiven

Emily Stern

Ken Collins

Dr. Mark Pedrotty (joined remotely at 10:45 am)

Public -

Ryan

Members Absent -

Al Beneli

Sandra Turner

Mikki Cohen

Melanie Buenviaje

Victoria Herrera

Melissa Esquibel

Sarah Jean Zamora

Quorum is met.

**9:23 am Approval of Agenda** **A. Bratcher**

**Motion to approve, Valerie. Second, Adrienne**

**Motion passes unanimously**

**9:15 am April 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes** **A. Bratcher**

**Motion to approve, Jason. Second Dominique**

**Motion passes unanimously**

9:25 am BIAC member updates/Introductions All in Attendance

Request for update on resource center was made by Ralph Frakes. Crystal will update later in the meeting.

9:32 am Election of Officers A. Bratcher

The Executive Committee had two members leave so only Adrienne is left as part of that committee.

There are 3 or 4 member vacancies that may be filled by the Governor’s Office.

Committee nominated Adrienne Bratcher for the roll as chair and Jason Kerkmans for the roll of Vice Chair

Motion for Adrienne to be Chair and Jason to be Vice Chair made by Ralph Frake, second by Valerie Klopp

Vote for Jason Kerkmans as Vice Chair passes with unanimous vote

Vote for Adrienne Bratcher as Chair passes with unanimous vote

9:37 am 2023 Legislation – SM 30 update L. McNiven

Senate Memorial 30 Task Force met a couple of weeks ago. Had about 15 members attended. Inviting additional individuals to attend the next meeting on August 7th.

Two items were discussed: 1 – the Brain Injury Registry and 2 – Health Insurance Coverage for brain injuries. A report, due Nov 1, will be prepared. Crystal and Jason both commented. There were great people at the table and we were able to start getting our arms around the full scope of the need. The timeline currently is for the report to be submitted Nov. 1, after that the legislature will have to set a timeline for taking action on any of the task force recommendations.

9:48 am Brain Injury Services Fund introduction Crystal Cantu

The Brain Injury Services Fund is a crisis fund for home and community-based services. There is a cap of $4,000/year. Crystal stepped into this position in February.

Does the Service Fund also fund the resource center. There is a $60,000/year contract for the Brain Injury Resource Center. There is an active procurement for that right now so they can’t speak on it until those contracts are finalized.

ARCA did not pursue the resource center contract. The Resource Center is in transition and hope that they will be able to provide that information by August 1. The changes for updating contact information are underway. A lot of outreach had occurred with the old phone number but transitioning and maintaining that number is taking some work.

HB139 won’t go into effect until 2024, so the funding from the state has been designated to get the Brain Injury Service Fund through that. Currently looking at all options for future funding beyond that 2024 deadline.

10:00 am Hozho Center in Gallup Ken Collins

Ken is the Executive Director of The Hozho Center, a nonprofit in Gallup that started to create a drop-in center for people with mental health and substance abuse. He believes there are a lot of people with substance abuse problems who also have brain injuries.

Recovery housing program – material had been sent out by Lisa. The program is trying to identify people on the streets and in the program who have brain injuries. They will be educating on the roll stress plays for those recovering from a brain injury. The stress and their diminished ability from the brain injury to deal with that stress makes drinking easy. There are only a few services there for these people. The recovery housing program is a 2-year program for them to have a place to live while they get a job and stop the revolving door between detox and then 30 days later be back on the streets. The program is a structured program, not just a shelter, there is help for finding jobs and workforce development – not just referring them to a training program but providing transportation and a warm handoff to the training. Relieving stress because that stress triggers trauma. They were looking at two motels as possible housing locations, but because of structural issues, there wasn’t budget for updating them. The first unit will have 14 rooms. The hope is to expand this into transitionary housing that grows to include apartments for people who move out of the 2-year program.

Crystal offered resources – Thomas Anthony Chavez, works with traditional healers. Also the Brain Injury Resource Center library could be utilized.

Using the HELP intake form that the Brain Injury Association has – a basic intake form. It doesn’t ask “do you have a brain injury.” This HELP intake form asks if they might have some history that could indicate a brain injury. The Gallup Indian Medical Center is starting to ask patients to identify brain injuries. They are interested in any way they can work with the BIAC on this.

Bernalillo County is also using the HELP screening tool in their homeless centers. Bernalillo County had a contract for 24 brain injury trainings for two years. All based off of CBIS training. Heading Home is using HELP as well.

10:33 am BIAC update L. McNiven

BIAC Coordinator position update. Emily Stern is the new BIAC Coordinator and starts on Monday, July 24, 2023.

Emily updated the group on her background – she has been a professor at Santa Fe Community College and consulted prior. She is honored and thrilled to be doing this work.

Emily will also be working on Senate Memorial 30 and setting up contracts on other entities.

Channel 7, KOAT, wants to do a 30-minute special on concussion, specifically related to high school sports. Dominque volunteered to speak to the injury itself, but he can’t speak to the NMAA protocols that the high schools follow. Dominque will reach out to the NMAA to see if a high school trainer may be available to join him as able to speak to a reporter.

At the next meeting Lisa will provide an update on the helmet distribution numbers/efforts.

10:48 am BIANM Update M. Pedrotty

Was involved with donating helmets at Cochiti Elementary

The three videos, and closed captioning, have moved forward and they will be available on the website.

There is also a 2-hour medical provider video with Dr. Davis. Albuquerque Fire Rescue also invited them to put together three 15-min podcasts.

Training for APS was phenomenal. Dr. Pedrotty spent once a week for 12 weeks. There is information now that can be provided to the other school systems across the state on treatment programs for students. The students in PE had just as many concussions as the students playing sports. Believes adults need a concussion rule as well. The CDC has good literature for schools and health care providers on identifying and caring for people with concussions.

TBI Care Network up and running with quarterly training and an annual conference.

Students Return to Learn literature review by Adrienne Bratcher. Nationwide, there is no set protocol.

10:59 am Call for any Public Comment – None made A. Bratcher

11:00 am Other Business L. McNiven

Next meeting will be in October.

Ralph Frankes asked for the meeting to be moved to early November so the BIAC can be updated on the conclusion of the Sen Memorial 30 report.

Crystal asked for the meeting to be held on a day other than Friday.

Valerie suggested Monday, November 13, a hybrid meeting with in person at Nusenda.

11:04 am Adjourn A. Bratcher