

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY

16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
Attendance	<p>Council Members Present (in-person): Clifford Hymowitz, Michael Jabonaski, Paul Partridge, Evan Seiden (Stephen Boese Designee), Crystal Collins, Michael Davison, and Maxine Smalling</p> <p>Council Members Present (via Webex): Dr. Jeffrey J. Bazarian (Chair), Maureen Hanse, Megan Clothier, Christina LeBeau, and Brigette Hartman-DeCenzo</p> <p>Council Members Absent: Edward Devitt, Brent Feuz, Kate Berryan, and Michael Kaplen</p> <p>DOH Staff (in-person): Michael Chittenden, Trang (Tiffany) Tran-Lee, Tyler Winne, and Richard Lehnert</p> <p>Note: The meeting was conducted in-person and via Webex.</p>	
Welcome / Announcement / Review of Old Business	<p>M. Jabonaski called the meeting to order at 10:06 am and conducted the roll call. Due to in-person attendance no quorum was met and voting on previous minutes for the March 27, 2025, meeting was not possible.</p> <p>A general discussion took place with Council members regarding filling vacant seats for the Council and meeting quorum for Council meetings.</p> <p>C. LeBeau asked if there is a way to ensure quorums are reached in future Council meetings?</p> <p>M. Jabonaski stated that the December 2025 Council meeting was a crucial meeting and that all Council members should strive to be in attendance.</p>	<p>Initiation for meeting attendance will start five to six weeks prior to the next meeting to try and reach quorum and give a better notice to those traveling a long distance.</p>
Council Data and Reporting, S800 Bill Discussion, and Planning	<p>M. Jabonaski advised the Council on the amended NYS Legislative Senate Bill (New York State No. 73 Chapter 642 (Senate Bill 1478)) S800. The amended bill requires the TBISCC to post an annual report on its website that meets the requirements outlined in the amended bill:</p> <p>(a) The Council shall be charged with recommending to the department long-range objectives, goals, and priorities. It shall also provide advice on the planning, coordination, and development of needed services. In making such recommendations, the Council shall consider:</p>	<p>Continue to enhance the workplan for September meeting, utilize the draft workplan and</p>

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	<p>(i) The availability and accessibility of services for individuals diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, the cost of receiving such services, and any disparities that may exist in the regional availability of services.</p> <p>(ii) Emerging trends in traumatic brain injury, including changes in incidences, changes in the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury, and assessing the training service providers receive relating to traumatic brain injury.</p> <p>(iii) The difference in services availability and outcomes for individuals that may be enrolled in any Medicaid waiver.</p> <p>(iv) The efficiency of the administrative processes that provide individuals with traumatic brain injury official approvals or denials of service.</p> <p>The Council shall post the recommendations developed pursuant to paragraph of this subdivision on the department's website on or before one year from the date this paragraph, and it shall take effect and annually thereafter.</p> <p>M. Jabonaski stated that the meeting being held today and the September meeting should be focused on adding items to his draft report that would be a framework for the report needed for the website. He presented his draft and discussed its contents, which included four areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Availability and Accessibility of TBI Services b) Emerging Trends in Traumatic Brain Injury c) Differences in Services for Medicaid Waiver Enrollees d) Efficiency of Administrative Processes <p>C. Hymowitz wants a registry for TBI services and a needs assessment to be included in the report. M. Jabonaski suggested these items could be included in the Emerging Trends portion of the report. M. Davison stated that barriers to having a TBI, gaps in services especially in rural areas, and housing needs should be included in the report. C. Hymowitz also suggested that home health care, transportation, and medication issues should all be included as well.</p>	<p>topics discussed to build off of.</p>

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	<p>M. Smalling discussed that housing models could be considered that are non-traditional. These new models should address isolation, be cost effective, and include support services or care providers. For example, European models that foster a feeling of community but also provide needed support services, similar to group home models, but without the stigma.</p> <p>M. Chittenden stated that this is the universal design, where communities need to be designed to facilitate needs.</p> <p>The Council members continued to discuss housing needs and issues as they relate to TBI.</p> <p>M. Jabonaski suggested adding the housing discussion to the Availability and Accessibility portion of the report.</p> <p>C. Hymowitz stated that peer support needs to also be included in the report, and that those individuals with a TBI who do not qualify for Medicaid need to be included in the discussion.</p> <p>M. Jabonaski will include all the issues discussed in a revised draft report that will be presented to the Council at the September 18th Council meeting.</p>	
Open Discussion	<p>M. Davidson feels that a Needs Assessment section needs to be added and addressed to fill in the gaps of the TBI Waiver Program.</p> <p>C. Hymowitz agrees with the Needs Assessment and would also like to see a TBI Registry get created to help with the Needs Assessment and to utilize the TBI Waiver to assist in that.</p>	
Public Comment	<p>A public testimony was made via a Webex login. A. Wu shared a personal experience regarding a family member who suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury and the positive impact the TBI waiver services had on his care, while participating with waiver services in the past. She also shared the complications that she has encountered while trying to care for him more recently. There was a complaint that was reported on behalf of the Council members regarding care that the TBI patient was receiving.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.</p>	