# **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Advisory Board Meeting**

# **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 27, 2025**

**Meeting called by:** Theresa Woo, Vice-Chair

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Theresa Woo, Chair, at 9:05 a.m.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Katie Shinoda, Vice-Chair, made introductions.

Board Members Present:

* Erin Johnson
* Randy Dinning
* Dr. Daniel Ignacio
* Dr. Katie Shinoda (Vice-Chair)
* Dr. Henry Huie
* Dr. Steve Chan
* Vince Martinez
* Kristie Warren
* Theresa Woo (Chair)
* Todd Higgins
* Dan Clark
* Ryan Johnson
* Dr. Vivian Harvey
* Esther Stauffer
* Michael Roscoe

Board members not present:

* Heidi Frye

Members of the Public:

* Brenda Plechaty, Traumatic Injury Caregivers Support Group
* Berta Flowers
* Jessica Alvarado, Disability Action Center
* Vanessa Ortega, St. Jude Brain Injury Network
* JoAnn Wilkes, Rolling Start
* Ann Koermer, TBI Survivor
* Judy Cabrera, Central Coast Center for Independent Living
* Pam Asari, TBI Survivor

Department of Rehabilitation Staff:

* Tanya Thee, TBI Program Administrator
* Regina Cademarti, Chief of Independent Living & Assistive Technology
* Maria Gonzales, Office Technician
* Zachary Ford, California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

## **Housekeeping**

Theresa Woo, DOR TBI Grant Administrator reviewed housekeeping items.

## **Public Comment: None**

## **TBI Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Approval**

Theresa Woo, Chair, asked for comments regarding the October 14, 2024 TBI Board Meeting.

**Board Comments** – None

**Public Comments** – None

Esther Stauffer motioned to approve the minutes. Dan Clark seconded the motion. Tanya Thee called for a Board vote. K. Shinoda, D. Ignacio, R. Johnson, E. Johnson, R. Dinning, H. Huie, S. Chan, V. Harvey, V. Martinez, K. Warren, T. Higgins, E. Stauffer, M. Roscoe, and D. Clark voted to approve. Motion passed and minutes are approved.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

The following subcommittee committees reported on their individual projects and progress:

* Brain Injury Survivor Committee (BISC)

Kristie Warren (Lead) and Erin Johnson (Co-Lead) reported on the Brain Injury Survivor Committee work.

**Board Comments** – None

**Public Comments** – None

* Education and Public Outreach Committee (EPOC)

Randy Dinning (Lead) reported on the Education and Public Outreach Committee work.

**Board Comments** – None

**Public Comments** – None

* Public Policy and Funding Committee (FPPC)

Kristie Warren (Lead) reported on the Public Policy and Funding Committee work.

**Board Comments** – None

**Public Comments** – None

* Data Analytics Committee (DAC)

Dr. Daniel Ignacio (Lead) reported on the Data Analytics Committee work.

**Board Comments** – None

**Public Comments** – None

## **Department of Rehabilitation Updates**

Regina Cademarti details updates from the DOR, including updates on TBI Program Staff and Roles, TBI State Partnership Program, TBI State-Funded Grants, Reporting, and Upcoming work

* **DOR TBI Program Staff & Roles**
* Tanya Thee, Grant Administrator: Administers the TBI Grants and Contracts
* Vacant, Associate Governmental Program Analyst: Supports the work of the TBI Advisory Board. Zak Ford – Assisting until filled
* Michelle Davis, Position Assists with All Grants: Contacts individuals inquiring about the TBI Program
* Maria Gonzales,Position Assists with All Grants: Provides support of on-site meetings of the TBI AB, not taking, and mailing out of the TBI brochures.
* Regina Cademarti, Staff Services Manager II: Provides oversight the Independent Living Section, including the TBI program.
* **DOR Leadership Updates**
* DOR Director, Joe Xavier: Acting is Victor Duron, serves as the current DOR Chief Deputy Director
* DOR Chief Deputy Director, Victor Duron: Acting is Kim Rutledge, served as the deputy director of DOR Legislation and Communications Divisions.
* DOR Independent Living Deputy Director, Ana Acton: Acting is Jake Johnson, served as the DOR chief Information Officer

**Independent Living and Assistive Technology Section**

Work is divided. Maria Aliferis-Gjerde (TBI AB); Shapree Butler (IL and TBI Grants); Monica Handley (Voice Options and AT Grant) and Regina Cademarti will continue to work on Community Living Fund

**DOR Updates**

* DOR provided the final updates to their seven Master Plan on Aging goals for 2023-2024.
* Awarded the three-year Systems Change Grant to the Marin Center for Independent Living. The Systems Change grantee is responsible for carrying out the statewide Systems Change Network Hub program within the IL Network. This hub supports systems change and community organizing efforts to improve independent living for persons with disabilities.
* Community Living Fund – Provides transition and diversion funding ends on June 30, 2025.
* The Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities is accepting applications. This is open to California residents with a disability that are high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors. This is a week-long event and the delegates will learn advocacy and leadership skills, meet state policymakers, personal and career leadership plans. The last day to accept applications is February 28, 2025. The application is online at DOR.ca.gov/YLF
* Completed all site visits to all 28 ILCs. These site visits strengthen relationships, gain a deeper understanding of the local community ad partners, and identify any areas of support.

**TBI State Partnership Program (SPP) Federal Grant**

**Upcoming Meetings**

* TBI Partners Day and NASHIA Meeting

March 3, 2025 – March 6, 2025 National Brain Injury Conference and Awareness Day - Hosted by Brain Injury Alliance (BIA)

**TBI State-Funded Grants – Part I**

**Background**

State General Fund used to sustain network of up to 12 community service providers. TBI sites provide supportive living, community reintegration, vocational supportive services, information and referral and public and professional education to individuals with TBI.

**Time Period**

7 providers starting October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027

Intent to award 5 providers to start December 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027

**Grant Award Amount**

SFY 2024-25: $2,450,000 – 7 grants at $225,000 and 5 grants at $175,000

SFY 2025-26: $3,600,000 – 12 grants at $300,000 each

SFY 2026-27: $3,600,000 – 12 grants at $300,000 each

**Reporting – Part 1**

**CATBI Packets**

**Background:** This is data on the consumer and their progress completed at intake, six months,12 months, 18 months, and annually afterwards. This is completed by the CATBI sites and emailed to the DOR.

**Update:** DOR has created Microsoft Forms copies.

**Quarterly Reporting**

**Background:** This is data from the service sites and their progress quarterly for their service goals. The data is submitted through Survey Monkey to the DOR. DOR collects data, compares responses to previous quarters, and reviews data.

**Update:** Past annual data will be provided to the Advisory Board after it is deidentified.

**Upcoming Work**

* Execute TBI State-Funded Agreements with remaining grantees – Completed. All 12 grants executed.
* Provide past fiscal year data to the TBI Advisory Board after it is deidentified – Data still in-progress of being deidentified.
* Meet with Contracts and Procurement regarding Needs Assessment Process to go to bid and complete carry-over fund request – Completed. Upon advisory Board agreement move forward with agreement for the Needs Assessment.
* Complete reporting for Public Health Workforce Activities – Completed, will submit report after DOR directorate approval
* Complete year-end financial reporting to ACL for TBI SPP grant – Completed, $26,221 unobligated balance.
* Complete website updates to the DOR TBI website – In-progress, utilize another resource to assist.
* Revisit Medicaid Administrative Claiming Process – In progress, DOR will reach out to CDA for guidance on process.
* Connect with DHCS Regarding the Medicaid1115 Reentry Waiver – Ana held meeting with DHCS, DOR will reach out to their contact.

**Board Comments:**

Dan Clark: Commented that it was great to see the transition funding program continue, as it started during his time in 2006. He asked whether there had been any long-term follow-up to assess its effectiveness and impact on individuals' long-term stability.

* Regina Cademarti: Answered that a follow-up survey is conducted 3-4 months after services, but no long-term tracking exists. However, for the Community Living Fund, they collect detailed consumer data and are developing a one-year follow-up survey to assess long-term impact.

**Public Comments** – None

## **Site Presentation**

* Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)
* Michael Galvin, Executive Director of the Community Resources for Independent Living gave a presentation on CRIL’s services to the community, including individuals with brain injury.
* CRIL is founded in 1979 by disability rights advocate Johnny Lacy. Lacy secured a permanent building, reducing costs and expanding services. CRIL serves Southern and Eastern Alameda County through offices in Hayward, Fremont, and Livermore, offering disability advocacy and resources.
* CRIL supports around 1,000 consumers annually and engages with 5,000 residents and businesses to raise disability awareness. Their services include housing support, assistive technology, benefits assistance, travel training, youth services, and emergency preparedness. They also offer resources in 16 languages, including ASL. A major recent initiative is door-to-door transportation, including a wheelchair-accessible van, to assist consumers with medical visits, grocery shopping, and social activities.
* To streamline access to services, CRIL co-developed the Alameda Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), connecting consumers to comprehensive support. Additionally, their TBI Independent Living Coordinator ensures individuals with traumatic brain injuries receive guidance through CRIL and ADRC services, including connections to Veterans Administration programs.

**Board Comments**:

Randy Dinning: Asked Michael about residency requirements for assistance, specifically how individuals prove they are from a particular city and whether there are verification requirements.

**Public Comments**:

Michael Roscoe: Raised concerns about the accessibility of housing for individuals with brain injuries, stating that current service offerings do not adequately meet their needs. He shared his personal experience of living in his car in San Diego, emphasizing that shared housing options feel unsafe and disorienting. He highlighted the 12 to 15-year waitlist for housing and questioned why individuals with traumatic brain injuries are not prioritized.

## **Presentation**

* Dr. Daniel Ignacio gave a presentation on aligning TBI advisory board efforts with research and practice guidelines.
* Dr. Daniel Ignacio highlighted the need for updated TBI guidelines due to inconsistent care pathways and inadequate follow-up, impacting long-term outcomes. The NIH is shifting toward a new CBIM classification model that incorporates clinical, biological, and social factors rather than the traditional mild/moderate/severe framework. Emphasis was placed on the role of social determinants in recovery and the importance of systems-based care to support survivors.
* Daniel also tackled the **Be Healthy Model** for TBI recovery, which includes nine components focused on **education, emotional and behavioral support, risk reduction, and minimizing treatment-related harm.** The model promotes **social engagement, healthy habits, medication review, coordinated care, and removing community barriers.** And he also discussed NASEM full list of CPG recommendations.

**Board Comments**:

Dan Clarks: noted that effective TBI recovery focuses on engagement, social connection, and meaningful activities.

Dr. Steve Huie: emphasized the difficulty healthcare providers face in prioritizing key TBI concerns within limited patient interactions.

**Public Comments**:

Michael Roscoe: Asked the correlation between TBI and homelessness and highlighted intimate partner violence impact on housing decisions. He noted that undocumented disclosures in medical records limit access to resources and follow-up care.

Pam: Stressed the need for standardized care led by physicians and supported by a multidisciplinary team. She highlighted support groups as crucial for education and recovery, sharing how they helped her understand her condition when medical providers did not. She urged doctors to strongly recommend support groups for patients.  
  
Michael Roscoe: Added that in San Diego, fleeing domestic violence is treated as homelessness, not a trauma incident, limiting support, especially for men. Survivors can only access homeless services, even though experts agree they need trauma-informed care. This gap forces many with brain injuries into homelessness, making recovery even harder.

## **Next TBI Board Meeting**

* Next Board meeting is April 21, 2025, and will be held in person with virtual availability.
* Next sub-committee meetings are on February 13, 2024, and will be held virtually.

**Board Comments**:

Dr. Vivian Harvey: Asked how many committees are board members allowed to be on.

Dr. Vivian Harvey: suggested creating an orientation manual for new board members to clarify rules, contacts, and committee functions. She noted that having this in writing would reduce confusion and the need for repeated explanations.

**Public Comments** – None

## **Action Items**

* Continue discussions on funding for San Diego State.
* Follow up with Matt on the committee spreadsheet and PowerPoint.

**Board Comments** - None

**Public Comments** – None

## **Public Comments**

Berta: More awareness is needed to connect survivors with housing, legal aid, and support services.

## **Adjournment**

Randy Dinning motioned to adjourn and Dan Clarks seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.