



Colorado Brain Injury Advisory Board (AB) Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Zoom

NAME	PRESENT	NAME	PRESENT
Board Members		Horsfall, Jaime (SME)	
Winkler, Max		Hotchkiss, Heather	X
Engle, Ian	X	Knauer, Russha	X
French, Anna	X	Levis, Bill	X
Friedman, Ronen	X	Martinez, Maria	X
Gabella, Barbara	X	McMahon, Leah	
Genzel, Ben	X	Pedler, Rhea	X
Greene, Meghan		Snelson, Kari	(could not access meeting)
Hawley, Lenny	X	Spaulding, Peggy	X
Heidenreich, Steve	X	Tyler, Janet	
Henika, Joy	X	Wren, Louisa	
Staff		Guests	
Facilitator: Summer Gathercole		Amy Engelman (ACL Grant Evaluator)	
Karen Ferrington (MINDSOURCE)		Melanie Honsbruch	
Regina Rodriguez Sisneros (MINDSOURCE)		Jim Tatten- Member of the Public	
Lina Kyle (MINDSOURCE)			

Opening & Introductions, Public Comments

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben would like to contact BIAC about funding a group he was part of for adults with pediatric brain injuries.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian provided a suggestion for meeting management that topics for discussion be added to the agenda ahead of time. He also reminded everyone to avoid bringing up personal topics. 	
Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Janet Tyler is retiring and can be removed from the roster Rhea will reach out to Ben regarding the group.	Lina Rhea	5/21/21

Approval of February Minutes, Program Updates, State Plan Updates

Discussion	<p>February Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve moved to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes as written, Ian seconded, and the motion was approved. <p>General Program Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding (Infrastructure)- Regina reported that going into fiscal year 2022 the program has a deficit of \$600,000. Revenue generation is irregular, and she cannot anticipate what it will look like in the 2022FY. Community grants will be slow started. This will ensure current grantees will have ample time to complete their grants. Ian wanted to know how much in Federal COVID dollars the trust fund will receive. The Governor has established a taskforce to distribute those funds. CDHS is not actively pursuing those funds. MINDSOURCE Website Updates (Infrastructure)- There is a new Equity Diversity and Inclusion tab on the MINDSOURCE website. It has EDI information and links to State and Federal resources. Administration for Community Living (ACL) Grant- This is a five-year grant. A big component of the grant request is maintaining focus on the Advisory Board and State Plan. The other priorities of the grant are data collection and sustainability. Financial resources for producing a public service announcement in State Plan year three have been built into the proposal. We hope to have an update by the end of June. The AB and State Plan will continue even if we do not receive the grant. Staffing- MINDSOURCE is requesting funding for full time coordinator in the ACL grant proposal. <p>State Plan Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Advocacy for Independent Life (SAIL) Curriculum (Service Access)- Lenny presented on the history and research of the SAIL curriculum. She had two definitions of self-advocacy. 1. Articulating one's needs and wishes and making informed decisions to meet those needs. 2. Realizing strengths and weaknesses, formulating personal goals, communicating assertively, and making decisions. It involves a wide variety of skills, including self-assessment, communication, problem solving, decision making, and emotional regulation. The key pieces of the SAIL program are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are not alone Assess your strengths and challenges Take care of yourself in all areas of wellness Gather information Be organized and prepared
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assertively communicate and negotiate your needs <p>SAIL is planned for delivery in three approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrate SAIL into ongoing classes and workshops ○ SAIL support group peer coach ○ Community College program <p>Russha commented that from the lens of motivational interviewing, she studies self-efficacy and its impact on people’s ability to align their choices with the changes they are trying to achieve. Ian said that from his perspective self-advocacy doesn’t mean he has to figure out himself, it means he is a person who is respected and has a trusted network of people to help him explore options and make decisions. He wanted to emphasis that is important to not make people with lived experience feel like a specimen or that they are being managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Colorado Office of Employment First (COEF)- Employment and SSA Benefits Counseling (Service Access)- Melanie presented information on the Employment First framework. It is centered on the premise that all persons, including persons with significant disabilities are capable of full participation in competitive integrated employment and community life. Their mission is to assist individuals with disabilities who want to work find employment opportunities. Employment First means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employment in the general work force- interacting with colleagues without disabilities ○ Real work for real pay- Opportunity for full time employment ○ Opportunity for advancement and job mobility- based on interests and career choices <p>One major misconception among people with disabilities is that if they engage in any work, they will lose all their benefits, including Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, and health insurance. Many members of the Board commented on the difficulty of navigating benefit programs and service support options. It is difficult to qualify for benefits and many individuals are unwilling to take any actions that may risk their eligibility for fear that they will have to begin the process all over. Melanie explained there are many variables in benefit eligibility and underutilized programs to assist individuals with disabilities obtain employment. There are many benefits counseling resources throughout the state to help individuals understand how work or other life decisions will affect any benefits they are receiving. COEF excited to announce Colorado DB101 which is a web-based employment resource and benefit estimator rolling out in June 2021. The tool will have resources for both adults and persons under age 18.</p> <p>Benefits counseling resources are available here: https://employmentfirstcolorado.org/disability-benefits-benefits-counseling/</p>	
	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
NA		

Board Topics

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Group Report and Associated meeting planning/changes- The Board was provided with the results of the focus group of members with lived brain injury experience. Their feedback was summarized as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manage meetings to use time efficiently ○ Increased use of breakout groups ○ Work products should be sent out ahead of time to allow for greater feedback ○ Expand representation 1. people with lived experience to include people experiencing the problems the board is trying to solve 2. agencies who work on the systems and services the Board is trying to improve ○ Greater board member involvement with activities and a condensed work plan ○ Upcoming opportunities for updates- In the fall 2021, the Board will be revisiting the State Plan to update it and be responsive to current needs. One example could be to address COVID19 in the plan. In the fall of 2022, the AB will begin developing next three-year state plan. • Advisory Board application- MINDSOURCE will be posting the application on the website. There will be 2-4 openings. • CO-Chairs- Bill and Joy are only serving through this meeting. The Board thanks them their work. Louisa and Maria will co-chair starting with the August meeting. • Terms- Barbara, who is in a standing member role will be concluding her term on the board. The Board thanks her for her service. Her position will be filled by someone in CDHPE. • The Board thanks Karen for her work at MINDSOURCE and wishes her luck in her next position.
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Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
NA		

Next Steps/Wrap Up

Action Items	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
NA		

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Minutes collected by Lina Kyle