



NC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Thursday, July 10, 2025	Time:	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Location:	Virtual Only
Type Of Meeting:	BIAC Meeting – Virtual Only			Join Link:	https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/cluCk9XiQROCsD_tdx338w
Facilitator:	Beth Overby, BIAC Chair				

ATTENDEES

Voting Council Members:	Beth Overby, Tracy Hayes, Christine Fernandini, Jordan Slade, Laurie Stickney, Libby Wilhelmson, Lynn Makor, Melinda Munden, Patricia Key Reyne, Renee Johnson, Rose Randell
Proxy:	Lisa Nesbitt is in for Virginia Knowlton Marcus
Non-Voting Council Members:	Dreama McCoy, Robin Sulfridge, Marcia Gibson
DHHS Staff:	Stacey Harward, Jennifer Meade, Badia Henderson
Guests:	N/A

AGENDA

Agenda Topic:	Welcome/Roll Call	Presenter:	Beth Overby
Discussion	• Beth took roll call – at start of meeting quorum was not met		
Conclusions	• Upcoming September meeting to focus on strategic planning and further data review		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
• Send poll to schedule a meeting with subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs		Stacey Harward	

Agenda Topic:	Approval of Minutes	Presenter:	Beth Overby
Discussion	• Council reviewed the minutes for edits • Sara Wilson's name was misspelled – correction made in the minutes • Council discussed committee roles and current vacancies		
Conclusions	• Minutes to be sent out for virtual approval – corrections that were requested have been made.		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
• Send minutes for virtual approval • Send updated BIAC membership list		Stacey Harward	

Agenda Topic:	Public Comment	Presenter:	Beth Overby
Discussion	• Information requested on how to join the meeting. • Member discussed concern that council members who are BI or TBI survivors are not showing up for the meetings. The Council and Staff need to take a look at this and see what can be done to assist them, and or find the barriers as to why they are not able to attend. Also voiced concerns about the misuse of Proxy. Co-Chair reviewed the use of proxies and the use of them.		
Conclusions	• Concerns raised about proxy voting and attendance.		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
• Send out the Membership information to Mr. Turner		Stacey Harward	

Agenda Topic	DMH/DD/SUS Update	Presenter:	Kelly Crosbie
Discussion	State & Federal Policy and budget updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two presentations scheduled: Kelly Crosby and Libby (needs gaps in NC brain injury population). Kelly Crosby provided updates on federal and state laws and budgets impacting public mental health, developmental disabilities, substance use, and TBI services. House Resolution 1 ("big beautiful bill") passed, introducing major Medicaid changes, including new work requirements and exemptions for serious mental illness, disability, or substance use disorders. Impacts of HR1 on North Carolina Medicaid expansion remain unclear; federal and state law interactions require further analysis. Federal law restricts the use of hospital taxes to fund Medicaid; state legislative changes may be needed to align with federal requirements. Implementation of changes may take several years; ongoing analysis and communication are promised as more information becomes available. QR codes provided for updates via "Hot Topics"; community input and resilience emphasized during transition. Medicaid, Budget, and Service Funding Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 988 program removed Trevor Project option for LGBTQ+ youth as of July 17; calls now routed to NC 988 operators trained for all populations. Proposed state budget includes no new TBI waiver slots; the governor proposed 72, but not adopted by the legislature. Proposed cuts to single-stream dollars (\$276M, unchanged for years), three-way bed program, and elimination of mental health task force funds. Federal mental health and substance use block grants remain whole; state TBI funding (\$3M) is maintained, not increased. Division continues strategic priorities: improving access to IDD and TBI services, expanding TBI waiver, and increasing state-funded service access. Efforts underway to improve TBI waiver policies, gather participant feedback, and develop a dashboard for service tracking. 35th ADA anniversary celebration on July 24; ongoing expansion of crisis services, urgent care, and public education through PSAs and digital outreach. 		
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information : BIAC Webpage Major updates on Medicaid State/Federal budgets and the TBI 		
Action Items:		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint will be available BIAC Webpage Strategic Plan – Kelly would like to speak on this next meeting 		Stacey Harward	

Agenda Topic:	DHB Update – Update on BIAC Response to DHB Concept Paper	Presenter:	David Clapp & Lacosta Parker
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBI waiver pilot launched in 2018, statewide expansion under consideration. Concept paper provides cost analysis, position paper, and is available online. Council submitted 23 questions; responses provided in PowerPoint, formal written answers pending. Top five utilized waiver services: residential supports, day supports, specialized consultative services, community networking, life skills training. Cost and savings data analyzed for waiver years 1- 6; clarification on year 2 low utilization and savings calculation pending. Standardized functional assessments required for eligibility: Functional Assessment of Support Needs and Safety and Wellness Assessment. CDC estimates 2% of the NC population (~200,000) live with TBI; no data on Medicaid eligibility or 		

	institutionalization rates for this group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver annual cost limit (\$135,000) under review; tiered budget approach being considered. • Supported employment service aligns with the IDD model, not IPS; EIPD supports TBI through brain injury support services. • Provider capacity building is a health plan responsibility; the department offers training and certification opportunities for TBI providers. 		
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information BIAC Webpage 		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint available on webpage BIAC Webpage • Send out PowerPoint to the council • Provide additional data and clarifications on TBI Waiver cost savings and service utilization as requested by the council 		Stacey Harward	

Agenda Topic:	BIAC Update	Presenter:	Libby Wilhelmson
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Injury Association of North Carolina conducted a bi-annual needs and gap survey with 356 responses in 2024, up by 100 from 2023. • Survey targeted individuals with brain injury, caregivers, and families across North Carolina; results support the NC Department of Health and Human Services in developing the TBI State Action Plan. • Most common cause of brain injury reported: motor vehicle/motorcycle collisions; largest age group affected: 21/ 35 years. • Survey included new questions on first responders, veterans, and incarcerated individuals; few states collect this data. • Major challenges identified: lack of awareness of available services and difficulty finding professionals knowledgeable about brain injury. • Most initial treatments occurred in hospitals; 31% received written information on services at discharge, 45% did not. <p>Qualitative report with written responses to be released in September 2025; the current executive director resigned, new director is expected by September 1st.</p>		
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
PowerPoint can be found on BIAC Webpage .		Stacey Harward	

Agenda Topic:	Meeting Wrap-up/Next Steps	Presenter:	Beth Overby
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting included multiple presentations in a two-hour span. • Committee members to expect a poll and May minutes for voting via email from Stacy. • Next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 11th; format and duration undecided. Open meetings law applies; no statutory basis for closed sessions identified by legal counsel. Requests and reports to be distributed to members as needed. • Council is rebuilding with new members and increased engagement • Next meeting agenda to include discussion on veteran committee 		
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Action Items		Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll to be sent to the Chairs of the subcommittee to set up a meeting to discuss subcommittee meetings and members on each subcommittee. • Send out subcommittee names and charters for each. 		Stacey Harward	