



**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON BRAIN INJURIES**  
**April 15, 2011**

**Iowa Lutheran Hospital**  
**Conference Room A/B**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome/Introduction**

**Jack Hackett, Chair**

Members participating:

Tom Brown, Dennis Byrnes, Pat Crawford, Jill Crosser, Dave Demarest, Emily Emonin, Jack Hackett, Kellie Harmon, Donald Heckert, Connie Holmes, Dave Johnson, Karen Wilson

Members not in attendance:

Michael Hall, Kathy Herring, Sue Lewis

IDPH staff participating:

Megan Hartwig, IDPH, Brain Injury Program; Binnie LeHew, IDPH, Injury Prevention Program; Carol Hinton, IDPH, MCH Program

Ex Officio Representatives participating:

Kathy Winter, Div. of Voc Rehab; Toni Reimers, Dept. for the Blind; LeAnn Moskowitz, DHS; Theresa Armstrong, DHS

Others Participating

Heidi Smith, BIA-IA; Ben Woodworth, IACP

*Meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m.*

Hackett called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

**2. Review and Approval of the Agenda**

**Jack Hackett, Chair**

Hackett requested two changes in the agenda for the day; first a V.A. report from Connie Holmes in the afternoon and secondly discussion of a letter to be sent to the Legislature after the minutes.

*Johnson motioned to accept the agenda with the requested changes; Emonin seconded; motion carried.*

**3. Review and approval of the 1/21/2011 ACBI Minutes**      **Jack Hackett, Chair**

Minutes were reviewed. Emonin mentioned correct spelling for Kathy Herring's name to be added. Brown would like clarification of the motion he made in the 1/21/2011 meeting to read:

*Brown moved that as the State Plan Task Force is developed that it be comprised of a simple majority of survivors of brain injury and family members of survivors of brain injury.*

***Emonin motioned to accept minutes from the 1/21/2011 ACBI meeting with the correction for Kathy Herring's name spelling and the changes to Brown's 1/21/2011 motion. Demarest seconded; motion carried.***

#### **4. Discussion of Letter to Legislature**

**Jack Hackett, Chair**

Hackett discussed background of how letter came about. Hackett shared the information came from an Action Alert from Kay Graber from BIA-IA on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. The alert asked advocates to urge legislators that brain injury be included as a targeted population in all Mental Health System Redesign efforts. Hackett directed Brain Injury staff person to distribute the letter after it is finalized. The council discussed including the following items in the letter:

- After medical recovery the greatest challenge faced by survivors of brain injury involves learning to cope with functional changes and barriers that impact a person's ability to live independently, manage relationships and achieve gainful employment.
- Possibly adding some kind of data for the number of individuals on the waiver, those receiving services out of state, etc.
- Positive language and possible discussion of the meeting Johnson participated in with the Governor Branstad.
- Language to help readers be more "in tune" with real life challenges of survivors of brain injury.
- Why the Council feels strongly about this legislation.
- The impact of Veterans and co-occurring issues related to brain injury and PTSD.

***Emonin moves the a letter from the ACBI, to include the discussed points be sent to all of the ACBI, key legislators on the committee, the governor and other interested parties. Byrnes seconded; motion carried.***

#### **5. Task Force Reports**

**Task Force Chairs**

Hackett asked for an update from the Administrative Rules task force. Emonin reported the task force had met several times. She recognized the members of the task force and thanked them for their hard work. Emonin reported the group has completed the revisions they would like and the next step is for the document to go IDPH rules staff. The final document will come back to the ACBI for approval.

***Action: A new task force for reviewing and revision a procedural document for the ACBI will need to be established in the future.***

#### Administrative Rules Task Force

***Emonin motioned the minutes for the 2/23/11 and 3/9/11 Administrative Rules task force be approved as written. Crawford seconded; motion carried.***

Emonin shared a draft the Admin. Rules task force had written for a ACBI mission statement and definition of brain injury. The group discussed the mission and agreed on the following wording:

*The Governor's Advisory Council on Brain Injuries' mission is to represent individuals with brain injury, their families, and all Iowans through advocacy, education, training, rehabilitation, research and prevention. By means of these efforts we bring about awareness to others, and hope and healing to survivors of brain injury.*

***Emonin moved to accept the mission statement as written above. Johnson seconded; motion carried.***

Emonin shared the definition of brain injury the Admin. Rules task force wrote. She asked Demarest to read the definition aloud. The group discussed the definition and talked through revisions. The group agreed on the following wording:

*An acquired brain injury is defined as an alteration in brain function or evidence of other brain pathology not congenital or degenerative that can result in a wide variety of symptoms, problems and disabilities. It can be traumatic (e.g. caused by an external force) or non-traumatic (e.g. infection, tumor, stroke, etc.) in origin.*

***Emonin motioned on behalf of the Administrative Rules task force to accept the definition as written above. Seconded by Johnson; motion carried.***

#### Prevention Task Force

Harmon reported there are approximately 900 decks of cards left for distribution. Harmon would like to see each ACBI member distribute at least 50 decks of cards in their communities. There was discussion of distribution to the following groups:

- At the state fair through the Building Bridges booth
- Kiwanis groups
- Teachers
- With the letter to Legislators
- Boy and girl scout troops to use during safety awareness activities
- Safe Kids

***Harmon motions for the remaining decks of cards to be distributed to the ACBI members and that each member is challenged to distribute 50 decks of cards by December 31, 2011 and report back to the ACBI how the decks were distributed. Emonin seconded; motion carried.***

**Action: ACBI members to contact Megan with the number of decks of cards they need sent to them.**

Harmon discussed the need for the Prevention task force to meet prior to the July meeting to discuss and give feedback on possible activities. Distribution of concussion products from the CDC a possible project.

Brown commented about the card game and its impact. He suggested the ACBI needs to consider some kind of report on the epidemiological impact on the reduction of injury in the age group the card game was designed for. The ACBI needs to look at the impact on reduction of injury.

**Action: Prevention task force to consider a way to measure the impact of the card game.**

#### Service Task Force

Demarest reported the Cognitive Rehabilitation task force met several times in the last quarter. Demarest presented the white paper the task force authored. ACBI members made the following comments in regards to the paper:

- Hackett commented on adding language to address licensure of Neurocognitive Remediation Specialists.
- Emonin commented she felt licensure was a good long term goal.
- Moskowitz suggested aligning the definition of Neurocognitive Remediation with funding sources. Look at other states who have this covered and if the service is recognized by insurers. She noted that Medicaid follows Medicare and encouraged alignment with CMS's definitions.
- Brown requested the task force read the report and provide feedback.

**Action: Hartwig to send white paper to ACBI. ACBI members to read and provide feedback by June first.**

***Hackett appointed Julie Fidler Dixon as Chair of the Cognitive Rehabilitation Task Force.***

***Demarest moved on behalf of the Cognitive Rehabilitation task force the ACBI approve the minutes from the Cognitive rehabilitation meetings on 1/19/2011, 3/2/2011 and 3/23/2011. Brown seconded; motion carried.***

#### Executive Task Force

Hackett discussed the current council membership. The following ACBI members will be exiting the Council: Pat Crawford, Dave Demarest, Connie Holmes, Kellie Harmon, Emily Emonin, and Karen Wilson. The following individuals will be staying on the ACBI: Tom Brown, Dennis Byrnes, Jill Crosser, Michael Hall, Donald Heckert, Kathy Herring and Sue Lewis. Jack Hackett and Dave Johnson have submitted the applications for reappointment. Hackett discussed the importance of strong leaders and advocates on the ACBI.

**Action: ACBI members to identify potential members and encourage them to apply for ACBI appointment.**

***Hackett appointed Emonin, Harmon and Demarest to the nominating committee.***

Hackett discussed the state planning process explained how the state plan drives the council activities, HRSA application, etc. He stated the state plan task force needs to be strong.

**Action: ACBI members to identify candidates to participate on the State Plan Task Force.**

**Action: Hackett to appoint State Plan Task Force members from the ACBI.**

Wilson stated she needed to leave the meeting at this point—12:05 p.m. Stated she is willing to help out in any way she can. Hackett thanked her for her contributions to the ACBI.

## **6. ACBI Budget Report**

**LeHew, IDPH**

LeHew shared a budget report (report attached). LeHew discussed the across the board cuts IDPH had to make. LeHew reported that further cuts to the Brain Injury Services could result in staffing issues at BIA-IA. Hackett questioned if funds for the state planning process were to come from the ACBI budget. LeHew answered yes, the funds for the state plan will come from the ACBI budget.

*Group took a break for lunch at 12:15 p.m.*

*Meeting continued at 1:06 p.m.*

***Hackett moved the ACBI accept the Executive Task Force minutes from 1/20/2011 meeting. Heckert seconded; motion carried.***

## **7. HRSA Update**

Emonin began by thanking the ACBI for the opportunity to attend the HRSA meeting. Emonin reported her biggest “take away” from the meeting was there is nothing mild about a traumatic brain injury. She stated the meeting focused on concussion, the military, domestic violence and the elderly.

Johnson shared the best part of the HRSA meeting was that no one had to look at his name tag as they all knew him. This was the fourth time he has attended the meeting.

Crosser shared that she enjoyed the stories family members told. She said she also agreed with the comments Emonin made.

Hartwig shared a written report (report attached) updating the ACBI on HRSA and IDPH activities.

## **8. State Agency Reports**

**State Agency Representatives**

DHS—Moskowitz

Moskowitz reported there have been no significant changes to the Brain Injury Waiver. There are currently 714 individuals on the waiting list as of April 5, 2011. Moskowitz is a member of the Employment First workgroup; she is doing a prevocational services study of systems from other states.

Moskowitz shared the Cognitive Rehabilitation Workgroup is going to be renamed the Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Workgroup. The group is working to get a state plan service to serve individuals with brain injury who have behavioral issues in Iowa. Currently there are approximately 50 people out of state who could potentially come back to Iowa if the services were available. The group is tasked to bring a recommendation in six months. Moskowitz discussed the issue of denial of service for individuals utilizing the Brain Injury Waiver. One of the issues identified is case manager assessments not matching the medical documentation. Moskowitz will bring more information to the next ACBI meeting. Moskowitz shared there have only been two appeals; both were related to CDAC. Woodworth asked if DHS had looked at the change in the assessment tool (no longer brain injury specific). Woodworth also asked if DHS is keeping track of individuals who are denied because of level of care and if an error has been made are they told about the appeal process. Moskowitz shared that in some case an appeal can be avoided if case managers would call and ask why there was a denial and provide additional information. Brown asked for a clarification on justification. Moskowitz stated yes it was okay to justify.

#### IDPH—Hinton

Hinton shared she is a Nurse Clinician with Maternal and Child Health. She shared that unintentional injury was identified as a need through a needs assessment. One goal is rural injury prevention. Iowa is involved in a group of states and has chosen to focus on ATV injuries. Hinton also shared a DVD, *The Period of Purple Crying* more information about the DVD can be found on the website: [www.dontshake.org](http://www.dontshake.org). Currently the DVD is being distributed by some hospitals in Iowa to new parents.

#### Department of Education

No representative from the Department of Education attended. No report.

#### Vocational Rehabilitation Services—Winter

Winter announced Dave Mitchell is the new agency administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation. He has been with the state off and on for several years and has worked at On With Life and private practice. Vocational Rehabilitation was able to take people off of the waiting list for services on March 10<sup>th</sup>. She shared the waiting times for levels of service.

***Emonin moves all new Department Directors be welcomed with a letter from the ACBI. Brown seconded; motion carries.***

#### Department for the Blind—Reimers

Reimers shared the most recent edition of *The White Cane* magazine. Reimers reported the Department for the Blind has been partnering with Des Moines University to provide experiences working with individuals who have vision deficits, or who are blind to DMU students. The program has been very popular; there is a waiting list. Students must wear sleep shades to simulate vision loss to help them gain perspective. Reimers would like to see more

partnerships with other community resources. She reminded the group that the department works with other disabilities as well as blindness. There is currently not a waiting list for employment services from the Department for the Blind. Brown asked if a person can be blind in one eye and receive services. Reimers replied it depends on the case.

#### Insurance Commission

No representative from the Insurance Commission. No report.

Brown asked Moskowitz if denial letters could include contact information for NRF services. Moskowitz stated she would need to check on this.

### **9. Service Partner Reports**

#### Brain Injury Association of Iowa—Smith

Smith shared a report (report attached) and highlighted the recent Brain Injury Specialist Network (BISN) training. Smith reported that budget cuts to brain injury services have caused BIA-IA to look at places to make changes in services to cope. Trainings were identified as a place where cuts could be made. Trainings that were scheduled will be honored, but no new trainings will take place. BIA-IA would be willing to train on a fee basis, but no organization has taken advantage. Smith shared the most important thing she heard about at the HRSA meeting was regarding the Affordable Care Act.

Brown thanked Smith for the comprehensive report and for the return of canvas tote bags for IBIRN. Harmon requested the spelling of the ACBI be changed on the tote bags from Advisory Council on Brain Injury to Advisory Council on Brain Injuries. Brown asked if BIA-IA was making referrals to IACP for trainings they were not able to provide. He also suggested IBIRN sites might be training resources as well.

Harmon reported she had attended the most recent BISN training and was very pleased. She stated the training was a very intimate setting and overall the training was very interesting. Harmon would encourage others to participate in a training.

#### Iowa Association of Community Providers—Woodworth

Woodworth provided a written report (report attached). Woodworth discussed the current the current legislation for the Plan for Mental Health Reorganization. Woodworth shared changes that had been made to the bill and encouraged the ACBI to take action.

*Emonin moved that Hackett revise the letter from earlier to include the information from Woodworth's report and for Megan to distribute the letters. Johnson seconded; motion carried.*

### **10. Public Comment**

V.A. Report—Holmes

Holmes was not included in the agency reporting time. She reported the VA in Iowa City is going through a name change. She discussed her new role working with the family support program. She thanked the council for the experience ACBI had provided her with. She discussed a caregiver bill and gave the following website as a resource: [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov). There was discussion regarding the bill and what respite services would be covered.

DHS—Armstrong

Armstrong was not included in the agency reporting time. Armstrong reported she had no other information regarding current legislation than what is already out in the public. Armstrong stated the Senate and House both feel mental health services need to be reformed. Armstrong encouraged the council to be involved. DHS is currently the group that has been charged with the reform. She provided the group with a handout and discussed the budget (handout attached).

Hackett stated that advocacy is critical for the ACBI at this time. Hackett asked for clarification from Smith regarding the number of calls represented in her report; Smith confirmed the number included every call that came through BIA-IA (1,066 calls). Hackett thanked Armstrong for her report.

***Johnson motioned to thank all departing ACBI members. Heckert seconded; motion carried.***

***Hackett appointed Emonin, Crawford and Brown to ACBI Appointment Task Force.***

**6. Adjourn**

***Brown motioned to adjourn. Emonin seconded; motion carried.***

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Megan Hartwig