

**Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 27, 2025, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**  
**One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 1613**

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
<b>Attendance</b>	<p><b>Council Members Present (in-person):</b> Brigette Hartman-DeCenzo, Clifford Hymowitz, Michael Jabonaski, Paul Partridge, Stephen J. Boese, Kate Berryan, Crystal Collins, and Christina LeBeau.</p> <p><b>Council Members Present (via Webex):</b> Dr. Jeffrey J. Bazarian (Chair), Michael Davison, Michael Kaplen, and Maureen Hanse.</p> <p><b>Council Members Absent:</b> Edward Devitt, Megan Clothier, Brent Feuz, and Maxine Smalling.</p> <p><b>DOH Staff (in-person):</b> Michael Chittenden, Thomas Rees, Trang (Tiffany) Tran-Lee, Tyler Winne, Patrick Javarone, Richard Lehnert, Sonya Warren, and Penny Plouffe, Tracy Sinnott</p> <p>Note: The meeting was conducted in-person and via Webex.</p>	
<b>Welcome / Announcement/ Review of Old Business</b>	<p><b>T. Rees</b> called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and conducted the roll call.</p> <p><b>Kate Berryan</b> was introduced as a new Council member. <b>K. Berryan</b> is appointed by the temporary President of the New York State Senate. <b>K. Berryan</b> provided background on her experience with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as she has a daughter with TBI who received services through New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and New York State Department of Health (DOH). <b>K. Berryan</b> is the Director of Open Doors at the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, their Regional Lead Transition Specialist, and a legislative advocate for TBI issues.</p> <p><b>T. Rees</b> announced later in the meeting that a quorum was not reached. No voting took place.</p> <p><b>Dr. Bazarian</b> began the meeting by reorienting the council members to the purposes of the TBISCC and reminded the members that the council should recommend services, supports, and policies to the Commissioner of DOH. The council was also reminded of the national document that was used as a model for the TBISCC workplan and believes the workplan can be used to address the requirements of the new legislative bill that will be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p><b>M. Jabonaski</b> let the council members know that the NYS DOH Commissioner has requested that a separate document be prepared that includes specifics from each TBISCC meeting. <b>M. Jabonaski</b> will be spearheading this effort. He reports that the NYS DOH leadership and the Commissioner as well as the NYS Legislature are paying attention to the TBISCC Council's efforts, and they have expressed interest in hearing TBISCC opinions.</p>	

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<p><b>Develop workplan to prepare formal objectives, goals, priorities, planning, and the development of recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>M. Jabonaski</b> advised the council on the NYS Legislative Senate Bill (New York State No. 73 Chapter 642 (Senate Bill 1478)). This Bill was signed into law and takes effect on February 14, 2025. The Bill outlines specific goals that the TBISCC Council is mandated to accomplish by February 14, 2026. The Bill directs the TBISCC to conduct a statewide review of brain injury care. That includes assessing the availability and accessibility of services, the cost of receiving such services, regional disparities, emerging trends [including changes in incidences, changes in the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury, and assess the training service providers receive relating to traumatic brain injury], differences in services and outcomes for New Yorkers served by various brain injury programs, and efficiency of service administration that provide service approvals or denials. The results and recommendations must be completed within a year and posted on the state Department of Health’s website.</p> <p><b>M. Kaplen</b> raised concerns about what NYS DOH will provide to the council so that the mandate can be accomplished. He asked if there are any monetary resources that will be provided. He also expressed a desire for a letter to be written from the council to the DOH Commissioner asking for resources.</p> <p><b>M. Jabonaski</b> responded that until the NYS budget is passed any allocation of resources will be pending. He also stated that the legislature is requiring that a document from each TBISCC meeting be provided to the DOH Commissioner and a letter might not be needed but he would take this under consideration.</p> <p><b>C. Hymowitz</b> suggested that the TBI registry document that he provided to the council could be used to meet some of the requirements from the Bill.</p> <p><b>M. Jabonaski</b> stated that the workplan previously developed by the council should be tailored to meet the goals of the Bill and that the workplan could be more action oriented. He stated that he can take the reins on this if the council would like. He proposed that at the next meeting he will provide the workplan to the council members for their feedback and that he would like to have a completed document for review at the December TBISCC meeting. Each meeting until then will be used for council members to express their opinions on meeting the goals outlined in the Bill.</p>	<p>Workplan tailored to Bill goals provided at June meeting</p> <p>Council members to come up with top recommendations of what they are asking for to be done with the workplan, specifically with Senate Bill 1478</p>

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	<b>M. Davison</b> expressed a possible need to meet more frequently to accomplish the goals of the Bill and that a punch list of needs for specific achievable goals of the Bill might be needed.	
<b>Open discussion</b>	<p><b>C. LeBeau</b> asked council if there is an estimated range for the cost of out of state care for TBI patients and the procedure for transferring TBI patients in state as well as out of state. It was also asked what services are needed in New York State for TBI patients that are not currently offered. Council members answered with a range of responses, that there is not a range established because it varies drastically per case and the needs of each individual. And more research and documentation will be needed to fully answer the services that are currently missing in NYS.</p> <p><b>C. LeBeau</b> brought up a housing issue amongst TBI Community, <b>C. Hymowitz</b> suggested Single Point of Access (SPOA) model for housing issues. To use the SPOA model to help solve that issue. <b>M. Jabonaski</b> need to have more research done and finding the best practice for the housing issues and use SPOA as a guidance but also looking into different options that are currently being done in other areas of the country.</p>	
<b>Public Comment</b>	There was no public comment.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>M. Jabonaski</b> made a motion to adjourn, <b>J. Bazarian</b> adjourned meeting at 12:02 pm.	