

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 6th, 2019

**Attendees:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Attended</u></b>
Abramson, Gil	Survivor	Yes
Baldwin, Jeronica	OHS	Yes
Bastinelli, Sandra	Survivor	Yes
Berlow, Bob	MDRC	Yes
Carney, Joan	BIAMD	Yes
Cadenhead, Larry	family member	Yes
Danzler, Joyce	Injury Prevention	Yes
Eastman, Jennifer	MDOD	Yes
Edmonston, Stasia	Guest	Yes
Elinoff, Laurie	Survivor	Yes
Gallagher, Amanda	Professional	Yes
Gordon, Benny	Survivor	Yes
Gross, David	WMHC	Yes
Helfrich, Marny	MSDE	Yes
Hutchinson-Troyer, Linda	BIAMD	Yes
Hutchinson, Marlana	Guest/ MD Medicaid	Yes
Jayes, Arin	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
Jones, Alisa	Guest	Yes
Kerrigan, Martin	BIAMD	Yes
Marion, Nikisha	Staff/BHA	Yes
Mays, Carole	MIEMSS	Yes
Nesbitt, Jessica	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
O'Dea, Stefani	BHA	Yes
Pugh, Bryan	BIAMD	Yes
Rinehart-Mello, Catherine	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
Safi, AJ	Guest	Yes
Starr, Caitlin	BIAMD/Guest	Yes
Terry, Jarrod	MDH	Yes
Thomas, Steven	AA County Police	Yes

**Absentees:**

Melcavage, Kara	Survivor/Family Member	Boone, Judy	DORS
Schoenbrodt, Lisa	Professional	Eisenberg, Norma	Family Member
Walker-Pittman, Adrienne	Survivor	Gallop, Tom	Family Member

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Ruff, Melissa	Family Member	Hartman, Paul	Survivor
Furman, Janet	DDA	Harman, Pamela	Professional

**I. Call to order:**

Meeting was called to order at 11:50 AM and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

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

**III. Partner Sharing:**

Nikisha Marion – Behavioral Health Administration

Ms. Marion has over twenty years of experience working in human services. She has worked with homeless adults, individuals with intellectual disabilities, youth, and in the mental health and brain injury fields. She has been working at the Department of Health for 12 years and this kickstarted her involvement with the TBI Advisory Board. She would like to see an expansion and improvement of services from the waiver throughout Maryland because BHA gets many calls for the waiver but are not able to assist everyone due to funding and eligibility.

Caitlin Starr – Associate Director of the Brain Injury Association of Maryland

Ms. Starr has been working in healthcare settings for ten years. She got started with brain injury at a neurological day program assisting someone with a brain injury. She has been with the Brain Injury Association of Maryland (BIAMD) for the last 4 years. She describes her role at BIAMD assisting people with enrolling in the program through the application process and follow up.

**IV: Brain Injury Awareness Day Event - Debriefing**

Bryan Pugh – BIAMD

- Brian thanks everyone for helping this event go so well.
- The optics of having people here is very helpful.
- Acknowledges BIAMD staff for putting this on.
- Unmasking Brain Injury project was a powerful addition to the day.
- Idea for Next Year

The Brain Injury Association of Minnesota did Unmasking Brain Injury 2.0. - interviewed and filmed participants who made the masks. Viewers could scan the QR code on the mask with their phone to watch the video online. It can make it more powerful and take advantage of tech. We could work on it this year and have it available for next year.

- We ran out of food appropriately and had over 70 people sign in.

Stefani O'Dea – BHA

Thanks Brian Pugh and staff.

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Laurie Elinoff – Survivor

Thanks everyone for their hard work.  
Sings “Special Day.”

**V: Legislative Updates/Visits – Martin, Bryan, Others**

Martin Kerrigan - Survivor

- We have made headway on legislation related to screening children for brain injury in schools.
- We testified three weeks ago and the house one week ago.
- It has passed the house of delegates unanimously.
- On the senate side, it has not gotten a favorable review.
- Senator Waldstreicher came down to speak with us and advised us not to give up hope. He has ideas about why it did not pass. He is going to reach out to chair of senate subcommittee to see what we can do.

Bryan Pugh – BIAMD

- Senator Waldstreicher believes that there was no objection to the brain injury Education bill and that there were a number of study bills that they were just looking to move through.
- It wasn't voted for on its merit. All the study bills were voted together and were all voted unfavorable. We are trying to see if there is a way for this bill to be looked at individually.
- Maryland PTA, the Maryland School of Social Workers, and the American Center for Pediatrics, all supported it and there was no objection
- We have had success in the past but we have to educate on the Senate side.
- Our hope is that it was just lumped in with other bills and that there wasn't any overt funding objection to this.

Laurie Elinoff – Survivor

- Asks if we should be contacting Senate committee members.
- Would it be possible for the BIAMD to send out an email blast out to say ye on the bill?

Bryan Pugh – BIAMD

- Brian says we want to go through channels first so we can target our approach.

Catherine Mello – BIAMD Case Manager

- Updates about home-based care and trying to lift the cap based on people's need vs. state budget.

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

Stasia Edmonston – Federal TBI grant project coordinator

- Since last advisory board meeting, she has been preparing for a lot of conferences and workshops.
- Her strategy is to co-present with partners from around the state.
- Working with reps from Baltimore County Department of Health on naloxone administration and bringing peers with lived experience.
- Mary Pat Collins will be speaking about her and her daughter's experience with post overdose brain injury, presenting at Maryland Peer Summit and BIAMD conference.

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- Partnering people with presenting information across a variety of disciplines.
- Was hoping to have a harm reduction summit but there has been a lot of change in the administration but BIAMD has arranged for 12 people to do the overdose fatality review team. To attend the BIAMD conference
- CIT Train the Trainer in process.
- Crisis Intervention Statewide Conference coming up in May.

**VII: Maryland Brain Injury Trust Fund Updates – BHA & MDOT**

Stefani O'Dea – BHA

- There was a press announcement today about a new revenue source for the Brain Injury Trust Fund.
- Voluntary donation program went live beginning of December.
- Things to work out:
  - Link on MDOT website is not in the best place for people to get info
  - Figuring out process for monitoring incoming donations
  - Determine what services can be paid through this fund as well as provider requirements, rates and authorization and payment processes.
- 2,348 donations as of last week
- BHA is figuring out the process of transferring funds.
- Trust fund advisory committee has been created and meetings scheduled.
- We will do a zoom call for that to create flexibility for people long distance.
- Trust fund committee will monitor revenue and assist with planning.
- It will take at least a year to begin to project annual revenues.

Laurie Elinoff – Survivor

- How can someone make a donation if they don't drive?

Stefani O'Dea – BHA

- Mail in a check. MDOT website there is a link.

**VIII. 2019 Annual Report Brainstorming**

Martin Kerrigan - Survivor

- We have grown and evolved a lot as a board but there always seems to be people that have very valid concerns about what to put in the report
- Its not always talked about until September which is too late.
- It would be good to talk about this now so that there is time.
- It falls to staff to write it. If you have ideas or things you want to put in the report, please get that out to Stefani.odea@maryland.gov so we can discuss it at the next advisory board meeting.
- The goal is to make sure everyone's voice is heard so we can discuss it as an entire board.

Laurie Elinoff – Survivor

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Can we set up a survey monkey so that people can put in their suggestions?

Martin Kerrigan - Survivor

- Agrees that this could be efficient and will try to do this.
- Then in our next meeting, we can talk about responses

Stefani O'Dea – BHA

- Agrees that would be a much more centralized way to get information. It could get lost in email.

Catherine Mello – BIAMD Case Manager

- Suggests that we could send something out in advance of the next meeting.

Stefani O'Dea – BHA

- Agrees that a couple weeks before the next meeting would be good

Martin Kerrigan - Survivor

- Suggests that we send one out in a week or two and another a few weeks before meeting.
- Giving it to people twice will remind people about it.

Laurie Elinoff – Survivor

- Is there a way that we can survey families to see what they need?

Stefani O'Dea – BHA

- We are trying to add new research and ways of collecting data.
- Anytime you see new data released, be sure to forward to Stefani so it can be incorporated in report.

Martin Kerrigan - Survivor

- Thanks Stefani for putting work into doing the report. Encourages people to give her ideas.
- Martin sent letter to Governor expressing concerns over lengthy review by state government prior to annual report submission. Response was that content would not be altered and Board will have final review of report.

**IX: Remaining Brain Injury Awareness Month Activities**

- March 6th - Brain Injury Awareness Day in Annapolis
- March 13th - Brain Injury Awareness Day in Washington, D.C.
- March 23rd - Screening of Crash Reel at Flagship Cinema
- March 28-29 - BIAMD 31st Annual Educational Conference

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

\*\*\*Reminder that there will be an election the next time we meet in May.

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

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May 8, 2019

July 10, 2019

September 11, 2019

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 1:02 PM.