# **California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Traumatic Brain Injury TBI Advisory Board Data Analytics Sub-Committee**

# **December 16, 2024**

# **Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:**

The meeting for California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Data Analytics Sub-Committee was called to order at 2:11 pm, December 16, 2024, by Dr. Daniel Ignacio via virtual meeting.

**Members Present:**

* Randy Dinning, Regional Ombudsman
* Todd Higgins, Disability Rights California and TBI Survivor
* Ryan Johnson, TBI Survivor
* Dr. Daniel Ignacio (Lead), St. Jude Health and TBI Survivor
* Dr. Katie Shinoda, Mercy (Dignity Health)

**Members not Present:**

* Esther Stauffer, Native American Health Center

**DOR Staff Present:**

* Tanya Thee, DOR TBI Grant Administrator
* Regina Cademarti, Chief of ILATS

**Public Present:**

* None

**Needs Assessment:**

* DOR currently has approximately $165,105 in unobligated funds from the ACL TBI grant that can be used to fund a new needs assessment.
* Funds must be used by July 31, 2026.
* What is the Board looking for with a needs assessment:
  + Evaluate the alignment between:
    - The services that are being provided by the sites.
    - The services that are mandated by legislation.
    - The services that are needs and/or wanted by the stakeholders.
  + Informed training to stakeholders.
  + Informing the Advisory Board on future delineation of services, legislatives asks and provision requests.
* HARC 2022 needs assessment:
  + Used a mixed message approach (online surveys, interviews and open-ended questions).
  + DOR solicited surveys from multiple program consumers.
  + Available in English and Spanish.
  + HARC contacted additional organizations, colleges and used social media to find interviewees to complete the survey.
  + 135 individuals were interviewed, 25 of which were TBI survivors.
  + Areas that were needed the most were:
    - Help finding TBI resources
    - Help with developing and maintaining friendships
    - Help accessing community events/services/activities
    - Help with activities of daily living
    - Medical treatments and services
    - Mental health counseling
    - Financial assistance
    - Support groups
    - Assistive technologies
    - Help with transportation
  + Need for a centralized list of TBI resources
  + Ways to improve:
    - Need for a longer period of time to conduct interviews
    - More race/ethnicity representation
    - The level of mild, moderate or severe TBI is no longer an adequate description.
    - Identify needs specific to rural areas.
    - Try different strategies to increase survey samples.
* What does the committee want to achieve/obtain:
  + More useful data of TBI needs in California.
  + San Diego will create a new survey tool based on the needs.
  + Concerns about the amount of funding to get the level of an assessment that is desired.
  + Addressing gaps in services and focus on populations that are underserved.
  + More wide outreach to reach more people.
  + Focus on 12 TBI sites and ILCs to gain consumers for surveys.

Committee Comments: None

* Dr. Katie Shinoda – Are there any other anticipated uses for the unobligated funds? No, there are no other anticipated uses for the unobligated funds.
* Todd Higgins – Is HARC a possibility as a contractor or is a requirement to use San Diego University? No, HARC is a possibility, but it will require to get bids where that would not be required with to do so San Diego University.

Public Comments: None

**Action Items:**

* Add the needs assessment to the April 2025 Board meeting agenda.

Committee Comments: None

Public Comments: None

**Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 3:03 pm.