



North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council

What is the North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council?

The North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) located in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), was created in 2003 as specified in [Article 3 of General Statute 143B-2016.65](#), to review traumatic and other acquired brain injuries in North Carolina.

What is the purpose of the BIAC?

The purpose of the BIAC is to review the nature and cause of traumatic and other acquired brain injuries in North Carolina. The BIAC also makes recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the planning, development, funding, and implementation of a comprehensive statewide service delivery system to address the needs of brain-injury survivors.

To accomplish these goals, the BIAC studies the needs of individuals with brain injuries and the needs of their families, promotes and implements injury prevention strategies across North Carolina and interagency coordination among state agencies responsible for services and support to individuals who have traumatic brain injury. The BIAC also examines how the term 'traumatic brain injury' is defined by state and federal regulations and assesses whether changes should be made to the state definition to include 'acquired brain injury' and/or other appropriate medical conditions.

Who serves on the BIAC and what are membership terms?

The BIAC consists of 33 members (23 voting and 10 ex officio non-voting members). The appointments of voting members are made through the following government bodies: President Pro Tempore of Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commission of Insurance, and Secretary of Administration. Each of these appointing bodies may have their own criteria regarding appointment to the Council.

Legislation is specific as to who may serve in appointed positions and their potential affiliation to the BIAC. Non-voting (i.e., ex-officio) members are selected and appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Members appointed to the Council are expected to attend all meetings as stated in the Governor's Standards of Attendance. Hybrid meetings are held bi-monthly.

Members are expected to work on assigned committees and subcommittees, provide input into the decision-making process and actively participate in discussions at meetings. Members may request reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with [General Statute 138-5](#) and [General Statute 138-6](#), as applicable.

All voting members shall be assigned for a term of four years. No member appointed by the Governor shall serve more than two consecutive terms (8 years). Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the BIAC created by resignation, dismissal, death, or disability of a member shall be for the balance of the unexpired term. Membership shall continue until an individual resigns, is removed, or is otherwise disqualified to serve. Any member may resign by giving written notice to the presiding Chair. The BIAC shall consider the removal of any member who misses three consecutive meetings without due cause.

What is the process for being appointed to the BIAC?

Recommendations are made to the BIAC for available seats, and the BIAC also seeks input from interested individuals wanting to serve. Individuals expressing an interest to be appointed to an open position may speak with the Chair, the Vice-Chair or any staff member to the BIAC to obtain more information.

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Interested applicants will have their name and application materials submitted to the appropriate appointing body of government (i.e. the Governor, Speaker of the House or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate) for review and potential approval for appointment. Each appointing body may have additional requirements/forms to be completed prior to consideration for appointment.

Submitting your name to an appointing body for consideration for a position on the BIAC does not mean an automatic appointment to the BIAC. The appointing body will make that determination and inform both the applicant and the BIAC in writing.

What should I do if I am interested in serving on the BIAC?

- Attend BIAC meetings. Meeting dates and minutes from BIAC meetings are posted on the [DHHS Traumatic Brain Injury](#) website under “Brain Injury Advisory Council”.
- Notify a BIAC member of your interest in being appointed.
- Become active in advocacy efforts to help survivors of brain injury.

The BIAC is seeking members who will continue its efforts to make a positive change by helping to make a difference in the lives of individuals who have been affected by the trauma of brain injury.