

Virginia Brain Injury Council

October 27, 2023, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Central Office
8004 Franklin Farms Drive Henrico, VA 23229

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| Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members Present | Mike Puglia |
| Review Proposed Agenda <i>Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda</i> | Mike Puglia |
| Review of Previous Meeting Minutes <i>Proposed Action: Adopt July, 2023 Minutes</i> | Mike Puglia |
| Public Comment Period | Donna Cantrell |
| Retreat Follow Up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Member Impressions/Feedback• Results of Meeting time Survey• Planning for Next Steps | Chris Miller |
| Break | |
| Committee and Workgroup Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nominations and Elections Committee Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Election of Officers○ Application Process for New Members• Housing Workgroup Update• Priorities Committee Appointments | Chair (TBD) Kelly Lang Mike Puglia |
| Updates from Director of Brain Injury Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates on Medicaid Targeted Case Management• State Funding History and Status | Chris Miller |
| 2024 Virginia General Assembly Session, Legislative Updates | Jason Young David DeBiasi |
| New Business | Mike Puglia |
| Adjourn | |

NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 26, 2024

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

PUBLIC ACCESS: Meetings are open to the public. To watch the meeting live, please visit:

<https://dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1612882152>

Meeting ID: 161 288 2152

Passcode: 334722

PUBLIC COMMENT: All Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes per person.

Individuals wishing to make public comment during the meeting are asked to sign up upon entering the meeting room.

Individuals wishing to provide public comment but who are unable to attend the meeting may send their comments to Donna Cantrell using the contact information below. Comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 to be read at the meeting.

Donna Cantrell's contact information: email (donna.cantrell@dars.virginia.gov) or phone (804-662-7069).

Virginia Brain Injury Council

July 28, 2023, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

This was a virtual meeting, consistent with the electronic meeting policy adopted in December, 2022.

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members

Mike Puglia called the meeting to order at 1:07 and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mike reminded Council that they officially adopted an Electronic Meeting Policy in December of 2022, which allows for up to 2 meetings per year to be held virtually.

Mike asked Donna to take roll call and record attendance.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Puglia, Chair
Kara Beatty, Vice Chair
Patrik Sandas, Secretary
Maria Altonen (Proxy – Camilla Herndon)
Gayl Brunk
Kristen Galles
Deborah Johnson
Amol Karmarkar
Kevin Koziol
Erika Lawhorn
Christiane Miller
Steven Nape
Derek O'Neal
Sandy Parker, Family Ombudsman
John Reynolds
Nicholas Rudisill
Maria Stransky
Amber Walter
Jason Young

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

David DeBiasi
Elizabeth Horn
Kelly Lang
Joani Latimer
Cara Meixner, Immediate Past Chair
Teri Morgan
Susan Moon
Mark Murphy
George Worthington

OTHERS PRESENT:

Donna Cantrell, DARS, Staff to Council

Marcia DuBois, DARS, Deputy Commissioner, Division for Community Living
Carolyn Turner, DARS, Director, Office for Disability Programs
Kathy Stumm
Jodi Judge, Executive Director, Brain Injury Solutions
Rachel Evans, Executive Director, No Limits Eastern Shore
David Corbin

Mike verified that a quorum was present and acknowledged that the public was able to access the meeting live.

Approve Proposed Agenda

Mike asked members to review the proposed agenda and indicate if changes needed to be made. Kristen Galles asked if a New Business item could be added to the end of the agenda to allow for additional topics to be discussed beyond the proposed agenda. Members present approved this change, with John Reynolds abstaining and Amber Walter voting Nay. The section was added to the agenda.

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Mike asked members to review the April 2023 Minutes and indicate if changes needed to be made. Kristen Galles asked that the spelling of her name be corrected and noting that she abstained from the vote to approve previous meeting minutes since she did not attend the January meeting. All members voted to approve the minutes with these changes.

Public Comment Period

No public comment was received.

Brain Injury Services Director Report

Chris Miller referenced the report sent to Council members prior to the meeting. She added a few updates:

The Department for Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) has released the Targeted Case Management Manual for Public Comment. Public Comment will be open for 30 days. The link to the draft manual is in the Director's report. Of note:

- The Qualified Brain Injury Services Professional (QBIS) and Certified Brain Injury Specialists (CBIS) certifications both remain as acceptable certifications to provide Targeted Case Management Services.
- DMAS revised the educational requirements making a bachelor's degree in any area a requirement.
- DMAS slightly revised the definition of brain injury.
- DMAS maintained the same language related to conflict of interest.

Members had questions about QBIS and CBIS and Chris provided some general information. She will provide members with further details following the meeting.

- Stephanie Peaco Arnold of Virginia Supportive Housing received an award from the Virginia Housing Alliance for her work supportive homeless individuals with brain injury.

- The Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit has been collaborating with the Ombudsman's office and community supports, including Brain Injury Solutions and Bay Aging, to help two individuals with brain injury services.

15-minute Break

Housing Workgroup Update

Marcia DuBois, Deputy Commissioner for the Division for Community Living and member of the Housing Workgroup gave an update on the Housing Workgroup's recent work:

- Exploring the existing Permanent Supportive Housing program that exists for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness and possibly make recommendations on how this might be replicated.
- Looking into what supportive services might be paired with housing options and what supportive services would be of most benefit to individuals living with brain injury.
- Investigating how impending Medicaid Waiver services might contribute to available housing options and resources for individuals living with brain injury.

The Workgroup will provide regular updates with a goal of providing recommendations for Council to consider by April, 2024.

Appoint Nominations and Elections Committee

Mike reviewed the responsibilities for this Committee, noting that they are responsible for:

- Proposing individuals to serve in vacant officer positions. Election happens at the October meeting, with the new officers taking on their new roles in January.
- Soliciting nominations to fill vacant positions on Council, and
- Developing a Slate of Nominees to be submitted to the Commissioner of DARS for her formal appointments.
- Making recommendations for how outreach into the community is done to reach as wide an audience as possible.
- Interviewing and vetting potential nominees.

Mike asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. Nick Rudisill volunteered to be on the Committee. Since several members were not present, staff will follow up to determine potential members and begin their work.

Priorities Committee Process Update

Mike reviewed responsibilities for this Committee, which results in a formal letter to the Commissioner of DARS from the Council that recommends what priorities Council would like DARS to pursue in the coming year. Staff have recommended, and the Council Executive Committee supports, appointing the Committee at the October meeting to allow them more time to do their work. This also would allow the Committee to get feedback from Council at their January meeting.

Members agreed that allowing that Committee more time to work is beneficial and they support this change. The Priorities Committee will be appointed in October, with a final recommendation made to Council by April of each year.

Retreat Update and Planning

Council has scheduled an in-person Retreat for the afternoon of September 19th and the morning of September 20th. The Retreat will be held at "The Place" located about 10 minutes away in the Innsbrook Office Park. Members traveling from over 60 miles away from the city will be reimbursed for travel expenses related to mileage, meals, and hotel. Donna will be sending individual members several forms to process those payments.

Members have asked for more information on authorizing language and history of Council, ahead of the orientation. Chris noted that the facilitators will be meeting with DARS and Council leadership. After those discussions information and other documents will be provided ahead of time, to inform discussions at the Retreat.

Members are also interested in learning more about how the facilitators are going to navigate the day (i.e. small groups, large discussions), noting that many members have challenges with processing and may need more time and would be better able to participate if they knew what to expect. They would like information on topics to be discussed and handouts as soon as possible to allow for the maximum amount of time possible for processing and consideration. Staff will share those recommendations with the Retreat facilitator.

New Business

- Kristen Galles asked the status of the State Plan Committee. Chris confirmed that there was State Plan Review Committee. The Committee's work was put on hold as the work around Medicaid funding for brain injury services began. Staff anticipate reconvening the Committee after the retreat.
- Kristen Galles expressed concern about how needs are assessed for individuals who are not on Medicaid and may not have severe brain injury. She asked if being a member of the State Plan Committee is the best place to address this concern.
- Chris asked if it would be beneficial at the October meeting to provide information about state funding and services. She also can review questions Council members may have about the Brain Injury Services Annual report which goes to the General Assembly in October. The Council Executive Committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

Adjourn

Derek O'Neal made a motion for the meeting to Adjourn. Amber Walter Seconded and Mike adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 27, 2023
In Person at DARS Offices 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico VA

Virginia Brain Injury Council

DATE & TIME

AGENDA

MEETING TYPE: IN PERSON OR ELECTRONIC

IF IN-PERSON, WILL INCLUDE ADDRESS; IF ELECTRONIC, WILL INCLUDE LINKS.

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members Present

CHAIR

To allow member of the public viewing the meeting, member will introduce themselves with their name and affiliation as it relates to the Council.

Approve Proposed Agenda

CHAIR

If there are no changes to the proposed agenda it is accepted by consensus.

If there are changes to the proposed agenda a roll call vote is called.

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

CHAIR

If there are no changes to the minutes it is accepted by consensus.

If there are changes to the minutes a roll call vote is called.

Public Comment Period

STAFF

DARS guidelines encourage public comment at all Board/Council Meetings to allow the public the opportunity to share their views.

Typically the Council does not respond to Public Comment because it has a set agenda to address and it can be challenging to give accurate responses on critical and complex issues on the spot.

Council members may suggest that the topic of a public comment be added to a future agenda.

Break

There will always be at least one break per hour.

Committee and Workgroup Reports

Committee Chair

At each meeting the Chairs of all active Committees will give an update on their work

Brain Injury Services Director Update

STAFF

The DARS BI Services Director provides monthly updates to all Council members and gives a brief update at each Council meeting.

Other Business

CHAIR

At each meeting the Executive Committee may add other items to the agenda including, but not limited to training, presentations, discussion.

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: DATE/TIME/TYPE OF MEETING

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

PUBLIC ACCESS: To watch the meeting live, please visit:
[Updated links and passcodes](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT: All Public Comment is limited to minutes per person. Individuals wishing to make public comment during the meeting may contact Donna Cantrell using the contact information below or will be given the opportunity to indicate they wish to provide comment during the meeting.

Individuals who wish to provide public comment but are not able to attend the meeting may send their comments to Donna Cantrell using the contact information below. Comments must be received by close of business on the Wednesday before each meeting to be read at the meeting.

Donna Cantrell contact information: email (donna.cantrell@dars.virginia.gov) or phone (804-662-7069).

Virginia Brain Injury Council
BISCU Director Report – October 2023

1. Medicaid Implementation

Implementation of Medicaid Targeted Case Management has been delayed. It was supposed to begin October 1st 2023. No new implementation date has been set, but this does not mean there is any risk to the program. In the meantime state funded case management programs continue to work on their enrollment with DMAS and contracting with the Managed Care Organizations.

The final draft of the Medicaid Manual for TBI Case Management is now available using this link: https://vamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/BIS%20Case%20Management%20Supplement%20%28updated%208.28.23%29_Final.pdf

In the final draft of this manual:

- Certification of Case Managers by allowing them to obtain the Qualified Brain Injury Services Professional certification (QBISP) or the Certified Brain Injury Support Provider certification (CBIS). (NOTE: DARS has scheduled a QBISP training for 25 Case Managers on November 6th and 7th.)
- Changed the degree requirements for Case Managers to a bachelor's degree in any field or be licensed by the Commonwealth as a registered nurse. There are knowledge, skills, and abilities that all TBI Case Managers must possess in addition to the certification and degree requirements. These can be found in the manual.
- Conflict of Interest. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) requires that the Case Manager of an individual should not also work for the agency providing other services for the individual to assure that Case Manager can act in a neutral manner. How this rule is interpreted was frequently cited as an area of concern.
- To be eligible to receive brain injury case management services, the individual must reside in the community or be planning for discharge from a facility within 180 days.

Individuals shall have a physician documented diagnosis of traumatic brain injury (TBI) defined as brain damage due to a blunt blow to the head; a penetrating head injury; injury resulting in compression to the brain; severe whiplash causing internal damage to the brain; or head injury secondary to an explosion. Exclusions: Brain damage secondary to other neurological insults (e.g., infection of the brain, stroke, anoxia, brain tumor, Alzheimer's disease and other conditions causing dementia, and other neurodegenerative diseases) is not considered to be a TBI.

The TBI is severe as indicated by a T-score of 60 or above on the Mayo Portland Adaptive Inventory (MPAI-4), or a T-score of 50 to 59 with pairings of scores across defined areas (more detail is in the manual.) The MPAI-4 is a validated and well accepted assessment tool. The TBI must have resulted in chronic, residual deficits and disability, including significant impairment of behavioral, cognitive and/or physical functioning, resulting in difficulty managing everyday life activities, and an ongoing need

for assistance with accessing needed medical, social, educational, behavioral health, and other services. (NOTE: DARS is working with two individuals who have worked extensively with the MPAI-4 to train state funded case managers in administering the tool.)

2. Requests for Applications (RFA)

An RFA for the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative closed on October 13th. This RFA will grant funds for research or service development in the areas of traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury with an emphasis on health and health equity. We hope that grants will be awarded to up to four organizations by January 1st.

An RFA for screening for brain injury in up to three homelessness programs is now open. You can see the RFA here:

https://mvendor.cgieva.com/Vendor/public/IVDetails.jsp?PageTitle=SO%20Details&rfp_id_lot=35591&rfp_id_round=0. This RFA closes on November 3rd. Only Continuum of Care programs or Local Homelessness/Housing Planning groups are eligible to apply. This is because the Continuum of Care and Local Planning groups are the entry point for homelessness services in Virginia and they provide oversight to local programs.

We are working on an RFA to distribute funds still available from the last fiscal year to provide case management in unserved counties in Virginia. Up to \$218,000 is available for the 12 counties still unserved after the SFY23 RFA: Westmorland, Essex, Northumberland, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Greensville, Lancaster, Richmond, Middlesex, Cumberland, Nottoway, and Prince Edward.

3. Presentations

DARS BISCU Director Chris Miller presented about the value of screening for brain injury in homeless programs at a conference on September 21st – [Housing Virginia's Most Vulnerable](#). Amy Smith, Clinical Liaison at the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) was also a part of this presentation. Amy leads BIAV's Screen and Intervene program which is rolling out screening for brain injury at domestic violence programs. The number of people who have experienced brain injury due to domestic violence is growing in awareness. Amy's stories of the benefits of screening for brain injury help to reinforce the need for homelessness providers.

Lead Case Manager from Community Brain Injury Services (CBIS) Jennifer Zemke and Resource Manager Christine Baggini from BIAV joined Chris at the annual training for Ombudsmen and Medicaid Managed Care Advocates on October 4th. Ombudsmen advocate for older persons receiving long term care services, whether the care is provided in a nursing home or assisted living facility, or through community-based services to assist persons still living at home. Medicaid Managed Care Advocates help to resolve problems for participants in the Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC+) with plan coverage, assessing plan benefits, health care, behavioral health care and long-term care services and supports. Jennifer and Christine addressed access to brain injury services and how to address the impacts of brain injury in long term care settings and it was clear this was a topic of interest to the group. It was a joy to watch Jennifer and Christine share their

knowledge, experiences, and enthusiasm. A big thank you to Virginia Brain Injury Council Member and State Ombudsman Director Joani Latimer for inviting us.

October 12 and 13, 2023, Chris attended the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Forum on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Washington DC. At the invitation of the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) she participated in a session titled "*Data Capture, Surveillance, and Supporting Long-term Care Needs*." Other panelists included representatives of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Team in the Division of Injury Prevention (DIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Office of Research and Development (ORD), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Virginia was asked to participate because of the work being done to use data to improve access to services for people with brain injury.



VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Friday, January 26, 2024**
- **Friday, April 26, 2024**
- **Friday, July 26, 2024**
- **Friday, October 25, 2024**

Unless otherwise posted, meetings will be held quarterly on the fourth Friday in January, April, July, and October from 1- 4 p.m. at the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, 8004 Franklin Farms Dr. Richmond, VA 23229 in Conference Rooms 101-103-105.

Questions?

Contact Donna Cantrell at donna.cantrell@dars.virginia.gov or

804-662-7069.