

Arkansas Brain Injury Council (ABIC) Quarterly Meeting

February 8, 2022 | 10am

Council Members in Attendance

Anthony Thornton RN, FP-C, EMT-P, CCP-C (Chair, Person Living with TBI)
Cassandra Daugherty, MS, CRC (Vice-Chair, Vocational Rehab Counselor, AR Rehab Services)
FranSha' Anderson, MBA, DD (Executive Director, Arkansas State Independent Living Council)
Charlotte Bishop (State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Adult Behavioral Services, DHS)
Chris Borella (Section Chief, Injury and Violence Prevention, ADH)
Cara Crews (Fundraising, Person Living with TBI)
Amy Goddard, MS, OTR/L, CBIS (Consultant for Students with Brain Injury, AR Dept. of Ed.)
Jensyn Hallett (Advocate, Caregiver of person living with TBI)
Keith Handcock (Author, Advocate, Person living with TBI)
Laura Haskett, BA (Business Administration, Retired, Person Living with TBI)
Kristie Hayes (Business Operations Manager, Division of Medical Services, DHS)
Tracy Hobbs (Criminal Justice, Retired; Building non-profit for TBIs and PTSD)
Jim Mather, PhD (Executive Director, AR Sources)
Josh Moody (Software and Web Developer, Entrepreneur, Person Living with TBI)
Cendy Nowlin (Caregiver of Person Living with TBI)
Dr. Valerie U. Oji, PharmD, BCPP (Director/Clinical Pharmacologist, MedCentre PLLC; Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine)
Joe Page III, MSCJ (Warden, Arkansas Department of Correction, Person Living with TBI)
Susan Pierce (Director of Policy and Planning, Disability Rights Arkansas)
Morgan Purkiss, PT, DPT, CBIS (Therapy Coordinator, Easterseals Arkansas)
Constance Tullis, LMSW (Social Work Intern, TRRP, UAMS, Person Living with TBI)
Gordon Xiong (Sources for Community Independent Living, Person Living with Cerebral Palsy)

Others in Attendance

Renee Joiner, RN, BSN (Clinical Program Director, Trauma, Stroke & SANE Programs, UAMS)
Daniel Bercher, PhD, NRP, CBIS (Assistant Director, TRRP, UAMS)
Kristen Alexander, MPH, MPS (Program Manager, TRRP, UAMS)
Dianne Campbell, LCSW (Care Coordinator, TRRP, UAMS)
Amber Watson, MBA (Project Manager, TRRP, UAMS)
Edward Williams, BSN, CBIS (Nurse Educator, TRRP, UAMS)

Call to Order and Introductions

Dr. Daniel Bercher called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and began introductions.

Election and Bylaws

Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

- Anthony Thornton was appointed chair with no oppositions from council members

- Chair will lead meetings and finalize agenda items with full support from TRRP
- Cassandra Daugherty was appointed as vice-chair with no oppositions from council members
 - Vice-Chair will step in when Chair is not present with full support from TRRP

Terms

- Each officer (Chair and Vice-Chair) will serve a 2-year term running from January 1 to December 31
- Each council member will serve a 4-year term running from January 1 to December 31
- Each member will serve a four-year term, running from January 1st to December 31st. Elections will be held at the last meeting of each odd numbered calendar year
- Members may be re-elected into the same position indefinitely.

Voting

- Voting can be held during meetings or via electronic polls

How Committee will Function

- Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program will be playing a supporting role to the Arkansas Brain Injury Council (ABIC)
- Meetings will be held quarterly unless there is a need for additional meetings
 - Meeting Reminders
 - If any council members would like text or call reminders prior to the quarterly meetings, please send request to Dr. Bercher (dlbercher@uams.edu) or Amber Watson (awatson@uams.edu)
- ABIC does not yet have sponsorship from an organization
 - Important to find an organization for advocacy
 - Not limited to state/government agencies
 - If any members have a suggestion, please let council know
 - Disability Rights Arkansas as potential sponsorship
 - Susan Pierce will discuss this possibility with Tom Masseur
 - Can consult with NASHIA for ideas on which types of organizations other states' councils align with

Pediatric Subcommittee & Return to Learn

Morgan Purkiss will be heading the pediatric subcommittee

Return to Play/Return to Learn

- Amy Goddard has been involved in implementing Return to Learn in Arkansas
- All states have a Return to Play protocol for student athletes but only about 10 states have a Return to Learn protocol in place.

- Pitched to AAA (governs Arkansas athletics) the idea of adding Return to Learn protocol to the back of the on-page Return to Play flyer.
- Piloting with 2 districts in Arkansas to put together a TBI team of 4-5 people, how to best transition kids back to school after concussions or moderate to severe brain injuries
- Morgan Purkiss would like to play a role in the Return to Learn program.
 - Has contacts around the state that work in different school districts
 - She will reach out to see who may be interested
 - Will reach out to the medical director contact at ACH that helps send kids back into the community after a brain injury to see what resources she may have
- Kristen Alexander and Amy Goddard will email Morgan to discuss further
- Jensyn Hallett can participate as a family member of a person living with TBI
- Amy will speak with Bonnie Boaz from Arkansas Transition Services for her perspective of helping kids with brain injuries move into post-secondary education
- Ideally develop a roster of health professionals to be able to connect others to
- Dr. Anderson added that SILC is developing a landing page and resources can potentially be added to that

Brain Injury Association/Alliance

- Arkansas is only one of a few states in the United States that does not have a membership to either the Brain Injury Association or Brain Injury Alliance
- Would help advocate to legislators
- Approximately \$1,500 annual fee
 - Fundraising is an option
 - A few council members have experience in fundraising
- If any council members are interested in participating in the effort to get that started, TRRP will support this effort

Outreach Campaign

ACL Grant Task

- Increase program's reach through outreach and education campaigns
- Would like to develop Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
 - Potential Topics/Campaign Ideas
 - You are not alone
 - Where to turn for advocacy and resources
 - Smart 911
 - Personal stories
 - Behavioral health
 - Explaining brain injury
 - Buddy program/peer recovery support for both persons living with brain injury and caregivers

- Don't have to be tough
 - Coping skills
 - Under the surface/invisible injury
 - It could happen to you/falls and auto accidents
 - Self-care/Meditations/etc.
- If interested, any council member can volunteer for the PSAs
 - Cara Crews would like to volunteer to help with PSA
- Potentially have council members share the PSAs to help with visibility
- Possibly have a press release about the newly formed ABIC

Announcements

NASHIA Memberships

- TRRP is looking into NASHIA memberships for council members
- If any council members are interested in a membership, please contact Dr. Bercher at dlbercher@uams.edu.

ACL Workgroup Deliverables

- TRRP is currently participating in several workgroups and sitting in on others for observation purposes only
 - Participating in the Advisory Board and Return to Learn workgroups
 - Observing mental health, data collection and criminal justice workgroups
- Members could attend and participate but would need to consistently attend meetings

Events

2022 Arkansas Brain Injury Survivors' Conference: March 17, 2022

- Annual event for people living with brain injury, their family, friends, and caregivers
- Will be held virtually this year

Stakeholders Day: March 8, 2022

- To get updates about what the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is currently doing and where their money is going, also an opportunity to provide feedback

NASHIA Hill Day: March 16, 2022

- National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) will speak to the states and connect with US representatives, congressmen, and senators to show them the benefits of what ACL and NASHIA are doing

UA Clinton School of Public Service Presentation: April 20, 2022

- Three students at the UA Clinton School of Public Service have taken on a research project regarding TBI and the feasibility of a TBI Medicaid Waiver in Arkansas
- Comparing to other states, weighing pros and cons

Adjournment

Dr. Daniel Bercher called the meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm. Next meeting will be held on May 10, 2022.