

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
Attendance	<p>Council Members Present (in person): Dr. Jeffrey Bazarian-Chair, Crystal Collins, Brent Feuz, Paul Novak, Michael Davison, Dr. Paul Partridge, Clifford Hymowitz, Andrew Lebwohl, Maxine Smalling, Edward Devitt.</p> <p>A quorum of members was present.</p> <p>Council Members Present (via WebEx): None.</p> <p>Council Members Absent: Michael Kaplan and Megan Clothier.</p> <p>DOH Staff Present (in person): Maribeth Gnozzio, Trang (Tiffany) Tran-Lee, Maureen Schips, Richard Lehnert, Carla Nazaire, and Emilia Pawlowski (via WebEx).</p> <p>DOH Staff Absent: Susan Lawless.</p> <p>Guests: Joanne Scandale (Upstate Medical University Hospital) and Ann Marie Calabrese (New York State Office of Victim Services).</p> <p>Note: The meeting was conducted via WebEx and in person. The meeting was recorded.</p>	
Welcome / Announcement New Member(s)/ Review of old business	<p>M. Gnozzio called the meeting to order at 10:12 am and conducted the roll call. It was determined that a quorum of members was present. M. Gnozzio announced that Dennis Barlow has resigned from the Council as the ACCESS-VR representative, as he has accepted another position elsewhere. Dr. Bazarian thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting and reminded the Council of its mission. Specifically, the Council shall provide advice on the planning, coordination, and development of services needed to meet the needs of persons with traumatic brain injury and their families. Dr. Bazarian also reminded the Council that the previous meeting minutes for the December 15, 2022, meeting will need to be voted on for approval. The December 2022 minutes were moved for approval by C. Hymowitz and seconded by M. Davison and B. Feuz. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.</p>	
TBI Service Goal Recommendations and Service gaps/Workplan	<p>Dr. Bazarian requested an update on changes made to the Workplan since the last meeting in December. C. Nazaire described editing changes made to the Workplan and M. Gnozzio explained that the language was made less global and more tailored to New York State (NYS). M. Gnozzio suggested that the Council review the Goals and Recommendations in the Workplan again and provide potential resources that could be useful in supporting these goals. The Council may want to identify resources that currently exist to include as part of the Workplan. M. Gnozzio noted that the goal is to create a resource library to post on</p>	

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

	<p>the TBI website. Ultimately this Workplan will evolve into a report for presentation to the NYS Legislature and to the NYS Governor.</p> <p>Goal 1/Recommendation 1: Editing is needed to change “sequelae” to outcomes and add “emotional” to the recommendation after “cognitive.” Discussion by Council suggested going back and looking at the continuum of care from the National report and bringing that to the next meeting to see what can be used for the NYS Workplan. B. Fuez will bring resources to the next meeting that can address the issue of what is a basic standard of care. M. Gnozzio summarized next steps as 1) Establish continuum of care, and 2) Identify existing resources by way of survey.</p> <p>Goal 1/Recommendation 2: Council discussion began with Dr. Bazarian wanting to know as presented in the recommendation, who are the clinicians and where are they working. M. Davison suggested being global on who the clinicians might be and having a database available to identify the clinicians. M. Smalling would like to find a way for people to have available services statewide. E. Devitt would like to see families have educational resources regarding TBI and would suggest the development of a database and naming it the “NYS TBI Navigator”. A. Lebwohl suggested that someone from the Council be involved in the Master Plan for Aging. M. Smalling suggested creating a poster with messaging on TBI and ongoing educational opportunities that could be posted strategically. M. Gnozzio suggested inviting a representative from the Alzheimer’s Council to present to the TBI Council. The discussion would include a presentation about the Alzheimer’s Healthy Brain Initiative and the impact of the social media campaign. This will try to be arranged for the next TBISCC meeting. B. Feuz referred to his card handout as an example of an educational resource that is already available.</p> <p>Goal 1/Recommendation 3: General discussion occurred for this recommendation. Members of the Council shared their experiences with TBI.</p> <p>Goal 1/Recommendation 4: C. Hymowitz offered “Keep Ups”, a pilot project, as an example of a program that could be considered for this recommendation that provides supportive empowerment to those with TBI. He stressed that Peer Support is crucial for those with TBI. M. Smalling asked what types of support are being recommended. C. Nazaire clarified that it is Educational Support from the original goals. M. Davison stated that Independent Living Centers are good resources for this recommendation. M. Smalling stated that curriculum should include TBI Peer Support Certification. She referred to Amanda Saake, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Director of Office of Consumer Affairs, Office of Mental Health, as another resource.</p>	
<p>Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention NYS Data Sources Presentation</p>	<p>Emilia Pawlowski from the Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention presented a summary of Vital Records data from 2016-2020 that illustrates Traumatic Brain Injury Mortality and Hospitalization in NYS. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was included in the TBISCC packet for reference.</p> <p>M. Smalling asked if the data sets can be broken down by county or region. E. Pawlowski said yes and her supervisor, Michael Bauer, provided a link: Traumatic Brain Injury: Data & Statistics (ny.gov)</p> <p>E. Pawlowski also added that the data is provided by each hospital in NYS, but that specific individual patient information is not available due to HIPPA constraints. P. Novak asked if other data sources are available to identify TBI outcomes for other facilities that are not Article 28 facilities. M. Bauer stated those data sources are not currently available but may be in the near future. Council members noted that the</p>	

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

	decline in numbers seemed to not reflect actual cases but that this could be due to billing data missing TBI diagnosis since it is not reported consistently. E. Pawlowski stated that the data is received based on payor submissions (Workman's Comp, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.,)	
Public Comment	Joanne Scandale of Upstate University Hospital began the public comment. She mentioned that she is a Rehabilitation Counselor and is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist trainer who provides training to therapists, doctors, and others about TBI. A concussion course is being developed as well. She provided a link (https://www.biausa.org/professionals/acbis) regarding the certification program for brain injury specialist to Dr. Bazarian and it was shared via email with the Council. Dr. Bazarian believes this would be a good resource for the Workplan.	
Open Discussion/ Council Members	<p>C. Hymowitz began Open Discussion with 3 requests: 1) A letter of recommendation from the Council to recommend fair pay for Home Healthcare Workers, 2) Request that more education be provided to LDSS workers regarding the change to Medicaid Eligibility, and 3) A document given to A. Lebwohl for DOH leadership regarding concerns with SEMSCO ambulance providers that approve use of services.</p> <p>M. Gnozzio addressed each request 1) the letter will require review and approval and will not make it to the legislature before the budget is passed, 2) DOH Medicaid Director will be advised on this issue, and 3) this will be followed up as well.</p> <p>M. Clothier sent an email requesting that the previously brought up suggestion about subcommittees be revisited. M. Gnozzio stated that she would reach out to C. Hymowitz, M. Clothier, and M. Davison to provide information on the workgroup, such as who the workgroup would be and who would facilitate the meeting.</p> <p>P. Novak commented that more time is needed in the Council quarterly meetings in order to address the needs of the Workplan.</p> <p>Several suggestions were discussed, with a final conclusion that the quarterly meeting will be extended to include an hour for lunch and that there will be additional monthly WebEx meetings prior to the in-person quarterly meetings.</p> <p>C. Hymowitz motioned to vote on the longer Council meeting time of 10:00AM to 3:00PM. E. Devitt seconded the motion, and all voted in favor, with the motion passing.</p> <p>C. Hymowitz requested a vote to draft a letter to OMH seeking support to include training about TBI in the OMH Academy for Peer Support Specialists. M. Gnozzio indicated the Council needs to move a vote forward to support this effort. A Lebwohl seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.</p>	
Items to Discuss at the Next Meeting	Continue with Workplan.	
Adjournment	The meeting was moved to be adjourned by Dr. Bazarian , with a second motion by A. Lebwohl . All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.	