

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 9th, 2019

**Attendees:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Attended</u></b>
Baldwin, Jeronica	OHS	Yes
Bazron Dr., Barbara	Guest – BHA	Yes
Bastinelli, Sandra	Individual with TBI	Yes
Berlow, Bob	MDLC	Yes (Phone)
Boone, Judy	DORS	Yes
Carney, Joan	BIAMD	Yes
Dacey, Phil	Guest - MDOT	Yes
Danzler, Joyce	Injury Prevention	Yes
Edmonston, Stasia	Guest	Yes
Eisenberg, Norma	Family Member	Yes
Elinoff, Laurie	Individual with TBI	Yes
Furman, Janet	DDA	Yes (Phone)
Gallop, Tom	Family Member	Yes
Gallagher, Amanda	Professional	Yes (Phone)
Harman, Pamela	Professional	Yes (Phone)
Hutchinson, Marlana	Guest	Yes
Hutchinson-Troyer, Linda	BIAMD	Yes
Jayes, Arin	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
Jones, Alisa	Guest	Yes
Kerrigan, Martin	BIAMD	Yes
Kirtz, Terry	Guest	Yes
Marion, Nikisha	Staff/BHA	Yes
Kowalski, William G	Guest	Yes
Mays, Carole	MIEMSS	Yes
Melcavage, Kara	Survivor/Family Member	Yes
Nesbitt, Jessica	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
O'Dea, Stefani	BHA	Yes
Pugh, Bryan	BIAMD	Yes
Rinehart-Mello, Catherine	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
Robb-McGrath, Kirsten	Guest	Yes
Safi, AJ	Guest	Yes
Starr, Caitlin	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
Synovec, Caitlin	Guest	Yes
Schoenbrodt, Lisa	Professional	Yes (Phone)

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**Absentees:**

Cadenhead, Larry	Family Member		
Cernich, Alison (ex-officio)	NIH		
		Ruff, Melissa	Family Member
		Thomas, Steven	Law Enforcement
Eastman, Jennifer	MDOD		
Hartman, Paul	Individual with TBI	Walker-Pittman, Adrienne	Individuals with TBI
Helfrich, Marny	MSDE	Waldstreicher, Delegate Jeff (ex-officio)	General Assembly
King, Senator Nancy (ex-officio)	General Assembly		

**I. Call to order:**

Meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the November meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**III. S.A.F.E. Subcommittee:**

TBI Advisory Board discussed:

- The importance of respite for family members.
- The idea of respite care being put back into recommendation.
- The need for more case managers.
- Improved data collection.

**Questions Posed:**

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- Are the DDA collecting data on the number of individuals being served? How is that being collected?
- Where does Brain injury data go once it is collected? Is it being collected for fidelity?
- How can we improve funding of the brain injury waiver program?  
Board discussed how to acquire additional funding for the brain injury waiver program. Improved data collection could improve fundraising ability.

Special Announcement - Tom Gallup

- Tom Gallup, family member, has started a support group for family members of individuals with more severe injuries. The group uses Zoom video software so that people can call into the meeting from all over the state. Tom asks if any board members know someone who could benefit from the group. He asks that interested individuals be referred to him by email at [tpgallup@comcast.net](mailto:tpgallup@comcast.net)
- Next Meeting: Sunday evening the 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

***IV. Partner Sharing:***

Laurie Elinoff – Individual with TBI, Retired Professional

Laurie Elinoff details career as an independent individual, family services, and vocational rehabilitation professional. Describes personal experience with traumatic brain injury and her hopes for community impact. She serves as a council member on the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (MSILC), a governor-appointed advisory council that promotes independent living across the state of Maryland. The MSILC is composed of people with disabilities, parents of disabled individuals, representatives of advocacy groups and service providers from public and private agencies.

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Kara Melcavage – Individual with TBI, Family Member, and Professional

Kara Melcavage introduces herself as a new member of the TBI Advisory Board. Ms. Melcavage details her professional background in neuroscience, academic background and current research projects. She currently serves as Senior Medical Policy Research Analyst at Carefirst Blue Cross BlueShield, where she updates existing medical coverage policies, develops new policies using thoughtful assessment of current evidence, and evaluates new and emerging technologies. Melcavage sustained a TBI through a car accident and her personal experience and recovery has informed her research interests and passions.

Individuals who signed up for the March meeting:

- Nikisha Marion, Staff/BHA
- Caitlin Exline Starr, BIAMD

***V: Federal TBI Grant Update:***

Anastasia Edmonston, the Coordinator of the Traumatic Brain Injury Partner Grant, distributes STAR Model document and discusses progress made since last advisory board meeting.

- Focusing on screening, teaching professionals how to screen.
- Working with overdose fatality teams throughout the state

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- Announces upcoming trainings and their locations
- Announces two presentations at the conference.
- Discusses making sure these trainings reach the day program employees.

**VI: Maryland Brain Injury Trust fund- BHA & MDOT:**

Stefani O’Dea, BHA announces that there is now a revenue source for this fund: a voluntary donation option when you renew (\$1) your license.

- The donation option went live in first weekend of December.
- People have started using it but we have not done a big public relations (PR) push on this yet.
- Advisory Board discusses PR Push for March Brain Injury Awareness Month.
- Donation option is being publicizing in #5ThoughtsFriday.
- Potential for a public service announcement discussed.
- Marla Hutchinson suggests a press release from the governor’s office. Governor Neal could send out an announcement.
- Joan Carney suggests advertising the donation option on provider websites.
- Stefani suggests letting people know that they can make a larger donation (The only way to collect larger donations right now is by mailing a check).
- The Committee will be creating stages of steps of who qualifies.
- Once we figure out how much money we bring in, we will be able to allocate it.
- The Board discusses being able to serve more people needing in-home care.

**Volunteers to Participate in Trust Fund Committee:**

- Laurie Elinoff
- Terry Kirtz
- Catherine Mello
- Kara Melcavage
- Caitlin Synovec (pending days and times)
- Martin Kerrigan
- Bryan Pugh
- Caitlin Starr
- Linda Hutchinson-Troyer
- Kirsten Robb-McGrath

**VII: Committee Updates**

**Education Subcommittee**

- Martin discusses legislation towards improving education about TBI in schools

**Brain Injury Waiver/Long Term Care:**

- Have three meetings set up for this calendar year
- Stefani O’Dea asks if there is anyone else who wants to participate in that.
- Tom Gallup and Marlana Hutchison volunteer

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**VIII: 2019 Legislative Updates and Planning/Potential Bills**

- Catherine Reinhart -Mello of BIAMD discusses work tracking legislation related to TBI
- Proposed legislation on sports and concussion management (three bills).
- Discuss ways to get other involved.
- Bryan Pugh of BIAMD proposes idea of putting the bills we are pushing for online so that they are shared with everyone and tracked with links.
- TBI Act was reauthorized in December through 2024.
- Reauthorization of The Money Follows the Person Grant.
- ACL has asked for feedback for their resource center, asking for feedback from providers what the next resource center should look like, how to improve systems in Maryland.
- Catherine can forward this blurb about it through advisory board email chain.

**IX. Brain Injury Awareness month activities**

- Wednesday March 6 2019- Brain injury awareness day in Annapolis
- Wednesday March 13 2019- Brain Injury Awareness day on Capitol Hill
- March 28-29<sup>th</sup>- Brain Injury Association of Maryland annual conference  
<https://www.biamd.org/2019-biamd-annual-conference.html>
- Brain Injury Trust Fund Public Relations launch
- Bryan reviews activities and dates
- #5ThoughtsFriday
- Reminder about Partnership in Independence Awards

**X: New Business/Board Member Announcements:**

- The BIAMD discussed using AmazonSmile to purchase things from Amazon for a donation
- The BIAMD has received a grant from the Office of Healthcare Quality (OHCQ) to test a brain injury training curriculum (Brain Injury 101, Cognitive Behavioral Issues, Nursing Issues, Brain Injury and Opioids) in urban and rural nursing facilities.
- Stefani O'Dea projects that the Maryland Access Point presentation will occur either at the in 2019 advisory board meetings. Maryland Department of Aging has been invited to present. The Club House presentation has not yet been coordinated.

**XI: Remaining 2019 Meetings:**

- March meeting -HOLD March 6- Annapolis (Brain injury awareness month)
- May 8, 2019
- July 10, 2019
- September 11, 2019

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- November 13, 2019
- Location: MD Department of Transportation 1-3pm with SAFE subcommittee meeting at noon prior to each meeting

**XII: Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.