

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 15, 2023, 10:00 am – 3:00 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): Crystal Collins, Brent Feuz, Paul Novak, Michael Davison, Dr. Paul Partridge, Clifford Hymowitz, and Andrew Lebwohl.</p> <p>Council Members Present (via WebEx): Dr. Jeff Bazarian-Chair, Maxine Smalling, Edward Devitt, Michael Kaplen, and Megan Clothier.</p> <p>A quorum of members was present.</p> <p>DOH Staff: Susan Lawless, Erin Fay, Carla Nazaire, Trang (Tiffany) Tran-Lee, Tom Rees, Teri Schmidt, Maureen Schips, and Richard Lehnert.</p> <p>Note: The meeting was conducted in-person and via WebEx.</p>	
Welcome / Announcement New Member(s)/ Review of Old Business	<p>A roll call was conducted at 10:12 am. Dr. Bazarian thanked all attendees for coming to the Council meeting and asked if there are any questions on the agenda and on the meeting minutes from March 2023 that will need to be voted on for approval. Brent Feuz arrived at 10:35 am and the quorum is established. The March 2023 meeting minutes are moved for approval by M. Davison and second motion to approve is made by E. Devitt. All are in favor and the meeting minutes for March 2023 are approved.</p>	
Open Meetings Law Update	<p>S. Lawless reviewed with the Council the Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2023 which in part provides for the exemption from certain in-person meeting participations requirements of individuals with disabilities who are members of public bodies, as defined in the Open Meetings Law. This will allow for the ability for those Council members with a disability to attend the TBISCC meetings remotely and still be counted toward the quorum. A. Lebwohl read off the exemption Governor Kathy Hochul signed stating:</p> <p><i>“On May 3, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2023, which, in part, provides for the exemption from certain in person meeting participation requirements of individuals with disabilities who are members of public bodies as defined in the Open Meetings Law (Pub. Off. L. § 100 et seq.). Specifically, Chapter 58 amended Public Officers Law § 103-a(2)(c) to allow public bodies, notwithstanding the quorum requirements otherwise applicable in this section, through written procedures.”</i></p> <p>S. Lawless floated the idea that during the upcoming September 2023 TBISCC meeting, the Council should consider voting to adopt a model Extraordinary Circumstances procedure . She will circulate a draft of the procedure to the Council members for review prior to the September 2023 TBISCC meeting.</p>	
NYS Coordinating Council for	<p>E. Fay presented a synopsis of the workplan being used by the New York State Coordinating Council for Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia. A slide deck was provided for members. The Alzheimer’s</p>	

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<p>Services Related to Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia Presentation</p>	<p>Council workplan identifies three priority goals, and then focuses on three recommendations per goal. The NYSDOH Alzheimer’s Disease Program staff created the workplan template based on the decisions made by the Council. The Alzheimer’s Council workplan is a living document that is to be revisited and updated on a regular basis. One goal of the workplan is to help frame the next Council’s mandated reporting and recommendations. C. Hymowitz asked if TBI is covered by the Alzheimer’s Council. E. Fay replied only as far as modifying risk to the Alzheimer’s and Dementia (AD) community. Dr. Bazarian asked when recommendations are compiled, and feedback is received, which recommendations will be enacted, and which will not. E. Fay replied that the agencies on the Council use the recommendations as a springboard for discussion in the field and Alzheimer’s organizations have used the report to advocate for the AD community. E. Fay invited the Council members to review the meeting minutes of the NYS Coordinating Council for Services Related to Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia that are posted online.</p>	
<p>TBI Service Goal Recommendations and Service Gaps/Workplan</p>	<p>Dr. Bazarian reminded the Council that the goals of this workplan are taken from the National Framework. The council began review of the Workplan starting with goal 5, as goal 1-4 had been discussed during a TBISCC workgroup meeting on May 16. This workgroup meeting was intended to focus on the workplan and break ground on proposing activities and recommendations. C. Nazaire read the recommendations under goal 5 to the council.</p> <p>Goal 5 Recommendation 1-4: The first recommendation is to consolidate resources and for DOH to create a TBI data system. The council asks if DOH has access to claims data or if DOH can prepare a report using claims to focus on those with TBI. T. Rees stated DOH has access to claims for those on the TBI waiver. Dr. Bazarian asked if DOH can access claims data for those on Medicaid as well. It is not confirmed but there may be an ability to coordinate with other departments to obtain access to claims data for those who are not on the TBI waiver but were treated for TBI. The proposed activity is to start with DOH accessing claims data for those on the TBI waiver and those who are on Medicaid, billing for TBI. This would be the building blocks to the creation of a databank for those with TBI. Recommendations 2,3 and 4 are also similar to recommendation 1, regarding a databank used for all of NYS, so the council determined that if the proposed activity for recommendation 1 is completed it will also satisfy those recommendations.</p> <p>Goal 6 Recommendations: Need editing to renumber the recommendations. T. Rees suggests that activities for this goal include use of grants such as ACL and HRSA and NAHSIA to fund data collection and other metrics. M. Davison and C. Hymowitz discussed collaborations and P. Novak suggests an activity for this goal would be to reach out to other organizations to invite them for collaboration. T. Rees states a TBI census had not been conducted since 2014 and an updated one may prove useful. The council discussed a survey that could be sent out to those with TBI regarding what their needs are and</p>	

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	<p>what could be offered to better assist them through their TBI. Dr. Bazarian stated CDC has a behavioral survey and perhaps NYS can start with that as the foundation for this survey for those with TBI. The proposed activity is for DOH to do some research and pull the CDC survey as well as questions from surveys other states have done. Once these survey questions are pooled, the council will review and select the appropriate questions. With the expertise from Dr. Bazarian, a NYS survey will be created which will help address what should be priority to assist those with TBI.</p>	
Public Comment	<p>Kate Berryan discussed the issue with her daughter and the lack of resources available in NYS to treat TBI individuals who also have behavioral challenges. T. Rees concurred that there is a lack of neurobehavioral rehab beds for individuals with TBI. Ms. Berryan has been working with legislators to address this.</p> <p>Joann Scandale clarified that there are outpatient neurobehavioral providers available in NYS. She believes that school districts could be a good resource for identifying individuals with TBI.</p>	
Open Discussion/ Council Members	<p>M. Davison motioned for DOH and the TBISCC to move to expand meetings into forums that are more accessible to more people. C. Hymowitz seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion is carried.</p> <p>Dr. Bazarian requests that the members of the Council list all of the organizations that will be invited to be Ad Hoc members of the Council. The list includes: Independent Living Centers, NYS Legislature and NYS Senate Health Committees, Regional Resource Development Centers, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, Access VR, NYS Athletic Trainers Association, Disability NY, NYS Athletic Commission, Crime Victims Board, NYS Chapter of Emergency Physicians, NYS Medicaid Transportation, Worker’s Comp, Department of Financial Services, Brain Injury Association of New York State, The Alliance, Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice. The Council decided to draft a formal letter that can be reviewed to invite these organizations to the next meeting. Dr. Bazarian will send to the organizations. C. Hymowitz motioned. E. Devitt seconds the motion. All in favor. The motion is passed.</p> <p>C. Hymowitz presented a certified peer specialist program from Texas that he believes should be shared with the Regional Resource Development Centers. Dr. Partridge would like to have this program from Texas present to the Council first. C. Hymowitz requested that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting. T. Rees believes this presentation could be an action for Goal 1, Recommendation 1 of the workplan.</p>	
Items to Discuss at the Next Meeting	Continue with workplan.	

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Adjournment	The meeting was moved to be adjourned by M. Davison with a second motion by Dr. Jeff Bazarian . All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM.	