# **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.