

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5th 10:00 am-1:00pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
Attendance	Council Members Present (in-person): Michael Davison, Michael Jabonaski, Maxine Smalling, Evan Seiden, Crystal Collins, Brigitte Hartman-DeCenzo, Kate Berryan, Joanne Scandale, Maureen Hanse, Christina LeBeau, and Miriam Kragness Council Members Present (via Webex): Clifford Hymowitz, Jeffrey Bazarian, and Megan Clothier Council Members Absent: Brent Feuz and Edward Devitt DOH Staff (in-person): Michael Chittenden, Tyler Winne, Richard Lehnert, and Trang (Tiffany) Tran-Lee DOH Staff (remote): Susan Lawless, Assistant Counsel, Valerie Deetz, Carol Rodat, Jessica Alexandre, Lisa Muscedere, Laura Lincourt, Teri Schmidt, Brittany Hoffert, Todd Gerber, Constance Jones, and Andrea DeRosa Note: The meeting was conducted in-person and via Webex.	
Welcome / Announcement/Approval of Minutes	M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: called meeting into order at 10:04 a.m. and conducted roll call. Quorum was achieved. M. Smalling, Office of Mental Health: introduced Andrea DeRosa, who is her appointed back up representative for the Council. All Department of Health employees who were remote introduced themselves one at a time after being called on by M. Chittenden, Department of Health. Each employee shared a brief overview of their role within the Department of Health. Council members had a moment to view the December 4, 2025 meeting minutes to vote on them. M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: motioned to for the December 4,2025 meeting minutes to be approved. B. Hartman-DeCenzo, Office of Addiction and Services Supports: seconded the motion. Members voted on the meeting minutes to be approved: 14 yes: 0 no	

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5th 10:00 am-1:00pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
Impaired Neurocognitive Function Workshop Discussion	B. Hartman-DeCenzo, Office of Addiction and Services Supports: introduced a collaborative effort that they have started and introduced Jessica Alexandre as part of that movement to share more details about what they are initiating, specifically the Brain Injury Grand rounds that will be taking place. Jessica Alexandre (remotely): shared additional information about the Brain Injury Grand rounds which will be a three-part series that will be focused on how clinicians and providers can identify a brain injury, treat a brain injury, and also help to engage those with a brain injury in treatment. There will also be a focus on mental health, substance use, and addiction. This collaborative effort has teamed up with Department of Health, Office of Mental Health, and Office of Addiction Services and Supports. The series is designed to help clinicians to better recognize signs of a brain injury even without a previous diagnosis. There are three sessions that are going to be taking place, ranging with topics from an introduction of brain injury, treatment options, medication management, evidence-based intervention options, how to approach different treatment settings, and to how to improve treatments and engage with individuals with cognitive impairments. M. Smalling, Office of Mental Health: is on board with these grand rounds, the information is being shared with local hospitals and medical facilities, and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports commissioner will be a part of the second grand round session. There is a push to have this be a high level of participation within the medical field, to share all the resources that are out there for those with a brain injury. M. Smalling opined that these resources can help us support the recommendation of pushing more education in the legislative report. C. Hymowitz, Public Representative: wanted to thank Maxine Smalling for all the work she has done for Traumatic Brain Injury and raising awareness. He shared feedback regarding the workgroup, not as a Council member, but as mental health peer specialist. He noted that one thing that seems to be missing from the grand rounds is peer representation. He noted that having a peer is a critical piece especially when someone has a dual diagnosis. M. Smalling, Office of Mental Health: noted that she appreciated the feedback, and it will be addressed for going forward. M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: added that the dialogue highlighted the “amazing part of our Council that we have individuals who are directly impacted by a traumatic brain injury.”	The <u>Grand Rounds Flyer</u> can be found by clicking on the link, this will give more information on the upcoming sessions, how to register and be part of the sessions. Please see the flyer for more information.

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5th 10:00 am-1:00pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
	B. Hartman-DeCenzo, Office of Addiction and Services Supports: provided more details on the next steps. There is a need for more training for clinicians who treat those with a brain injury, so when someone does come into the system there is an accommodation for their needs. She added “this is a reason behind the work that we have started. The Office of Addiction Services and Support have started to do reviews to learn about the type of accommodation that we can help our providers implement for brain injury. We are going to develop clinical guidance specific to accommodations for individuals, which will include those with traumatic brain injury. This is the beginning of a collaborative working relationship with all state agencies and the clinicians within our system.”	
NY Pub Health L § 2744 (2024) Draft presentation by Michael Jabonaski	M. Chittenden, Department of Health: introduced the Legislative report that was edited and voted on at the last meeting. This introduced draft was believed to have been the final report for the Committee. However, the draft distributed was not the final approved version of the report and the error was corrected. S. Lawless, Legal Counsel (remotely): clarified that the draft report is still in the approval process, the final version of this report is pending Executive Deputy Commissioner Clearance approval. She also instructed that the hard copies of the version distributed in error needed to be collected from Council members because it was not the final version of the Council-approved report. **Please note that all copies were collected from all people within the room. The draft version that was posted in the link to the meeting should be disregarded by all parties.** M. Chittenden, Department of Health: noted there has been progress specifically within Department of Health’s data availability. “Having this information will help drive not just these recommendations but for future years recommendations.” M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: added that “the data will help with the budget for the future.” K. Berryan, Public Representative: noted the data will be a great resource “to help not waste money and save time.” M. Chittenden, Department of Health: noted the Department of Health is pulling the data not just quarterly but monthly, to help the Department of Health develop trends to support the needs of the traumatic brain injury community. He added that there was nothing more to share regarding this at this time.	

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5th 10:00 am-1:00pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
Open discussion	M. Davison, Public Representative: requested an update at each meeting on the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver program, “knowing that it is the banner for the Department of Health and I would like to think that we have the most influence on change. It would be nice to review it. Specifically on housing because there is a shortage of housing for the traumatic brain injury population.” M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: asked M. Davidson to send him more information on different agencies and resources that he is aware of so the program can further look into them. M. Chittenden, Department of Health: announced the program would be bringing a new staff member on board. He added that it “will be a great way to have this person do a review of the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver and we can include specifics that you are looking for to go over.” M. Smalling, Office of Mental Health: noted that “as a Council our responsibility is the Legislative Report Recommendations. We can work as a collaborative team to tackle these recommendations. We all have the knowledge and drive to make a movement.” K. Berryan, Public Representative: added that “when this report is ready to be posted can we start working on the recommendations to bring to the table at the next meeting, with progress made instead of waiting for the meeting to start working on them.” C. LeBeau, Public Representative: noted that the Brain Injury Association has been receiving phone calls and emails regarding the merging of the Adirondack Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC) and the Capital District Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC). She noted that Adirondack RRDC has been taking a different approach than Capital RRDC with respect to participant-related processes and alleged that some participants have experienced a reduction or discontinuation of service hours without explanation, or have been removed from the program without explanation. She noted that this has caused a lot of stress for people that have been on the waiver in the Capital area. M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: noted that the waiver program is aware of these issues pertaining to the merger of Adirondack and Capital Region Resource Development Centers and is taking steps to mitigate the issues. K. Berryan, Public Representative: shared that her agency is also receiving many emails and phone calls regarding the same issue.	

Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5th 10:00 am-1:00pm
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY
16th Floor, Conference Room 1613

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps/Who/When
	M. Chittenden, Department of Health: noted that the Regional Resource Development Centers, the participants, providers, and Service Coordinators all should be referring to the manual as a guideline. He added that the manual is published online, and everyone always has access to it. “How the manual is interpreted by the individual can be different, which causes these issues for participants.” He added that this issue is currently being addressed and closely monitored to help prevent similar conflicts in the future. K. Berryan, Public Representative: added that the manual is subject to interpretation which creates a gray area that is causing a conflict for the providers, districts and participants. M. Chittenden, Department of Health: noted that in general, if someone feels they are not being treated fairly they have a right to a fair hearing process, which is outlined in the manual. C. Hymowitz, Public Representative: wanted to thank the Department of Health for bringing the representatives to the meeting today, acknowledging specific staff members, their roles, and a contact for each of them. He seconded that he would like an update each meeting on the Traumatic Brain Injury and the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion waiver. He would like to check on the National Association of State Head Injury membership that was discussed at previous meetings, and would like an update every meeting for that, and who the other members are. He also voiced concerns about the structure of the Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council, which is administered by the Office of the Chief Disability Officer. He does not feel seen or heard by the Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council as someone with a traumatic brain injury. C. LeBeau, Public Representative: shared an online training flyer specific to brain injuries that was in the materials of the meeting open to the public and can be taken online through the Brain Injury Association of New York State website.	
Public Comment	No public comment.	
Adjournment	M. Jabonaski, Department of Health: motioned to adjourn the meeting. K. Berryan, Public Representative: second the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.	