

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 10, 2019

**Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attended</u>
Abramson, Gil	Survivor	Yes
Baldwin, Jeronica	OHS	Yes
Bastinelli, Sandra	Survivor	Yes
Berlow, Bob	DRM	Yes
Boone, Jody	DORS	Yes
Carney, Joan	BIAMD	Yes
Danzler, Joyce	Injury Prevention	Yes
Edmonston, Anastasia	Guest	Yes
Eisenber, Norma	Family Member	Yes
Elinoff, Laurie	Survivor	Yes
Gallup, Tom	Family Member	Yes
Gallagher, Amanda	Professional	Phone
Harman, Pamela	Professional	Phone
Hartman, Paul	Survivor	Phone
Helfrich, Marny	NISDE – BDEI-SES	Yes
Hutchinson-Troyer, Linda	BIAMD	Yes
Hutchinson, Marlana	Guest	Yes
Jones, Alisa	Guest	Yes
Kerrigan, Martin	BIAMD	Yes
Mallinson, Adrienne	Guest – taking spot for DRM	Yes
Marion, Nikisha	Staff/BHA	Yes
Mayes, Carole	MIEMSS	Phone
Melcavage, Kara	Survivor/Family Member	Yes
Nesbitt, Jess	Guest	Yes
O'Dea, Stefani	BHA	Yes
Pugh, Bryan	BIAMD	Yes
Rinehart-Mello, Catherine	Guest	Yes
Robb-McGrath, Kirsten	Dept. of Disabilities	Yes
Safi, AJ	Guest	Yes
Starr, Caitlin	Guest	Yes
Terry, Jarrod	Guest	Phone
Thomas, Despina	Guest	Yes
Thomas, Steven	Law Enforcement Representative	Yes
Walker-Pittman, Adrienne	Survivor	Yes

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**Absentees:**

Cadenhead, Larry	Family Member		Cernich, Alison (ex-officio)	NIH
Furman, Janet	DDA		King, Nancy J	General Assembly
Lauterbach, Margo	Professional		Peterson, Keisha	OGCSHCN
Ruff, Melissa	Family Member		Schoenbrodt, Lisa	Professional
Waldstreicher, Delegate Jeff	General Assembly		Weaver, Buddy	Family Member

**I. Call to order:**

Meeting was called to order at 1:17 PM and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

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

**III. Safe Subcommittee Update (Martin)**

The SAFE Subcommittee Meeting is the Survivor and Family Empowerment subcommittee. It meets at noon prior to the Brain Injury Advisory Board. It is a subcommittee that is for survivors and family members to present a unified voice to the board, and a time for survivors and family members to share information about what is currently happening in their lives.

The SAFE subcommittee met this afternoon. They talked about the report and if there was anything that needed to be added or changed, and will be discussing their changes as it comes up in the report.

**IV. Partner Sharing (5 Minutes Each):**

Jess Nesbitt:

- Is new to the brain injury field but has had about 6 years of case management experience prior to joining the Brain Injury Association of Maryland (BIAMD). Jess currently works for the BIAMD as a Case Manager for the Brain Injury Waiver Program. She is also the BIAMD's Health Educator and can provide education about brain injury to a variety of placements and organizations.
- Personal interests include Harm Reduction and Drug Use, and is interested in providing education about that information and links to brain injury.

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Marney Helfrich:

- Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services. Responsible for providing technical assistance and general supervision to the 24 local schools systems and Maryland Public Agencies (Maryland School for the Blind, Maryland School for the Deaf, Juvenile Services Education and Adult Correctional Facilities Education). This program supports the implementation of the individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA), which is a federal statute that guarantees special education for children under 21.
- Provide professional development resources, resolving parent complaints, and works on a variety of issues in school related

***Volunteers for September's Meeting***

- *Gil Abramson*
- *Adrienne Mallinson*

***Partner Sharing Synopsis***

- You do not have to be a board member to volunteer for partner sharing.
- The partner should share who they are, what they do, and how it relates to BI.

**V. Advisory Board Appointments**

- Approximately 4 people had appointments that were expiring and are eligible to reapply. Stefani has contacted them.
- The TBI Board does not currently have a representative from the House of Delegates
  - o Recommendations:
    - Del. Ned Carey
    - Del. Veronica Turner

**VI. Federal TBI Grant Update – Anastasia Edmonston**

- Stasia provided an update on Federal TBI Partnership Grant Project. See attached reports for further details.

***SAFE Subcommittee Recommendations to the Board***

- ***Long Term Data:*** There is a need for long term data for individuals that have been surviving and living with brain injuries for 10-20 years post injury. We also must find better ways to gather data.
- ***Better Educating Hospital Case Managers about the Waiver:*** They recommend improving dissemination of information regarding the waiver to providers, specifically hospitals.
- ***Pursuing a Trust Fund Line Item:*** They wonder if it would be possible to recommend a line item to seek additional funding for the trust fund. What are the steps to do that?
- ***Appointments:*** The TBI Advisory Board currently has an opening in the House of Delegates. Stefani agrees to email Kim Bernardi who handles all the appointments and she would communicate with the new speaker of the house and contact the senate.

**VII. 2019 Draft Recommendation Report**

*The Legal Resource Center for Public Health and Policy*

**Contact Person:** *Brooke Torton*

Deputy Director of The Legal Resource Center for Public Health and Policy  
500 W. Baltimore St. Baltimore, MD 21201 – Office 491  
btorton@law.umaryland.edu  
410-706-5993

- Assists legislators, government agencies, health departments and NGOs interested in effecting policy change at the state and local level
- Founded in 2001 as a partnership between UM School of Law, MDH and Maryland Office of the Attorney General
- LRC Policy supports include:
  - Legislative drafting assistance
  - Written and oral testimony
  - Responding to questions from legislators, proponents and opponents
  - Legislative Tracking
  - Interpret federal, state and local laws affecting an issue
  - Identify potential obstacles to policy implementation and solutions to the obstacles
- LRC provides pro bono legal assistance for
  - Legislators
  - Health officials
  - Government attorneys
  - NGOs
  - Individual Citizens
- LRC Focus areas include
  - State/local legislation
  - Injury Prevention
  - Tobacco Regulation
  - Obesity Prevention
  - Gambling
  - Local Authority
- Sports and Recreational Injury
  - Return to play, return to school
  - School nurses role in TBI Identification and monitoring
  - Bike Helmets
  - ATV (helmet laws, age restrictions)
  - Motorcycle helmet laws
  - Intentional injury and interpersonal violence

**The Network of Public Health Law**

**Contact Person:** *Kerri Lowrey*

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Deputy Director of the Network for Public Health Law (Eastern Region)  
500 W. Baltimore St. Baltimore, MD 21201 – Office 438  
klowrey@law.umaryland.edu  
410-706-5994

- NPHL promotes health and health equity through law and policy.
- Connects and serves individuals and organizations committed to applying the law to improve public health.
- Goal is to create a network of public health experts throughout the country, so that we're not constantly reinventing the wheel.
- Funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation since 2010 to increase the use and effectiveness of public health laws in protecting, promoting, and improving public health
- Primary functions of NPHL
  - Technical Assistance – take a lot of emails through our website and emails from people we've gotten through events like this, outreach, phone calls, experienced with fielding difficult questions
  - Proactive Deliverables – have a suite of products on TBI (fact sheets, issue briefs, webinars, 50-state compilations, blog, updates, and alerts)
  - Goal is to create a network of public health experts in public health law so that we're not constantly reinventing the wheel all over the country.
  - Knowledge base
  - Create a network of experts

**Which organization to contact:**

- If you have a Maryland specific question or a question that relates to the legislature or general assembling in Maryland, contact LRC, because NPHL is 100% network funded and cannot do any lobbying. LRC is able to get more involved.
- If your question is related to TBI policy enacted in other states or return to play or return to school laws, contact NPHL
- Both orgs are in frequent contact so can coordinate and refer to each other.

**IX. 2019 Annual Report Planning**

*Discussion about recommendations*

- Suggestion for adding more about the need for psychiatric support services
- Stefani suggests putting it in the parking lot for next year and having Vani Rao present to the board
- Adrienne discusses making sure prevention of brain injury does not get lost in the report
- Stefani proposes adding a section, "Maryland Prevention Efforts", talking about causes of brain injury and ways Maryland is working to prevent them
- Discussion to alter the executive summary to add personal stories and shortening the wording if the recommendation on the table of contents in order to catch people's attention

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- Bryan suggests adding a preface with the information currently in the executive summary, putting pictures of masks on the cover, and including links to the videos
- Proposal to change the title of the report to something catchier, such as “Removing the Disguise”
- Martin recommends individual subcommittees review the recommendations and make changes they want
- Stefani suggests changing analysis to “Why Is This Important” to make sure it is clear to the reader why the recommendation is important
- Recommendation for a yearlong campaign marketing the report
- Suggestion to alter recommendation IV to include funding the trust fund, potentially through increasing the voluntary donation amount

**X. New business/ Board Member announcements**

**XI: Remaining 2019 TBI Advisory Board Meeting Dates are as follows**

- September 11, 2019
  - November 13, 2019
- Location: MD Department of Transportation 1-3pm with SAFE subcommittee meeting at noon prior to each meeting

***Blue Crabs for Brain Injury - September 8, 2019 - 1pm-4pm***

- Join us for a great afternoon/evening of food, fellowship, and fund-raising at one of Baltimore's Best Taphouses. All proceeds go to support the Maryland Brain Injury Family Helpline, which provides information, assistance, and support to Maryland families dealing with the devastating effects of brain injury.
- Key Brewery Taphouse - 2500 Grays Road Dundalk, MD 21222

***Scarecrow Classic 5K***

UMBC Commons – 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250  
(More information forthcoming). Check [www.biamd.org](http://www.biamd.org)

**XII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM**

**Summary of Action Steps:**

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Action to be Taken</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Planned Completion</i>	<i>Status</i>
Subcommittee Findings	Need new House of Delegates Representative	Stefani agrees to email Kim Bernardi who handles all the appointments	Stefani	By July Board Meeting	
Grant	Summary of year one of grant ending	Final report for the year to be distributed at next board meeting	Stasia	By July Board Meeting	

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TBI Screening	Senator Waldstreicher made recommendations for how to help bill move forward.	Martin is going to set up appointment for the end of May/early June to discuss next steps moving forward.	Martin	By July Board Meeting	
Policy Survey	Amanda talks about how difficult it is for families to find resources/case management post rehab	Stefani suggests a presentation on Maryland Access Point to talk about that so people know what it is	Stefani		
Annual Report	Martin proposes a deadline to have a rough draft to review in July	Board Members should fill out that survey by the end of June with specific information you would like to add.	Everyone	July Board meeting	
Partner Sharing	<i>Gil Abramson and Adrienne Mallinson</i> volunteered to share	Prepare partner sharing for July	Jess Nesbitt Marny Helfrich	July Board meeting	