

# Minutes for TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Meeting

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## Call to Order

A TBI Advisory Board Workgroup meeting was held on May 7, 2019 at the Telcoe/University Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. Terri Imus called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## Attendees

Terri Imus, RN, BSN (Director of Operations, Trauma Telemedicine Coordinator, IDHI, UAMS)  
 Tina Benton, RN, BSN (Program Director, ANGELS, UAMS; Oversight Director, IDHI, UAMS)  
 Kim Lamb, MS (Assistant Director of Programs, TBI State Partnership Program, UAMS)  
 Daniel Bercher, PhD, NRP (Assistant Director, ATRP, UAMS)  
 Kristen Alexander, MPH, MPS (Health Educator, ATRP, UAMS)  
 Chickilah Davenport, BA (Administrative Coordinator, Trauma, UAMS)  
 Edward Williams, BSN, CBIS (Nurse Educator, ATRP, UAMS)  
 Amber Watson, MBA (Administrative Coordinator, ATRP, UAMS)  
 Sha Anderson, MBA (Executive Director, Arkansas State Independent Living Council)  
 Shiela Beck, CBIS (Therapy Coordinator, Easter Seals Arkansas Children's Rehab)  
 Stacy Gravett, MA, CRC (Vocational Rehab Counselor, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services)  
 Sara Hodge, MCD, CCC-SLP, CBIS (Clinical Evaluator, NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge)  
 Kelsey Ingle, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS (Speech Pathologist IV, BHRI)  
 Rani Lindberg, MD (Associate Professor, Psychiatrist, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, UAMS)  
 Tom Masseur (Executive Director, Disability Rights Arkansas)  
 Jim Mather, PhD, CRC (Executive Director, AR Sources)  
 Dan Parker (Parent of TBI Survivor)  
 Susan Pierce (Director of Policy and Planning, Disability Rights Arkansas)  
 Aleecia Starkey, MSP, CCC-SLP, CBIS (Consultant for Students with Brain Injury, Arkansas Dept. of Education)  
 Jon Wilkerson\* (Chair, ATRP)

\*attended via teleconference

## Welcome & Introductions

Welcomes and introductions were made.

## Update: ATRP

Dr. Daniel Bercher began the ATRP update.

- 2019 Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium**  
 The Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium was held on May 2-3, 2019 at the Wyndham Riverfront. There were around 240 in attendance, up from the previous year. Dr. Bercher added that there were great speakers at the conference and he looks forward to seeing the evaluations. The symposium offered 8.5 to 8.75 hours of continuing education for some disciplines.
- Telehealth in the Home – Pilot Study**  
 Part of the ATRP grant is to deliver a pilot study with a spinal cord injury survivor. The pilot study is about inspiratory muscle training. Volunteers were pulled from Dr. Thomas Kiser's patients. Spinal cord injury patients are susceptible to respiratory problems. The idea of the study is to do inspiratory muscular training on a daily basis to build up those inspiratory muscles and help to prevent instances of pneumonia. There are currently 12 participants in the study. Two devices were given to the participants, an inspiratory muscle trainer and a measuring device to capture progress. The sessions are entirely via telehealth conference, usually in the participant's home. It is an 8-week study that will soon be concluded.

- ***Incorporating Mild TBI into Registry and Follow Up Process***

This matter of incorporating mild TBI's into the TBI Registry is still in its infancy. The possibility of doing this is still being discussed. There are hopes that the trauma system will buy into the idea of having trauma coordinators entering information about the mild TBI's into the registry as well. Terri Imus added that the mild TBI's are currently reported to the trauma registry, but are not reported to the TBI Registry. She added that there are hopes that the trauma registry will at least share the mild TBI numbers, if not the patient information, so there is a more accurate count of TBIs in Arkansas.

- ***TBI Report & Registry***

Dr. Daniel Bercher presented a TBI report composed of data from the TBI Registry. A handout was given to the board for review.

- ***Brain Waves Newsletter***

Dr. Daniel Bercher presented the second issue of the Brain Waves newsletter to the board and briefly talked about its contents. A copy of the newsletter was given to the board.

## **Update: TBI SPP**

Terri Imus began by stating that they have been talking to the legislative liaisons, Maurice Rigsby and Leslie Fiskens. The legislative session is over and they have some time to dedicate to the TBI cause. Tina Benton spoke about the discussions that were had with the legislative liaisons. The liaisons will be contacting the local Batesville legislators and try to encourage them to attend the Batesville event on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

- ***ACL Meetings / Hill Day – Washington DC***

In March, TBI SPP team members, Terri Imus and Kim Lamb, attended the ACL meeting and Hill Day held in Washington D.C. The TBI SPP grant also provided funding for a survivor to attend. Joe Page, TBI survivor and Advisory Board Workgroup participant, was able to share his story with congressional leaders to help bring awareness to the needs of Arkansans living with brain injury. Joe's story about living with brain injury and his experience working with the underserved incarcerated population in Arkansas makes him an excellent advocate. His story, including his experiences in Washington DC, is featured in edition two of the Brain Waves newsletter. Some takeaways from the event include learning what other states are doing for TBI good networking opportunities, and building potential relationships. Another takeaway is that in the future the "traumatic" part of "traumatic brain injury" may be dropped and the focus will just be on brain injury as a whole.

- ***Regional Outreach Events – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Day at the Capitol & Brain Injury Regional Workshop in Batesville***

- In April, the Arkansas Council for Independent Living along with Sha Anderson put on the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Day at the Capital event. Information was shared at this event about TBI and the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program.
- In May, the first regional event will be held in Batesville, Arkansas. A short assessment survey will be given during this event. Survivors and family members in the Jonesboro area will be able to connect to the event at the Jonesboro Regional facility. Representatives from Canine Companions for Independence, Smart 911 and ICAN will attend the event to share information.

- ***NASHIA Conference Presentation Submission***

In September, Terri Imus and Kim Lamb will be representing Arkansas at the NASHIA conference.

At 10:40am, the sub-workgroups broke into separate sessions for discussion.

At 11:25 am, sub-workgroup updates began.

## **Update: Arkansas Sub-Workgroups**

- ***Arkansas State Plan***

Sha Anderson began the Arkansas State Plan update. A draft of the state plan was given to board members. Items discussed include:

- Listening sessions and needs assessments

- Getting providers involved in rural areas to be more involved with TBI
- Getting regional clinics to be on board with teleclinics as opposed to traditional appointments and educating on the effectiveness of teleclinics in rural areas.
- **Underserved Populations**  
Sara Hodge began the Underserved Populations update. Items discussed include:
  - All TBI's in Arkansas are underserved, including the pediatric population after the implementation of PASSE
  - What can be done to assist underserved populations?
  - Plan to identify case managers that are working on PASSE and try to educate and collaborate with them
  - Look at Social Security and main insurances in the state and provide some education to their case managers
  - Suggestion was made to contact PASSE's consumer advisory councils for education purposes
- **Trust Fund/Waiver/Financial Strategies**  
Dr. Daniel Bercher began the Trust Fund/Waiver/Financial Strategies update. Items discussed include:
  - Trust funds seem to be the best route to take versus a waiver
  - Ideas on revenue sources were discussed including building a non-profit and maybe the state would pitch in. Others include traffic violations, physician renewal fees, etc. Options are still being explored.
  - Needing a champion to represent (i.e. Dan Parker)
  - Need to consolidate an argument, i.e. contact Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and get some information on TBIs and workforce outcomes and revisit ACHI and the All-Payers Database to retrieve information

## Other Discussion

- Terri Imus discussed forming a navigation system to help TBI survivors navigate through the system and get resources

## Adjournment

Kim Lamb moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 a.m.