

TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A TBI Advisory Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 via Zoom meeting. Kim Lamb called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M and introductions were made. Previous meeting minutes from August 11, 2020 Workgroup Retreat were approved.

Attendees

Kim Lamb, MS (Assistant Director of Programs, TBI State Partnership Program, UAMS)
 Terri Imus, RN, BSN (Director of Operations, Trauma Telemedicine Coordinator, IDHI, UAMS)
 Amy Moses, M.S.Ed (Program Manager, IDHI, UAMS)
 Daniel Bercher, PhD, NRP, CBIS (Assistant Director, TRRP, UAMS)
 Kristen Alexander, MPH, MPS (Health Educator, Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program, UAMS)
 Amber Watson, MBA (Administrative Coordinator, TRRP, UAMS)
 Edward Williams, RN, BSN, CBIS (Nurse Educator, TRRP, UAMS)
 Charlotte Bishop (State Long Term Care Ombudsman, AR Division of Aging and Adult Services)
 Jenny Frederickson, PT (Clinical Coordinator for Brain Injury & Stroke Program, BHRI)
 Amy Goddard, MS, OTR/L, CBIS (Consultant for Students with Brain Injury, Arkansas Department of Education)
 Stacy Gravett, MA, CRC (Vocational Rehab Counselor, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services)
 Sara Hodge, MCD, CCC-SLP, CBIS (Committee Member, Clinical Evaluator, NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge)
 Kelsey Ingle, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS (Administrative Speech Pathologist IV, BHRI)
 Steven Long (Program Coordinator, ICAN)
 Tom Masseau (Executive Director, Disability Rights Arkansas)
 Jim Mather (Executive Director, AR Sources)
 Miranda Morris, MA (Executive Director, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement)
 Valerie Oji, MD (Director, Innovative Pharm & Consulting; Associate Professor, Harding University)
 Dan Parker (Retired RN, Parent & caregiver of person living with TBI)
 Susan Pierce (Director of Policy and Planning, Disability Rights Arkansas)
 Jon Wilkerson (Chair, TAC Rehab Committee; TBI Researcher, University of Arkansas)

Past Meetings/Updates

Terri Imus asked if anyone had any comments or updates since the last meeting.

- Tom Masseau stated that he felt that the previous meeting was a great way to begin the discussion of looking at TBI across the state and what can be done to create stronger advocacy.
 - Terri Imus has been in contact Susan Vaughn, a liaison in Missouri who has helped write legislation. She is willing to help make a connection with Mary Sowers, the National Association State Director of Disability Services.
 - Include Tom Masseau and Susan Pierce in the introductory meeting if one is scheduled.
 - Money Follows the Person
 - Tom Masseau mentioned that the state is currently in the process of being able to apply for additional money to help people move back into the community.
 - Charlotte Bishop added that there will be an interim program administrator, Lisa Mancini Kelly. She will provide contact information if needed.
- Susan Pierce was tasked with reaching out to the former TBI Advisory Council members to try to reestablish the Brain Injury Alliance in the State
 - Two of the contacts have expressed interest and will be invited to the next meeting

- Those that have done presentations for this group would also be good candidates
- Tom Masseur was tasked with reaching out to the Brain Injury Alliance in Michigan
 - Scheduling a meeting with Tom (CEO) and two other directors to talk about their plans, how they got started, and how they are funded. He will also include Mary Sowers from the National Office.
 - Anticipates the biggest problem to get an alliance in Arkansas will be funding
 - Kim Lamb shared that the National BIAA has offered to help with startup fees
 - For sustainability purposes, potentially collect fees or fines
 - Potentially find a partner that is willing to offer office space in-kind
 - Jim Mather added that Sources may be able to help with a phone
 - BCBS offers grants for projects that will help save costs, may be something to look into

TBI SPP Update

Kim Lamb & Amy Moses gave the TBI SPP Update.

- Brain Injury Regional Workshop
 - Will be held on Friday, November 6, 2020 at Cane Creek State Park (Star City)
 - Will follow COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
 - If anyone wants to attend be sure to RSVP
 - If anyone wants to send materials, get with Amy Moses to arrange pickup
- ARConnect
 - A mental health service offered by UAMS
 - Kim Lamb will forward the flyer to everyone to get the word out about the program
- TBI Teleconferences
 - Stacey Gravett
 - Scheduled for October 28, 2020
 - An overview of Arkansas Rehab Services and how they can help people with documented disabilities and get them back into the workforce.
 - Will be on LearnOnDemand and available on archive
 - CEUs available
 - More information will be sent out via email
 - Amy Goddard, Steven Long & Bethany Baldwin
 - Scheduled for November 11, 2020
 - Provide a general overview of assistive technology
 - Will be on LearnOnDemand and available on archive
 - CEUs available
- NASHIA Update
 - Virtual event this year
 - Favorable format, Terri Imus would like to utilize this format in the future if possible
 - Virtual Tables allowed for networking and discussions
 - TBI SPP had a virtual table that allowed information about the program to be shared
 - Allowed sharing of the Arkansas State Plan, Rural Outreach Model, the call center, Brain Waves newsletter, a survivor story video and other information
 - Fantastic speakers/topics this year

- TBI SPP worked with 2 members of NASHIA that are helping with ideas on how to get Arkansas moving
- TBI SPP were asked if they would present on telemedicine for a second time in December
- Reoccurring topic: Trying to get traumatic brain injuries included in a behavioral health diagnosis. Currently a dual diagnosis is needed to get assistance.
 - Jim Mather suggested looking at the AR Choices waiver program, as there is a cognitive component that may qualify TBI.
 - Susan Pierce added that she and Tom Mather have been looking at the AR Choices waiver program and how to add traumatic brain injury as a covered disability. Tom has been in trying to reach out to Jay Hill to see if he is receptive to the idea of amending the waiver to include TBI.
 - Sara Hodge expressed concern that if they have been served by behavioral health and they need TBI services, then the PASSE becomes more restrictive.
 - Jim Mather added that AR Choices does not go through the PASSE system.
 - AR Choices wait list is about 3-6 months before services. If approved, they get 8 hours of in-home support for basic needs.
 - The waiver has been expanded to include Dementia and Alzheimer's. This may help the case to expand to TBI as well.
 - AR Choices program would exclude children.
 - Potentially set up a meeting with a representative from AR Choices to discuss
 - Susan Pierce added that she could check with their legal department to see if they can find out what Medicaid is doing with adult therapies and go from there.
 - Jim Mather spoke to the waiver director and confirmed that AR Choices does offer OT and PT services through a referral process with their PCP and can continue therapy for 4-6 weeks if showing improvement
 - Jenny Frederickson added that at BHRI, when discharged, the Medicaid patients have options for home health, PT and nursing but no other therapies or disciplines. They may get 8-10 outpatient visits in a year, which includes physician visits. This can make outpatient therapy very limited.
- State Plan
 - Terri Imus asked everyone to review the State Plan and provide feedback or additions
 - Surveys are still be collected to help keep the plan updated

TRRP Update

Dr. Daniel Bercher gave an update for the Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program (TRRP).

- Working on social media presence
 - November is National Family Caregiver Month
 - Will highlight on social media posts and in the newsletter
 - If anyone has any caregivers of TBI in mind, contact Daniel Bercher
- TBI Caregiver Virtual Support Groups
 - Tennessee and New Jersey are currently providing TBI caregiver virtual support groups.
 - Will be reaching out to caregivers to see if they are interested in a caregiver virtual support group
 - If enough people are interested, then can look into developing one
 - Jim Mather added that Sources is currently working on a virtual TBI support group and may be able to help with developing one for caregivers as well.

- Monday.com
 - Now utilizing a reporting dashboard through Monday.com to monitor monthly call center activity, website traffic, resource calls, etc.
- Call Center
 - Have been able to record and listen to calls. This has opened up the possibility to provide new training to the call center nurses as needed to be able to serve the patient in the best way possible.
 - Terri Imus encourages everyone to make the call center number available to anyone that is in need of resources.
- Working with Office of Patient Experience
 - Realized that since COVID-19, there has been a severe lack of communication between newly diagnosed TBI patients and their families/caregivers, as they are not allowed in-person visits at this time.
 - Have been working on ways to improve communication between family and patients.
 - Regular calls out to families for status updates
 - Possibly use MyChart as a way to communicate
- Teleclinics/Telemedicine
 - Saw a substantial increase in the number of teleclinics during the months of April through June 2020 due to COVID-19
 - The number of teleclinics in July through September 2020 decreased but has still been elevated compared to the previous months before the pandemic.
 - Terri Imus mentioned that telemedicine is currently available in many areas/specialties and encourages everyone to use if possible. This would help create trust in the telemedicine system and more patients would be open to using it. If more patients used telemedicine, their exposure to COVID-19 would be decreased.
- Other Updates
 - CBIS Course registration to open soon
 - TBI Registry is going through a series of updates and improvements
 - Have been working with the Case Managers at each of the trauma centers to build relationships and to get feedback on what they are seeing with the TBIs.
 - Research Project with the All Payor Claims Database (insurance claims)
 - Dr. Avi Bhavaraju will be the PI for this project
 - A med student will assist, previously did a research project with this database
 - Waiting to get final approval through IRB

Other Business

- Sources is putting together an “Ask the Expert” video collection for general information regarding work and social security benefits. It will be available on their website and Facebook page.
 - TBI SPP will help promote this

Next Steps

- Set up a meeting with AR Choices
- Susan Pierce will speak with legal department to understand what Medicaid is covering

Adjournment

The next TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Meeting will be held on January 26, 2021 from 10:00 A.M to 11:30 A.M. Meeting location to be announced. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 A.M.