

Virginia Brain Injury Council
January 27, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
AGENDA
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229

This is an **all virtual** meeting, consistent with the approved electronic meeting policy adopted in December, 2022.

Members will receive unique links in their email 2 weeks prior to the meeting date and again the day before the meeting date.

Opening Protocol:

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members	Cara Meixner
Review Proposed Agenda <i>Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda</i>	Cara Meixner
Review of Previous Meeting Minutes <i>Proposed Action: Adopt October, 2022 Minutes</i>	Cara Meixner
Public Comment Period	Cara Meixner
Nominations Committee Recommendation <i>Proposed Action: Vote to Approve Nominations to Commissioner</i>	Sandy Parker
Chair appoints Priorities Committee	Cara Meixner
Break	
Follow Up to October Neurotrauma Series: Status of Medicaid Initiatives <i>Invited Guest: Brian Campbell Senior Advisor for Complex Care and Services Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services</i>	Chris Miller
Break	
Installation of New Officers	Cara Meixner
Prepping for April Discussion: Role of Council	Mike Puglia
Council Acknowledgement – Outgoing Members	Chris Miller
Closing Protocol - Adjourn	

PUBLIC ACCESS:

To watch the meeting live, please visit:

<https://vadars.zoom.us/j/84446924657?pwd=WWFzNUEwaTl1Z0ZmdTNtajFzK2MrUT09>

Passcode: 095962

PUBLIC COMMENT:

For meeting materials, please visit: <https://www.vadars.org/vbic.htm#currentmeeting>

Public comment will be accepted by email (donna.cantrell@dars.virginia.gov) or phone (804-662-7069). Public comments received by Wednesday, January 25, 2023 will be read (or if lengthy, summarized) aloud during the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 28, 2023

For meeting materials, please visit: <https://www.vadars.org/vbic.htm#currentmeeting>

Virginia Brain Injury Council
October 28, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES - DRAFT
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cara Meixner, Chair
Mike Puglia, Vice Chair
Kara Beatty, Secretary
Monique Wilson, Immediate Past Chair
Maria Altonen (Proxy, Camilla Herndon)
Gayl Brunk (Virtual from home, Caregiving Reason)
Elizabeth Horn
Cynthia Jarmul (Virtual from home, Caregiving Reason)
Deborah Johnson
Kevin Koziol
Kelly Lang
Anne McDonnell (Proxy, Tim Williams)
Christiane Miller
Sandy Parker, Family Ombudsman (Virtual from home office, Personal Reason)
Teri Morgan
Victoria Newman (Virtual from home, Medical Reason)
John Reynolds
Nicholas Rudisill
Patrik Sandas (Virtual from home, Caregiving Reason)
Barbara Seymour
Maria Stransky (Virtual from office, Personal Reason)
George Worthington
Jason Young

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Amol Karmarkar/Ron Seel
Erika Lawhorn
Susan Moon
Mark Murphy
Amber Walter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Donna Cantrell (Staff to Council)
Rachel Evans, No Limits Eastern Shore
Kathy Stumm, Family Member/Caregiver
Carolyn Turner, DARS
Marcia DuBois, DARS
Lisa Wright, DARS
Joyce McKune/David Rhodenhiser, DARS

Opening Protocol:

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members

VBIC Chair, Cara Meixner, verified that a quorum was physically present and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., inviting all present to briefly introduce themselves.

Six (6) members participated virtually for approved reasons; there were no objections to their full participation in Council business.

Chris noted that this meeting is being held in a webinar format to test this as an option for making future meetings available in real time. Invited guests are able to view the meeting but are not seen on screen and cannot use the chat feature or be heard. Council members participating virtually enter as panel members and are able to interact fully.

Review Proposed Agenda

Cara asked if members had any changes to the proposed agenda. There were no changes to the agenda. Mike Puglia made a motion that the agenda be approved; Barbara Seymour seconded the motion and the agenda was passed unanimously.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Cara Meixner asked Council to review the July 22, 2022 Minutes. Chris Miller confirmed that the budget appropriation was inaccurate and needed to be amended in 2 places to reflect that \$570,000 had been newly appropriated by the 2022 Virginia General Assembly, and other typographical errors needed to be corrected. Nick Rudisill motioned that the minutes be amended with changes, and Sandy Parker seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Invited Guest

Kathy Stumm spoke to Council about her brother, Tom Stumm. Tom lives in an Assisted Living Facility for which his family helps cover the cost. Recently, Tom was approved for the ID/DD Waiver. In Virginia, individuals who live in an Assisted Living Facility cannot receive ID/DD waiver services. Ms. Stumm expressed her frustration with the choice of having to either accept the waiver slot and move Tom from his long term home or reject the slot and have Tom continue to live where he is without the services the waiver can provide. Ms. Stumm, her brother, and her family, would like the Council to know their situation as advisors to DARS, the lead agency for brain injury.

Cara noted that the Executive Committee and the full Council will debrief her comments at their next meeting.

Public Comment Period

Rachel Evans, Executive Director of No Limits Eastern Shore, a state-funded brain injury services provider, provided public comment. She spoke about the new waiver services that were coming to Virginia. She expressed concern that these waiver services meet the unique needs of individuals living with brain injury, that the process of developing them includes the voices of survivors, and that the decades of experience and expertise in the community need be engaged to ensure this meets their needs.

Chris noted that this is probably a good time to share more information with Council about what is going on with the waiver and this should be an agenda item for a future Council meeting. The Executive Committee will consider this at their next meeting.

Membership and Structure Committee Proposal

Kelly Lang reviewed the Membership Committee's proposal for Council structure to bring membership to 50% individuals with brain injury. She noted that the Committee had worked very hard and that in the end, this proposal is what they feel is the best option for meeting the 50% membership requirement, while not losing other very important voices in the brain injury services community.

Proposed Council Membership

The composition of the membership of the Council shall consist of thirty (30) positions, designated as follows:

Representative	Number
Person who has sustained a brain injury/survivor of a brain injury Voting Members with term limits	At least 15
Family members/caregivers Voting Members with term limits	At least 3
Licensed, registered, or certified healthcare professionals Voting Member with term limits	1
Individual currently affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system Voting Member with term limits	1
Other representatives nominated by Council and appointed by the DARS Commissioner; cannot be an employee or current board member of an organization or program that receives state general funds administered through DARS for brain injury services. Individuals must apply to be members, nominated	7

<p>by Council, and formally appointed by Commissioner. May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with a significant interest in the mission of the Virginia Brain Injury Council • Individuals who work for State Agencies and/or other disability/advocacy providers interested in the mission of the Virginia Brain Injury Council <p>Voting Members with term limits</p>	
<p>Standing Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Brain Injury Association of Virginia • Representative of the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers • DARS Brain Injury Services Unit Director <p>Voting Members with no Term Limits</p>	3
<p>Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will invite state agencies or other organizations to assign representatives to serve as advisors to the Council • Advisors attend all meetings of the Council • Advisors may be asked to participate in discussions relevant to their subject matter expertise 	TBD

Kelly noted that if this proposal is approved, the Bylaws Committee will make the official changes to the Bylaws, that will need to be approved by the full Council and that these changes may affect the work of the Nominations and Elections Committee as their process moves forward.

She noted that this will be a gradual process with 2 or 3 people rotating off and 2-3 people being newly appointed to serve and that it will be completed by the end of the grant cycle in about 4 years.

There was a discussion around the new category of "Advisors," as clarification was sought about what members would be lost and how state agencies and other organizations would be able to participate. Kelly explained that agency and organizational members currently serving could be invited by Council to shift into the new roll of Advisors, acknowledging how important the stable agency and other organization representation is to the Council. While there would be limitations to their participation, they would be encouraged to attend all meetings and would regularly be invited to provide comment at Council meetings.

Kelly also noted that agency representatives could also serve in the role of active members in the category of "others with significant interest in brain injury." All members must be recommended by Council for approval by the DARS Commissioners.

Monique noted that Council needs to be intentional when seeking nominees, considering diversity of injury so that we aren't just working with a single sub-set of the

survivor population. Council is actively taking steps to make sure meetings are more accessible and engaging, and she urged Council to continue that effort when seeking out nominations that represent the community as a whole.

Cara asked if there was a motion to adopt the proposed Council membership. Mike Puglia made the motion; Nick Rudisill seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The new membership proposal will be sent to the Bylaws Committee for inclusion in a revised set of Bylaws that will be voted on at the January 27, 2023 Council meeting.

Break

Election of Officers

Sandy thanked her Committee members for their work, and presented the Slate of Officer nominations. Council will need to vote to approve the Slate, and newly elected Officers take their positions at the end of the January meeting, and fully preside over the April, 2023 meeting in their new positions. Members who are nominated must recuse themselves from this vote.

Nominations include:

- Chair, Mike Puglia representing Individuals who are not employed by or who do not serve on the Board of Directors for an organization receiving State General Funds for Brain Injury services.
- Vice Chair, Kara Beatty representing individuals living with brain injury and licensed healthcare providers.
- Secretary, Patrik Sandas representing individuals living with brain injury.

Members present were asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Kelly Lang motioned that the Slate of Officers be approved; Monique Wilson seconded. The new officers were elected and will be installed in January, 2023.

For the position of Immediate Past Chair, Cara Meixner, who is the current Chair and who represents both family member caregivers and individuals living with brain injury, automatically rotates into this position. This does not require a vote or action.

Nominations and Elections, At-Large Members

Sandy informed Council that they are currently recruiting for 3 open positions:

- Licensed/Certified Healthcare provider, Cynthia Jarmul's term is expiring. She is eligible for a second term.

- Individual Living with Brain Injury, Victoria Newman's term is expiring. She is eligible for a second term. She is interested in being nominated for second term.
- Additionally, as Barbara Seymour retires, Council will be recruiting for a survivor member.

Council discussed the recruitment process. BIAV is willing to share the application with their networks, as is the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. All noted that geography is particularly important, and that if virtual attendance is more acceptable moving forward, this may lend itself to a more geographically diverse membership. Donna will develop a grid showing current geographic and demographic representation among Council members.

The Committee is immediately seeking these nominations and will distribute an application. The Committee will prepare a Slate of Nominees to be presented at the January, 2023 meeting. Council will need to approve the Slate to be sent to the Commissioner of DARS for her to make her appointments. New Council members will join the April, 2023 meeting.

Joanni Latimer asked if we had information on where in the state individuals with brain injury are located. It was noted that there are several ways of identifying the possible geographic location of survivors. BIAV has developed metrics based on county census data, the trauma registry identifies location, and the state funded provider data includes location as well. Chris noted that as we are proceeding with increasing the number of individuals with brain injury on the Council, it could be a good time to convene a committee to address one of the recommendations in the most recent priorities letter regarding combining all sources of data to develop a better picture of brain injury across Virginia.

Funds Dissemination Committee Proposal

Gayl Brunk thanked the Committee for their work and presented the Funds Dissemination Committee Recommendation to Council for their consideration and approval.

The Funds Dissemination Committee considered:

- The Spring, 2022 VBIC Priorities Letter Recommendations
- Recommendation letter from the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers and the Brain Injury Association of Virginia
- Budget Amendment Language that appropriates "\$570,000 each year from the general fund to expand brain injury case management into unserved areas of the state."

The Funds Dissemination Committee proposes that the Virginia Brain Injury Council recommend that DARS distribute newly allocated funding as follows:

- Newly available funds should be used for case management services in areas of the State that currently have no brain injury case management services (Southern Virginia, the Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck, and Rappahannock County). Any remaining funds that cannot be expended, due to the timeline for awarding contracts (approximately \$285,000), will be used by DARS to increase case management capacity in all areas of the state. This may include on-boarding activities in new service areas or capacity-building trainings in all areas of the state.

Jason Young noted that the language in the proposal submitted by the providers was based on a formula that would provide for six new case management positions and that it also included pediatric case management. He asked if this was the intent of the Committee's recommendation. Gayl noted that the Committee deliberately was not that specific, allowing maximum flexibility for DARS to consider the need in the unserved areas. Any new contracts must be solicited through a Request for Applications that would be open to existing and new provider organizations.

Jason added that the Alliance and BIAV recommendation for distribution of funding included pediatric case management in areas where it is not currently provided. The Committee did not include pediatric case management because it was not included in the budget language.

Jason noted that in their recommendation to the Commissioner, the provider Alliance and BIAV made specific recommendations about distribution of unused funding. Tim asked if some of these dollars could be used for a new case management data system.

Chris noted that there is no timeframe yet for a Request for Applications as the Commissioner has not yet seen the Council recommendations.

Kara Beatty motioned to approve the proposed language and Barbara Seymour seconded. Jason Young, Tim Williams and Chris Miller abstained from the vote. The proposed Funds Dissemination recommendation was approved.

The approved recommendation will be sent to the Commissioner for her consideration.

Meeting Format, Moving Forward

After a survey and discussion, there is no clear consensus on a meeting format. It is apparent there will always be a hybrid meeting. Staff will continue to work on ways to make hybrid meetings as effective as possible. Council members agreed to hold the January meeting virtually, and to debrief the process at the April.

Chris Miller thanked Barbara Seymour for her years of service to the Virginia Brain Injury Council as well as to the brain injury community statewide with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation. Barbara will be retiring at the end of 2022. Members of Council shared their individual messages of support and thanks.

Donna Cantrell shared a handout with the 2023 Meeting Dates noted. Members were asked to note these dates on their individual calendars and told to expect invites to follow at a later date.

There being no further business, Tim Williams motioned for the meeting to adjourn; Nick Rudisill seconded. The meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 27, 2023

For meeting materials, please visit: <https://www.vadars.org/vbic.htm#currentmeeting>

Mission of the Virginia Brain Injury Council

The mission of the Virginia Brain Injury Council is to promote accessible, affordable, and appropriate services for Virginians with brain injury and their families by advising the lead state agency for brain injury, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

Virginia Brain Injury Council
2023 Slate of Nominations
for Open At-Large Member Positions
(effective April 2023)

The Council has four (4) opening to fill:

- One (1) slot must be an individual who is affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system.
- Three (3) individuals who are living with brain injury.

The VBIC Nominations and Elections Committee met several times between September, 2022 and January, 2023 to discuss the nominees for open positions. The Committee received 10 nominations for the positions open to individuals living with brain injury and 0 nominations for the individual who is affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system. Individual nominees were contacted and interviewed by members of the Nominations and Elections Committee. After considering the diversity (to include race, gender, geography, and organizational affiliations) of current Council-membership and potential contributions of the nominees, the Committee proposes that Council approve this Slate of Nominees. If approved, Council is requesting the Commissioner of DARS to appoint the following individuals to serve 3-year terms as At-Large members of the Virginia Brain Injury Council, effective April, 2023 through March, 2026.

Proposed Nominations:

Position #1 (Individual affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system):

No nominations to fill this position were received; therefore, the position will remain vacant until filled.

Position #2 (Individual living with brain injury):

Ms. Kristen Galles (Race not indicated, NVA area, Female) provided a thorough and well-composed application, demonstrating her excellent ability with written communication. Her verbal communication skills were as impressive on interview. As a lawyer, it is not surprising that Ms. Galles is adept at expressing her thoughts to others. She spoke with passion about her commitment to advocating for those affected by brain injury. She expressed a particular interest in addressing the disconnect between providers and consumers of brain injury services and drew from her own experience as well as those of survivors and caretakers she has met through her involvement with multiple brain injury groups. When considering Ms. Galles' application, some of her strongest assets include: 1) her strong communication skills, 2) her knowledge navigating legal

avenues of change, 3) her involvement with multiple brain injury groups, and 4) her commitment to change and understanding of the time and effort needed to bring about change.

Position #3 (Individual living with brain injury):

Steven Nape (White, SW area, Male) is excited and eager to participate in the Council. He worked in higher education prior to his injury. He has always given back via public service activities and is eager to give back in the brain injury community. He has done support groups and worked with Radford University Brain Institute speaking with speech pathology students about his experience, especially his rehabilitation experiences. He has the energy and desire to be involved.

Position #4 (Individual living with brain injury):

Derek O'Neal (Black, NVA area, Male) is an individual living with a brain injury that was the result of a car accident in 2004. His recovery included 3 months of coma, multiple brain surgeries and varieties of rehabilitation. Derek credits much of his recovery to the support & engagement of his family and the relationships and shared experiences with other people who are living with brain injury. He is a Veteran, holding a master's degree from the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Prior to his injury he worked as an Automotive Executive and Paralegal. Mr. O'Neal has been actively involved in many advocacy efforts including serving on both the boards of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan and here in Virginia. Currently, Derek serves as a member of the Speakers Bureau with the Alexandria Virginia Brain Injury Unit. He believes his experience as a survivor can lend valuable insight to the Council, as well as help to give support to organizations devoted to assisting brain injury survivors.