

North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council

What is the North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council?

The North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council located in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was created in 2003 as specified in Article 3 of General Statute 143B-216.65. Legislation passed in 2009 made minor changes to the Council.

What is the purpose of the Council?

The purpose of the Council is to review the nature and cause of traumatic and other acquired brain injuries in North Carolina. The Council 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 two goals, the Council 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 Council 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 Council and what are the terms of members?

The North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council 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 Council. 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. Meetings are held in Raleigh on a **quarterly** basis. Members are expected to work on assigned committees and subcommittees, provide input into the decision-making process and actively participate in discussions at meetings. Council members may also ask to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with G.S. 138-5 and G.S. 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 Council 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 or is removed or is otherwise disqualified to serve. Any member may resign by giving written notice to the presiding Chair, and the membership shall give consideration to the removal of any member who misses three consecutive meetings without due cause.

What is the process for being appointed to the Council?

Recommendations are made to the Council for available seats, and the Council also seeks input from interested persons wanting to serve. Persons expressing an interest to be appointed to an open position may speak with the Chair, the Vice-Chair or any staff member to the Council to obtain more information. 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 Council does not mean an automatic appointment to the Council. The appointing body will make that determination and inform both the applicant and the Council in writing.

I am interested on serving on the Council. What should I do?

- Attend Council meetings. Meeting dates and minutes from Council meetings are posted on the DHHS TBI Program website under “Brain Injury Advisory Council”.
- Notify a Council member of your interest in being appointed.
- Become active in advocacy efforts to help survivors of brain injury. The Council is seeking members who will continue its efforts to make a positive change by helping to make a difference in the lives of men, women and children, as well as the Military and Veterans, who have been affected by the trauma of brain injury.

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