

TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 via Zoom. Terri Imus called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M and introductions were made. Previous meeting minutes from October 27, 2020 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)
 Edith Bennett (Administrative Coordinator, IDHI, UAMS)
 Renee Joiner, RN (Director of Operations, Stroke and Trauma Programs, 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)
 Sheila Beck, MSPT, CCI, CBIS (Therapy Coordinator, Easter Seals Arkansas Children's Rehab)
 Charlotte Bishop (State Long Term Care Ombudsman, AR Division of Aging and Adult Services)
 Amy Goddard, MS, OTR/L, CBIS (Consultant for Students with Brain Injury, Arkansas Department of Education)
 Pam Hall (Guest Speaker, Administrator, Brighton Ridge Nursing Facility)
 Kelsey Ingle, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS (Administrative Speech Pathologist IV, BHRI)
 Kim Knight (Guest, Person Living with TBI)
 Tom Masseur (Executive Director, Disability Rights Arkansas)
 Jim Mather, PhD (Executive Director, AR Sources)
 Valerie Oji, MD (Director, Innovative Pharm & Consulting; Associate Professor, Harding University)
 Joe Page III, MSCJ (Warden, Arkansas Department of Correction, Person Living with TBI)
 Susan Pierce (Director of Policy and Planning, Disability Rights Arkansas)
 Joseph Sanford, MD (Co-Director, Healthcare Analytics, IDHI, UAMS)
 Kevin Sexton, MD (Associate Professor, College of Medicine, UAMS)
 Kimberly Wells (Guest Speaker, Licensed Associate Counselor)
 NeCol Whitehead (Guest Speaker, Sources for Community Independent Living)
 Stacy Griffin (Guest)

TBI SPP Update

Kim Lamb & Amy Moses gave the TBI SPP Update.

End of Grant Cycle/Grant Renewal

- Grant expires at the end of May
- Plans to reapply when it is open on February 19th
- Would like to extend what is currently being done with the grant including:
 - Pursuing a case management program
 - Forming a TBI Advisory Board
 - Forming a waiver/trust fund
 - Reaching out and providing resources to people living with brain injury in the state of Arkansas
- Grant funding expected to raise but unsure if will qualify for the higher amount

- Statistics from the Brain Trauma Foundation
 - 2.5 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury in the US each year
 - 76.5 billion dollars is the annual cost of care

ACL National Webinar (Vida Tolerson)

- Was approached by ACL and NASHIA technical support system to present a national webinar
- Featured story of Vida Tolerson and her husband Alex (suffered TBI at beginning of March 2020) and how the pandemic prevented her from being able to see her husband during his hospital stay.

Proclamation for Brain Injury Awareness Month

- Brain Injury Awareness Month is March
- If anyone is interested in being involved in the proclamation application process, please notify Kim Lamb

Guest Speakers

Pam Hall: Experience with Waiver Programs

- Pam Hall is a licensed nursing home administrator in several states and is currently the administrator at Brighton Ridge in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.
- Her daughter suffered a TBI as a teenager and she experienced firsthand the struggles associated with TBI.
- Has previous experience in waivers and has helped develop a TBI program at another facility in Kansas.
- Would like to get a brain injury waiver going for Arkansas
- She would like to get to the legislative level
- Welcomes any help or support with her endeavors
- Jim Mather will provide his information to investigate if Sources would be a helpful resource

NeCol Whitehead: Support Groups

- Dr. Whitehead has a doctorate in public policy and is an Independent Living Specialist for Sources
- Is a certified American Sign Language Interpreter
- Has set up virtual support groups for both TBI survivors and caregivers
- Currently is working on building up the number of attendees
- Support groups are currently being held on Tuesdays at 1pm
- For support group information or updates, contact Dr. Whitehead at nwhitehead@arsources.org
- Would like to continue to offer the virtual support group option post pandemic for those that cannot get to the in-person meetings

Kimberly Wells: TBI in the Incarcerated Juvenile Population

- Has a Master in Science in Marriage and Family Therapy and Clinical Mental Health
- Licensed Associate Counselor in Arkansas
- Has worked in a juvenile incarceration and treatment center and brings the prospective of brain injury in this population
- Had experience with a patient that had severe behavioral issues. He was documented to have a TBI since birth. However, they did not receive much information regarding his TBI nor was there much interest shown by the facility.
- Believes that this type of facility is not the appropriate setting for someone with a TBI. There were not appropriate assessments nor did he receive the attention he needed.
- Suspects that there were others in the facility with traumatic brain injuries but they had no way to test.

- Terri Imus added that now that he is aging out of the system, he will have even less resources as an adult.
- Amy Goddard added that this is an ongoing problem. Oftentimes if a young child acquires a brain injury, that information is lost through the cracks and the schools are not informed.
- Disability Rights can step in if a child is not getting the proper services they need.

Group Discussion

Review State Plan

- Education needs to be provided to schools, caregivers, provider, etc. on how to help facilitate these individuals and what can be done with the TBI SPP grant to help with this.
 - Jim Mather suggested to look at Parent Teacher Information Resource Centers for this type of training such as the Arkansas Support Network.
- Goals for Next Grant Cycle
 - Case Management and resource facilitation
 - Employment Support and Job Training Advocacy
 - Trust Fund/Medicaid Waiver Program
 - Develop a screening tool to disseminate across organizations with hopes of finding the individuals that have fallen through the cracks.

TRRP Update

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

- Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium will be virtual on May 19-21, 2021 (3 half days)
- Want to plan a virtual Survivors' Day for March
- Post discharge follow up calls have been increased
- COVID-19 has caused a decrease of inpatient visits and outreach efforts
- Teleclinic numbers have increased dramatically since the beginning of COVID-19
- Keeping track of "Hard Cases" that have ongoing significant issues
- Have about 400 cases of moderate to severe TBIs in Arkansas each year. Out of those there is about a 25% deceased rate and a few to Hospice.

Other Business

Virtual Outreach

- In-person outreach to this population has been limited due to COVID-19.
- Looking to do a virtual event of some sort since there has been limited outreach
- If anyone has any recommendations, please let someone at the TBI State Partnership Program know.

Adjournment

The next TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Meeting will be held on April 28, 2021 from 10:00 A.M to 11:30 A.M. Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.