

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 24, 2022; 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Meeting Conducted Via Web Ex

| Topic | Discussion | Action/Next Steps/Who/When |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Attendance | <p>Council Members Present: Dr. Jeff Bazarian, Chair, Susan Montgomery, Michael Davison, Ed Devitt, Brent Fuez, Cliff Hymowitz, Crystal Collins, Dennis Barlow, Dr. Paul Partridge, and Maxine Smalling. A quorum of members was present.</p> <p>DOH Staff: Maribeth Gnozzio, Anna Ko, Thomas Rees, Carla Nazaire, Tiffany Tran-Lee, and Susan Lawless</p> <p>Note: The meeting was conducted via WebEx.</p> | |
| Welcome / Announcement New Member(s) | <p>Dr. Bazarian called the meeting to order at 11:08 am. Dr. Bazarian introduced new Council member, Dr. Paul Partridge, Chief Psychologist from the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Dr. Bazarian stated he is looking forward to working with Dr. Partridge and his contributions to the TBISCC’s mission. Dr. Bazarian began the meeting by reminding the Council of its mission and their goals: to support those who have a TBI, identify gaps in services for those who have suffered concussion, which involves not only services, but education to the public and to providers.</p> <p>Dr. Bazarian introduced the next speaker, Emily Childs. E. Childs is the Regional Education Coordinator for the Traumatic Brian Injury Center of Excellence (TBICoE) with the Defense Health Agency (DHA).</p> | |
| Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence | <p>E. Childs thanked the Council for the kind introduction and explained her role in providing support for the Northeast region of the Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence which includes Fort Drum.</p> <p>E. Childs began the presentation explaining the mission of the TBICoE is to serve active-duty military and veterans with TBI and their families through state-of-the-art medical care, innovative clinical research initiative, educational products, and programs. E. Childs discussed the three branches of the TBICoE which are Research, Clinical Affairs, and Dissemination. She showed the different TBICoE sites, which range from the national HQ, research bases, educational sites, and centers of both research and education. E. Childs presented the worldwide data from the Department of Defense (DoD).</p> <p>According to DoD data, the data showed that of the people who have TBI worldwide, 82% have mild TBI, 10% have a moderate TBI, 4% have a non-classified TBI, 1% have a severe TBI, and 1% have a penetrating TBI. E. Childs discussed the tools and resources for providers, service members, veterans, families, and caregivers. These resources include fact sheets, clinical recommendations, educational materials, and TBICoE resources. She discussed the innovative TBICoE resources such as multiple podcasts, various phone apps, website links, monthly concussion literature review, quarterly bulletin, and monthly provider’s brief. These were all developed as resources to assist people through many different avenues for those who may want to listen, read, or track progress on their phone.</p> | |

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| | <p>E. Childs concluded the presentation with her contact information which will be posted on the DOH TBI website. C. Hymowitz presented that he has recently benefited from peer mentoring training and will be reaching out to Ms. Childs to further discuss the benefits of peer specialists. Dr. Bazarian opened the floor to anyone who may have questions for E. Childs. B. Fuez thanked E. Childs for her presentation and noted the good works and information presented by DoD as related to TBI. B. Gnozzio noted that these resources will be posted on the DOH website. Dr. Bazarian asked if there was DoD data available about how many New Yorkers have a TBI. E. Childs stated she is unsure of the exact number, but she will try to secure the information. Dr. Bazarian asked if, of the resources offered by the TBICoE, is there was one that has been found to be better than another. E. Childs stated that there is not direct data on which interventions are more effective in getting information out there, but outreach events have proven to be very helpful.</p> <p>Dr. Bazarian thanked E. Childs for joining the TBISCC, her presentation, and all the resources she shared with the Council.</p> | |
| <p>Review and Approval of December 9, 2021, and September 30, 2021, TBISCC Meeting Minutes</p> | <p>B. Gnozzio informed the Council members that there is a sufficient quorum to vote on the prior meeting minutes and to please use their video cameras, so voting can begin. D. Barlow was having technical difficulties and could not have the camera on but sent email confirmation of his participation in the meeting.</p> <p>B. Gnozzio presented that the first order of business was to vote on the September 30, 2021, meeting minutes. We did not have a quorum during the December 9, 2021 meeting, so no action could be taken regarding approval of the minutes. M. Davison motioned to approve the 9/30/2021 meeting minutes as reflected, and C. Hymowitz seconded the motion. C. Hymowitz indicated that he feels as though the meeting minutes are a “cemetery for recommendations” because what occurs in a previous meeting does not get discussed again in the future. He indicated that the meeting minutes should include goals for the next meeting and the meeting agendas should include a review of old business. Dr. Bazarian agreed that the Council should take time at the beginning of each meeting to discuss previous business. He inquired if the Council has ever done this before? B. Gnozzio responded not to her knowledge but agrees that the meeting minutes and future agendas can be adjusted. M. Davison suggested adding a section to the meeting minutes for old business and adding an action item to the agenda to note information from the previous minutes. A voice vote was completed, and all were in favor, none opposed.</p> <p>The meeting minutes for the December 9, 2021, were presented to the Council for action. C. Hymowitz moved to adopt the minutes, E. Devitt seconded the motion. A voice vote was completed, and all were in favor, none opposed.</p> | |
| <p>A Comparative Review of Prior NYS Traumatic Brain Injury Action Plans</p> | <p>Dr. Bazarian introduced the comparative review of prior NYS TBI action plans by advising Council members to think about what recommendations have not been implemented and are still relevant to the charge of the Council when listening to the next presentation by Carla Nazaire. Recommendations from the Council members will be considered for future discussion and/or action by the Council. B. Gnozzio introduced our next presenter, C. Nazaire, indicating that she completed an extensive review of the two</p> | |

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| | <p>primary reports generated by the Council dating back to 1998. B. Gnozzio also advised the Council that going forward, Carla Nazaire and Tiffany Tran-Lee will be the two primary contacts from the Waiver Unit, working on behalf of the Coordinating Council. B. Gnozzio thanked Michael Kaplen who provided staff with the 1998 report to Governor Pataki, used in this review.</p> <p>C. Nazaire completed a comparative analysis of the 1998 report and the 2012 action plan which included all the reports' recommendations. Additionally, C. Nazaire reviewed the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) recommendations and the current status of each recommendation. B. Gnozzio asked if committee members have questions. Dr. Bazarian asked which recommendations were acted on. He also asked what action is required or what is the outcome when a recommendation is included in a report and moved forward to the administration. B. Gnozzio responded that outcomes may vary based on the content and the impacted agency. There may be higher level policy decisions or considerations put forward by the Department of Health, to other stakeholders, or government entities. For example: items included in the report might not have been specific to the TBI population or within the authority of Medicaid. That is why the status of the recommendations need to be confirmed and/or reconsidered.</p> | |
| Member Updates | <p>Dr. Partridge presented he is enthusiastic about participating in the Council and is looking forward to learning more about the Council's activities and mission. D. Barlow from Access-VR indicated that he was interested in prior recommendations related to training and vocational activities and is happy to engage in further discussion and recommendations. C. Collins from the Justice Center did not have new information to report. Several Council members indicated support of the review of recommendations and moving forward with new ideas and activities.</p> <p>Dr. Bazarian thanked C. Hymowitz for his recommendation that old business be reviewed at upcoming meetings and looks forward to hearing his updates on his new endeavors. B. Fuez requested the link for the recording of the meeting. B. Gnozzio indicated the recording will be posted and he will be sent a link. M. Smalling indicated there are no new updates for OMH. She commented that the discussion resulting from the presentations were great and she looks forward to next steps.</p> | |
| Public Comment | No Public Comments. | |
| Items to Discuss at the Next Meeting | Discuss Council member top recommendations. | |
| Adjournment | C. Hymowitz motioned to adjourn the meeting. B. Fuez seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm. | |