

**Virginia Brain Injury Council
AGENDA**

April 28, 2023, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229

Opening Protocol:

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members	Mike Puglia
Review Proposed Agenda <i>Proposed Action: Approve Proposed Agenda</i>	Mike Puglia
Review of Previous Meeting Minutes <i>Proposed Action: Adopt January, 2023 Minutes</i>	Mike Puglia
Welcome from DARS Commissioner Kathryn Hayfield	
Public Comment Period	Mike Puglia
Priorities Committee Recommendations and Discussion <i>Proposed Action: Vote to Approve Council Priorities for 2023</i>	Jason Young
BREAK	
Appointment of Funds Dissemination Committee	Mike Puglia
Appointment of Orientation Planning Committee	Mike Puglia
Discussion of a Clear Definition of Council's Purpose	Mike Puglia
Semi-Annual Federal Grant Update	Donna Cantrell
Adjourn	

PUBLIC ACCESS:

Members of the Public are invited to attend in-person meetings. Live meetings may also be viewed virtually by logging onto the following link:

<https://vadars.zoom.us/j/89793053259?pwd=RWZhTEpaZU5PUnQ5S2ZheVNaN21Rdz09>

Passcode: 763094

NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING: Friday, July 28, 2023

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

**Virginia Brain Injury Council
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.

January 27, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico, VA 23229

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cara Meixner, Chair
Mike Puglia, Vice Chair
Kara Beatty, Secretary
Monique Wilson, Immediate Past Chair
Gayl Brunk
Elizabeth Horn
Deborah Johnson
Amol Karmarkar
Kevin Koziol
Kelly Lang
Joani Latimer
Anne McDonnell
Christiane Miller
Susan Moon
John Reynolds
Nicholas Rudisill
Patrik Sandas
Barbara Seymour
Maria Stransky
Amber Walter
George Worthington
Jason Young

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Maria Altonen
Cynthia Jarmul
Erika Lawhorn
Mark Murphy
Sandy Parker, Family Ombudsman
Teri Morgan
Victoria Newman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Donna Cantrell, DARS Staff to Council
Marcia DuBois, DARS
David DeBiasi, In-coming Executive Director, Brain Injury Association of Virginia

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Brian Campbell, Department of Medical Assistance Services

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OBSERVING THE MEETING VIRTUALLY:

Rachel Evans, No Limits Eastern Shore

Jodi Judge, Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia

Kyle Sloan, Eggleston

Kathy Stumm, Family Member/Caregiver

Tim Williams, Brain Injury Association of Virginia

Claire Yarborough, Community Brain Injury Services

Joyce McKune/David Rhodenhiser, DARS IT Staff

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions of Members

Cara Meixner, Chair, welcomed Council members and members of the public who were viewing the meeting live. She verified that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Cara asked Chris Miller to speak to the format of this quarterly meeting. Chris noted that Council is piloting a webinar format for the meeting that allows the public to view the meeting in real time and participate in the public comment period. Council members are on camera and can be heard when they wished to speak; however, the public is only able to observe. Members are asked to use the "raise hand" icon at the bottom of the screen to indicate that they wish to speak.

Cara took attendance by roll call. Cara reminded Council members that within the past 2 years, Council agreed to make some changes to how it functions, including reducing the use of acronyms, slowing down the pace of the meetings, taking more frequent short breaks, and reviewing content upon re-entry. This is particularly important when we are functioning in a virtual environment.

Members reviewed the proposed agenda. There were no changes to the agenda, and it was passed by consensus.

Members reviewed the proposed Minutes from the October, 2022 meeting. There being no changes, the Minutes were approved by consensus.

Public Comment Period

Kathy Stumm, sister of Tom Stumm and member of the DMAS Workgroup that is looking at implementing waiver services in Virginia, spoke about her dissatisfaction with DARS and DMAS in the process of developing Targeted Case Management and a possible brain injury Waiver.

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Nominations Committee Report

Committee Chair, Sandy Parker, was not present so Chris Miller began the presentation of the Committee's recommendations thanking committee members for their hard work: Sandy Parker, Susan Moon, Kelly Lang, Maria Stransky, and Monique Wilson. The Committee had 4 vacancies to fill: 1 for an individual affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system and 3 for individuals living with brain injury. The Committee received 0 nominations for the individual affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system so that position will remain vacant, until filled. The Committee received 10 nominations for the survivor positions.

Committee members elected to implement an interview process to help evaluate candidates and met a total of 4 times between November and early January. Based on the applications submitted by applicants and the interview process, members recommend the following people be appointed by the Commissioner of DARS to serve 3-year terms representing individuals living with brain injury:

Ms. Kristen Galles. Ms. Galles is a lawyer with a passion for advocating for those affected by brain injury. Ms. Galles is from northern Virginia

Steven Nape. Mr. Nape is a former professor from southwest Virginia who has always contributed to his community via public services and is eager to give back to the brain injury community.

Derek O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal is a Veteran, holding a master's degree from the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas who has been actively involved in many advocacy efforts including serving on the boards of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan and here in Virginia.

Anne McDonnell made a motion that the Slate be approved and presented to the Commissioner for her appointment. Mile Puglia seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote. Donna Cantrell will forward the Slate to the Commissioner for approval.

DARS staff is working on ways to stay engaged with applicants who were not appointed to Council, keeping their applications on file for the next cycle and initiating an "other interested parties" list to be invited to observe future meetings.

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Priorities Committee Member Appointments

Cara reminded Council members that the Priorities Committee is charged with identifying priorities for the coming year to the DARS Commissioner. She asked for 3-5 volunteers to serve on this committee for the coming year, reminding members that this Committee must include at least 1 survivor and that a Chair should be designated. Members include:

- Jason Young, Chair
- Amol Karmarkar
- Kelly Lang
- Kara Beatty
- Chris Miller

Donna will convene a meeting of this group after the week of February 6th.

Overview of Targeted Case Management and Brain Injury Waiver

Brian Campbell, Senior Advisor for Complex Care and Services from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), provided an overview of what's being done to implement Targeted Case Management for people living with brain injury and to develop a framework for a brain injury waiver in Virginia.

DMAS has consulted with providers, various healthcare systems, advocates, and individuals living with brain injury and their family members, and with other states. Brian provided a timeline of the project. The workgroup and subcommittees are meeting regularly to refine service definitions, reimbursement rates, and eligibility requirements. As materials become available, information will be posted on the DMAS website.

Members inquired about the definition of severe traumatic brain injury. Brian explained that the workgroup is currently working on the definition, taking into consideration the severity of the injury and resulting functional abilities. He also noted that an individual with brain injury may be eligible for both the brain injury and the developmental disabilities waiver but can only receive one waiver at a time.

Jason Young, Chair of the Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers, acknowledged the positive change for individuals living with brain injury in Virginia. Providers are concerned about the CMS requirement that organizations licensed to provide Medicaid case management services cannot also provide other waiver services. Brian responded that DMAS met with CMS to discuss alternatives but this is a set rule.

Cara Meixner noted that there will be upcoming opportunities for people living with brain injuries and families to provide input to DMAS. Anne McDonnell said that BIAV

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will be working to develop education and outreach materials that are specific to the Targeted Case Management and brain injury waiver services.

Installation of New Officers

Cara turned the position of Chair over to Mike Puglia and welcomed Kara Beatty to the position of Vice Chair, and Patrik Sandas to the position of Secretary. She thanked Monique Wilson for her service on Council as a Vice Chair, Chair and Immediate Past Chair and asked her to show Council the plaque that she received as appreciation for her services.

Preparing for April Discussion: Role of the Brain Injury Council

Mike Puglia explained that based on the responses of Council members following the October meeting, the Executive Committee believes it would be valuable to use the April meeting to discuss the role of the Brain Injury Council.

Mike opened the floor to Council members, asking them what questions they may have and what information they would find helpful regarding their responsibilities, moving forward. Among the thoughts expressed, members wanted clear explanations of the different levels of advocacy, what Council can and can't do, and how one can have their voice heard while being a Council-member. Members also wanted more information on the differences between and roles of the Virginia Brain Injury Council, the Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers, and the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, the stated mission and role of Council as defined in the Bylaws, and consistent updates on the status of items listed in the Priorities Letter as part of every meeting. The roles of subcommittees and how Council addresses Public Comment are also items members are interested in addressing.

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Members

Chris Miller acknowledged the extraordinary contributions of several out-going members of Council and invited other members to express their thoughts and appreciation. Victoria Newman and Cynthia Jarmul were not present so their contributions were acknowledged in absentia. Many other members took the time to thank Anne McDonnell and Monique Wilson for their many years of experience and their invaluable contributions to Council and to the brain injury community as a whole.

Closing Protocol - Adjourn

Mike reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 28th at 1:00 p.m. and that it will be in person at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Service, Central Office in Richmond.

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Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. Monique made the motion, Susan Moon seconded it, and the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

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2023 Virginia Brain Injury Council Annual Priorities (Proposed)

- 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 (DARS).” Council requests that DARS bring in a trained facilitator to help Council members, DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit staff and leadership to develop a clear definition of their roles in relation to this mission.
- Implementation of Targeted Case Management in fiscal year 2024 and a potential brain injury waiver will change the landscape of brain injury service delivery in Virginia. The Virginia Brain Injury Council will need education to understand these initiatives and regular updates so that Council can monitor progress and provide input and guidance to DARS, as needed.
- Continue the work of the existing Housing Workgroup to study and report back information learned and related recommendations to the Virginia Brain Injury Council. Extend the deadline for a report to the Council to April, 2024.

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ACCESS Progress Report (A Comprehensive Coordinated Entry to Services and Supports)

Federal Grant from Administration for Community Living
TBI State Partnership Program

August 2021 through July 2026

4 Primary Goals:

Goal 1: Effective treatment for individuals with TBI and co-occurring behavioral health & substance use disorder.

- Partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards.
- Sponsored a presentation hosted by the Brain Injury Association of Virginia called "Roll Up Your Sleeves: Strategies for the identification and management of traumatic brain injury in non-clinical settings." This interactive workshop featured a nationally renowned speaker and was attended by 35 individuals primarily working in behavioral health and rehabilitation.
- Learning Practices Academy on Behavioral Health, On-line Brain Injury Screening and Support System.
- Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards: "*Brain Injury, Dementia, and Cognition: Expanding the CSB Perspective*." that includes representatives from brain injury services, behavioral health and substance use services.
- BIAV developed a virtual training on Behavioral Health and Traumatic Brain Injury that is live at www.BIAV.net and is currently being uploaded to the Commonwealth of Virginia Learning Center for easy access by behavioral health employees across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Goal 2: Supports for caregivers of individuals with TBI

- A partnership with the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV).
- BIAV is administering Part 2 of an on-line survey for caregivers to assess their needs and access to resources.
- BIAV has developed an on-line training module: "Navigating After a Brain Injury for Individuals and their Families." The course provides basic information on brain anatomy, functional impacts of brain injury, effective interventions and available services and supports.
- BIAV consulted with Sheltering Arms Institute around the development of a Peer Support Network.
- BIAV holds monthly Caregiver Support Groups and is offering 3-day a Support Group Leader training in May.

Goal 3: Increased access to and the ability to engage with culturally relevant brain injury specific programs and community based resources.

- A partnership with Virginia's No Wrong Door Program and community providers.

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- No Wrong Door provided Person Centered Planning resources for 211 staff and implemented Trauma Informed Care training.
- No Wrong Door conducted an audit of website resources.
- Grant Staff sponsored a training for state funded service providers who will be affected by the State's effort to implement "Targeted Case Management" and potentially a brain injury waiver program. This represents a significant change to the system of care for individuals living with brain injury and will require that existing programs be flexible and prepared to navigate a new environment.

Goal 4: The work of the Virginia Brain Injury Council will reflect the input of individuals living with traumatic brain injury.

- A project with the Virginia Brain Injury Council.
- The 6-member Membership and Structure Committee that is made up of individuals living with brain injury who currently serve on Council. The Chair is a faculty member with the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems.
- The Committee completed its work of examining Council's membership and structure and proposed a restructuring of Council's membership to increase the representation of individuals living with brain injury.
- The Virginia Brain Injury Council approved the recommendation and is on track to reach the 50% mark within 3 years.
- During this reporting period, Council solicited new applications for membership and recommended 3 individuals for appointment. The new members take their places during the April, 2023 meeting.
- Grant staff sponsored the registrations of the new members to attend the training: "Get On Board." The program is designed and delivered by individuals living with brain injury to assist other individuals living with brain injury to identify how they can best serve their communities and how they can participate effectively on Boards and Councils.

Other Activities:

- Virginia's Federal grant staff attended the first and second annual SEED Summit, sponsored by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). The Summit is a program focused on developing state infrastructure.
- One of the recommendations that came out of the Summit is that Council may benefit from members completing a "one-page profile," to gather information on member strengths and interests. Council staff will be working with all members in the coming months to complete this profile and share and incorporate that information in future Council activities.

For more information, please contact:

Donna Cantrell, DARS' Federal Grant Program Specialist
Donna.Cantrell@dars.Virginia.gov

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