



Colorado Brain Injury Trust Fund Board Meeting

Date: October 8, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00

Location: Via Zoom

TYPE OF MEETING		Board Meeting	
ATTENDEES			
NAME	POSITION	PRESENT	STAFF Present
(Board Members)			Liz Gerdeman (MINDSOURCE)
Jennifer Coker	Board Chair	X	Regena Rodriguez Sisernos (MINDSOURCE)
Renee Charlifue-Smith	Board Member	X	Lina Kyle (MINDSOURCE)
Angie Goodger	Board Member	X	Members of the Public:
James Graham	Board Member	X	Kate Kerkmans
Jason Kacmarski	Board Member	X	Jaime Horsfall
Russha Knauer	Board Member	X	Gavin Attwood
Daniel Lindberg	Board Member	X	Veronica Phelan
Latoya Mize	Board Member		Amy Engelman
Jamal Long Soldier	Board Member	X	Toni Grishman
Victoria Ortega	Board Member	X	Jim Tatten
Gretchen Russo	Board Member	X	
Kenneth Scott	Board Member	X	
Angie Wickersham	Board Member	X	

*All attendees were present through video and telephone options

1. Agenda topic: Welcome, Introductions, & Announcements

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rick Waters from the Denver Indian Center gave the following land acknowledgement. <p>On behalf of the Denver Indian Center and the American Indian community, I would like to welcome everyone here today as you discuss important issues relevant to the understanding and well-being of people recovering or surviving brain injury.</p> <p>I would especially like to thank the leadership and Board of the Brain Injury Trust Fund for inviting me to open this meeting with a Land Acknowledgement. I understand that diversity, equity and inclusion is an integral part of MINDSOURCE’s mission.</p> <p>A land acknowledgement before an important event or activity is something that is happening more and more around the world and especially in socially progressive communities. In the US, it recognizes and respects Indian people as the traditional stewards of the land, and brings awareness and visibility of the original inhabitants... and that we are still here. It is also important to understand the history that has brought each of you to reside on this land. Indian history is American history.</p> <p>In 1963, President John F. Kennedy said, “For a subject worked and reworked so often in novels, motion pictures, and television, American Indians remain probably the least understood and most misunderstood Americans of us all,” and that it seems a basic requirement to study the history of our Indian people. American has much to learn about the heritage of our American Indians. Only through this study can we as a nation do what must be done if our treatment of the American Indian is not to be marked down for all time as a national disgrace. With these thoughts in mind, I share this statement.</p> <p>Before this land that we stand on became known as Denver or Colorado, it was Indian Country and homeland and territory from time immemorial to many tribal nations, including, but not limited to the Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Lakota, and Kiowa. Recognized in many circles as the crossroads of Indian Country, this region was a site of trade, trave, gathering, and spiritual healing for these tribes. And currently, according to the 2020 Census, is home to over 100,000</p>
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	<p>American Indian Alaskan natives, including two federally recognized Indian reservations, the Southern Ute and Mountain Ute tribes located in the southwest corner of the state with tribal headquarters in Ignacio and Towaoc respectively.</p> <p>With respect to the Land Acknowledgement, I hope you will all agree with me that it is within MINDSOURCE's responsibility as part of the State of Colorado to exercise equity in serving and understanding native people and their history. Consistent with its commitment to diversity and inclusion, I would also hope this group will continue building relationships with the Native American community through academic pursuits, partnership, historical recognition, and delivery of services.</p> <p>Thank you again and have a productive Board meeting today! AHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no comments from the public. • Jenn welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.
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Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline

2. Approval of Minutes

All

Discussion	Renee made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as submitted, Victoria seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.				
Action Items	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Person(s) Responsible</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline		
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3. BIAC Report

Discussion	<p>Here are some of the highlights of BIAC's year-end report. Gavin started the presentation. This is the final report of their five-year contract. They just started a new five-year contract.</p> <p>Veronica continued the report. BIAC was asked to reduce the FY 20/21 budget by 15% which was approximately \$210,000. They reduced operating costs such as travel and support groups and reduced personnel costs such as COLA and 401k match. 15 Staff members were furloughed from July 1 to August 10. Only phone-based resource navigation was available during this period and that is currently how resource navigation is being offered. During this time, self-management cases went virtual or paused.</p> <p>Jaime described how BIAC created a staff-led DEI committee. They established an equity statement which is available at https://biacolorado.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/. They offered cultural competency training and worked on setting internal practices. The committee created an outreach list of other organizations they would like to connect with. A third-party performed an equity audit with the staff. Almost all the staff was able to attend. Jenn noted that she appreciates that the DEI statement includes the phrase cultural humility.</p> <p>Kate reported that in the past year, 960 cases were handled. Three of the four regions in the state received 100% affirmative responses in response to a survey question asking if support was useful. The western slope region has not been receiving the support representative of the population and addressing this is a focus for the coming year. The staff worked with fewer clients in self-management compared to the previous year, but those clients attained more goals compared to the same period. The new contract has more evaluation requirements. The RFP for the currently contract was more focused on outcomes vs. outputs.</p> <p>BIAC is working on projects that are not MINDSOURCE funded. They looking to expand their revenue streams to ensure BIAC is more stable, so they are going to offer for-fee services. They offer mental health counseling for individuals and family. They will also offer targeted case management. Both programs are approved for Medicaid reimbursement. Case management is more in-depth than resource navigation. These are currently in the pilot stage.</p> <p>Coming soon BIAC will be offering a number of services. Mental health counseling through Medicare will be available along with independent living skills training through BI waiver. They will be partnering with Mindset Integrated to refer individuals to TBI CHEQ which is an assessment too used by attorneys. They will also be getting referrals from Easterseals of Colorado for job coaching.</p>
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They broke ground on their permanent supportive housing project yesterday. The project is called Valor on the Fax. First of its kind that they are aware of. There will be 72 units on 7900 E. Colfax. Residents will have access to round the clock services provided by BIAC. Trauma informed design has been integral to the development of the project. The criteria for individuals to reside in the building are that they must 1-be experiencing homelessness and 2-have a brain injury. They worked with a neighborhood steering committee to ensure the building fit in with the neighborhood. They have received funding \$25,000,000 in tax credits for low-income housing. Operation expenses will be paid by rent, such as section 8, or by individuals. That is paid to Brothers Redevelopment for building maintenance. Services will be paid by fee-for-service grant from HUD. There will be one or two MINDSOURCE funded staff on site. There are lease requirements, but the objective is to keep people housed.

BIAC staff also shared a couple of client stories. A single mom (IPV survivor) was placed in transitional housing program with her children. They have been there a year now. A senior man was facing eviction during COVID-19 lockdown. BIAC RNs worked with Brain Injury Hope Foundation to get him financial help in two days, and he did not lose his housing!

Daniel brought up that with all of the extra pressure in the last year, it is important that staff burn-out is avoided. What is being done to support BIAC staff and is there anything the Board can do to help? BIAC management is being as flexible as possible and supportive of one another. They did everything they could to minimize the financial hit to staff and were able to ensure everyone kept their job. Kate suggested a letter of thanks from the Board would be great.

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline

4. CDE Update

All

Discussion Toni Grishman is the replacement for Janet Tyler who retired earlier this year. Janet completed the end-of-year report that was previously sent to the Board. They have increased the Brain STEPS team. Their goal is to continue to grow the program.

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline

5. Wrap Up

Discussion The public portion of the meeting was adjourned for lunch. Following lunch, the Board reconvened to do a work session which included strategic planning for the Board and committees.

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline

The next Board meeting: Friday, December 17, 2021 9:00 am– 11:30 am

Respectfully Submitted By Lina Kyle