

# **Brain Injury Trust Fund Committee Agenda**

**2-28-21**

**8:00 am to 9:30 am**

**Zoom**

- Welcome
- By-law discussion/approval
- Selection of the executive committee
- History of the Legislative Conversations/Efforts
  - Guest Speaker- Denise Gehringer
- Next steps for the committee
- Next committee meeting

**Brain Injury Oversight Committee Meeting  
February 28, 2021  
Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) website <https://events.unmc.edu/calendaat> at least 10 days before each meeting.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joni Dulaney, Anna Cole, Peggy Reisher, Shir Smith, Shauna Dahlgren, Kody Moffatt, Kevin Karmazin, Sheri Dawson, Caryn Vincent, Lindy Foley, and Judy Nichelson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Baker

**UNMC STAFF PRESENT:** none

**VISITORS:** Denise Gehringer

*The meeting of the Brain Injury Oversight Committee commenced at 8:00 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the UNMC website.*

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

There were no meeting minutes from the previous meeting which was held on Jan. 13, 2021.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

The agenda was reviewed. No additions were made to the agenda.

**OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Peggy Reisher stated the meeting was an open meeting and the open meetings law was posted in the chatbox.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was shared.

**SELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Peggy Reisher stated members of the committee were invited to let her know if they were interested in an executive committee position. Shauna Dahlgren, Kody Moffatt, and Peggy Reisher were the only ones to indicate an interest in an executive committee position. Shauna stated an interest in the chair position. Kody stated an interest in the vice-chair position. Peggy stated an interest in the secretary position. This slate was shared with the committee and other members were allowed to add their name to the slate to be considered during the meeting. No additional committee members showed an interest. The committee took a rollcall vote for each executive committee position and unanimously voted in favor of each person for each of the positions.

## **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE BRAIN INJURY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

The committee reviewed and discussed revisions of the drafted by-laws. Sheri Dawson made the motion to approve the by-laws as revised during the meeting. Kody Moffatt seconded the motion. Committee members unanimously voted in favor of the revised by-laws.

## **HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATURE CONVERSATIONS/EFFORTS**

Denise Gehringer was invited to provide an overview of the advocacy efforts which led to the passing of the brain injury trust fund.

Denise's outline:

- After my time providing support for my then 24-year-old that experienced a TBI, I set out to get involved in BI advocacy.
- Following the many years of work done by Brain Injury Alliance Nebraska (BIA-NE) to pass legislation to establish a state-funded Brain Injury Trust Fund, I met, along with others, over 8 months with Senators to share with them the intent of the legislation we were proposing and to discuss their concerns about appropriating funds for a Brain Injury Trust.
- We shared with legislators that BIA-NE was given seed funds from the feds through Vocational Rehabilitation to establish Resource Facilitation across the state and now funds were needed to continue the successful work that was established with those seed funds.
- We shared the concrete data that demonstrated success that has been collected as a result of the specialized Resource Facilitation delivered by BIA-NE.
- We explained the importance of Resource Facilitation as the foundation of all the next levels of care for individuals with BI.
- Senators shared concerns that other projects or purposes would end up becoming a part of how dollars were spent from a Brain Injury Trust and wanted to ensure it would be spent for the primary purpose of resource facilitation.
- All were clear of their support of a bill that would fund RF across the state and requested a budget be proposed to demonstrate how/where funds would be spent.
- Requests were made to include in the bill that a Committee whose purpose was to ensure the intent of the funding remained consistent.
- We brought the Appropriations Committee a budget that demonstrated a sustainable plan to keep the current work of BIA-NE Resource Facilitation alive as well as expand to serve more Nebraskans across the state.
- We promised the legislature funds would be solely used for the purpose we laid out.
- The bill was only partially funded and to keep the door open for future funding it is essential to be very careful to stay steadfast to the intent of the Brain Injury Trust Fund.

## **NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMMITTEE**

The committee discussed the priorities which Denise outlined during her presentation. Resource facilitation was a top priority, and this was evidenced by the draft budget proposed by the advocates. The trust fund was the sustainability plan for resource facilitation.

Committee members discussed who is currently doing resource facilitation. Peggy Reisher stated Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE) has been doing resource facilitation for several years and provided an overview of resource facilitation in January. Judy Nicholson stated Nebraska Injured Brain Network (NIBN) has been working towards offering resource facilitation, but nothing is formally put in place.

Shauna Dahlgren brought up the idea of the committee putting out a request for information (RFI) to see who might be interested in doing the work outlined by the legislation. Sheri Dawson questioned if that was needed given that resource facilitation is the priority and that BIA-NE is currently the only program offering it. Committee members further discussed that since these are public funds other programs should be allowed to be considered for the funds.

Joni Dulaney stated if an RFI was created the committee would need to create an outline of what they would like to see done with the funds. Peggy Reisher stated the legislation already outlines that for us.

No decision was made about how funding should be spent during this meeting but it was agreed that we will set up a meeting in approximately three weeks to continue the discussion. Peggy Reisher will set up the doodle poll and ask members to respond quickly so we can get it on committee members' calendars.

Committee members also asked if the meetings could be recorded. The executive committee will check with UNMC to see if there are any rules regarding the recording of these meetings.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned near 10:00. No motion was made because there was no longer a quorum.

Meeting minutes submitted by Peggy Reisher, Brain Injury Oversight Committee Secretary

Minutes approved at 3-24-21 meeting