Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2026 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
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, Paul Patridge, Victoria Clingan, Brigette Hartman-DeCenzo, Christina LeBeau, Clifford Hymowitz**,** and Miriam Kragness **Council Members Present (via Webex):** Kate Berryan, Joanne Scandale, Jeffrey Bazarian, and Megan Clothier **Council Members Absent:** Maureen Hanse, Brent Feuz, and Edward Devitt **DOH Staff (in-person):** Michael Chittenden, Tyler Winne, Richard Lehnert, Brittany Hoffert, Sridhar Reddy Nimmakayala, and Dawn Lanahan **DOH Staff (remote):** Jessica Dell'Anno, Assistant Counsel, Carol Rodat, Lisa Muscedere, Laura Lincourt, Teri Schmidt, and Sonya Warren Note: The meeting was conducted in-person and via Webex.	
Welcome/Roll call/Approval of Minutes	**M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and Quorum was achieved. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Council members were asked to review the March 5, 2026 meeting minutes, which were given to the Council members in folders and also provided via email to those Council members attending the meeting remotely. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Motioned for the March 5, 2026 meeting minutes to be approved. **E. Seiden, Department of Education:** Seconded the motion. **M. Smalling, Office of Mental Health**: Requested an edit regarding an error with her name and suggested adding the department and/or association for each Council member in the meeting minutes. **B. Hartman-DeCenzo, Office of Addiction and Services Supports:** Requested an edit, rewording a section in the March 5, 2026 minutes.	Draft a letter to Kim Hill regarding the lack of representation and attention given to Traumatic Brain Injury survivors.

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	C. LeBeau, Public Representative: Brought to the Council's attention that in the minutes from March there was a conversation that was omitted. The area that is missing from the meeting minutes is specific to the issues that are surrounding the merging of the Adirondack Regional Resource Development Center and the Capital Regional Resource Development Center. This is a large area of concern that needs to be captured in the March minutes, and she requested that the March minutes be reassessed to capture the conversation. ** The March 5, 2026, Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council meeting minutes will be revised to accommodate these edits. The updated March 5, 2026 minutes will be moved for approval for the next meeting held on September 10, 2026. ** **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** Was concerned after his last time attending the Most Integrated Setting Coordination Council (MISCC) in 2025 that there is not proper awareness being given to Traumatic Brain Injury survivors. He was told that he would have time to speak at the Most Integrated Setting Coordination Council (MISCC) meeting and was only given about three minutes to speak. Cliff would like a letter to be written to Kim Hill, New York State Chief Disability Officer, to share the concern.	
Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council Legislative Report	**M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** The Legislative Report approval was unfortunately significantly delayed due to the New York State budget being delayed. The report is now nearing final approval and will then be shared publicly.	
Open discussion	**C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** There are two topics that need to be mentioned during the meeting today. Those two topics are Social Medical Transportation and Environmental Modifications (E-Mods). Cliff drafted two documents to help address these topics. • Social Medical Transportation - one area of concern is that the Uniform Assessment System is used to make sure someone is initially eligible for services. Cliff's concern is if a Uniform Assessment System is done initially then why do they need a second recertification in terms of transportation. Another requirement for Social Medical Transportation is that they require you to fill in your transportation needs a year in advance. How is someone supposed to know what transportation they will need a year in advance? It is not reasonable and makes the form difficult to fill out. Once the form is filled out, it will sit with the Regional Resource Development Center for	The Traumatic Brain Injury Manual was shared post-meeting with all Council members for their review, as requested. They were provided with the specific areas that were mentioned. The

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	three months with no approval. The Department of Health needs to work on the terms and policies to improve this process. • The other topic of concern being Environmental Modifications (E-Mods), specifically with Jukebox. Jukebox does not seem to have knowledge of the area they service. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Addressed the concerns regarding Jukebox, and noted there are meetings that have be scheduled with Jukebox. **M. Kragness, Public Representative:** An observation about these issues is that they seem to be policy issues and are mainly the ability to execute things correctly. Is there an audit for these agencies to hold them accountable, and can we find the main root of the issue? **M. Chittenden, Department of Health:** The Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Manual is based on the waiver and the contract with the Federal Government. It is hard to get into descriptive details in the manual for specific cases. The manual is purposefully written to allow for some leeway so we can cater to specific needs. A Quality Assurance review has been conducted to help highlight these areas of concern. Right now, we are looking into individual service plans. We have areas such as social transportation, in addition to others, that have been highlighted to be looked into. The audits will help us hold contractors more accountable. **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** The resolution that he has written will help to make things more consistent and help the process. **C. LeBeau, Public Representative:** Why is every Regional Resource Development Center being run a different way? Why is this happening? They are not consistent throughout the entire state **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** These questions are asked within my resolution and are asked for all regions and to have this process streamlined. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** The reason the Regional Resource Development Centers are not run consistently is because of the size of the state and the different geographic make-up of the regions. Each program responds differently to the participants and providers. Each region has different opinions and strategies. If as a Council you are seeing something specific that is being done that is outside of the manual, then we need to know so we can address this directly with the Regional Resource Development Centers.	manual is available publicly. The Department of Health will clarify the procedures in question at the September 10, 2026 meeting. The Department of Health will provide information on the resolution voted on regarding Social Transportation. To have a discussion about having more availability to have everyone join a meeting, not through Webex. Update on the Veterans and Domestic Violence group joining the Council.

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	C. Hymowitz, Public Representative: Is asking for clarification on the procedure. He is not asking to change anything, but is asking for clarification on states process so as a Council we can then make recommendations. Who is responsible for this, the waiver or Medicaid? **V. Clingan, Justice Center:** Can we vote on having the Department of Health give a presentation at the next meeting? **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** We are trying to come up with a strategy that will satisfy multiple requirements and that will address these concerns. A lot of the complications come from the manual, which is being looked at. **B. Hartman-DeCenzo, Office of Addiction and Services Supports:** Cliff is requesting that the Council get more information, even if it is in a manual, so the Council can get clarification. At the next meeting it was suggested by Christina that a presentation is given to the Council so they can get that clarification. **B. Hartman-DeCenzo, Office of Addiction and Services Supports:** Asks can we put something on the table to be voted on so the Council can get the additional clarification information that is being asked for? **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** We can distribute the manual to the Council and share directly what pages where they can find this specific information. The contract states that the manual needs to be followed by all contractors. **V. Clingan, Justice Center:** The manual may need to be looked at piece-by-piece as **C. Hymowitz** has done. Can we ask for the background information with the manual? This will enable the Council to review it prior to the next meeting. **C. LeBeau, Public Representative:** How is it decided how the manual is interpreted? **M. Chittenden, Department of Health:** The manual, which are the rules and regulations, was written with very broad interpretations so we can be specific centered, and can individually help that participant. There are certain things that were left ambiguous so we can cater to everyone. That doesn't always work in the best way. We are trying to meet the needs of the person and are not always able to meet their wants. It may not be the best system, but we are trying to get back into quality assurance to be more consistent with how we answer things to everyone. We are a very diverse state and things that are happening in the city don't happen in the Adirondacks, for example.	**Jess Dell'Anno, Assistant Counsel,** will have a write-up available of what the options are to host the meetings. **M. Kragness** will bring more information to share at the September 10, 2026 meeting, regarding housing issues that she has been doing research on.

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	K. Berryan, Public Representative: When the bill was written there was an intent and purpose behind it. The issue that we are talking about is with interpretations, for example with the Service Coordinators. I have had three different Service Coordinators read a part of the manual differently. This gray area is causing issues. This needs to be clear and not interpreted differently by each person. It shouldn't be "we need to think about it," it should be clear for everyone reading the manual. **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** Asking for the Department of Health to clarify the procedures. Who made the procedure and why it is necessary? **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Motioned to vote on the statement C. Hymowitz requested. **V. Clingan, Justice Center:** Seconded the motion to vote on the clarification. **Vote:** 13 Yes, Unanimous **Traci Allen (public comment):** A recommendation that was made to the state after a stakeholder group that involved Regional Resource Development Centers, providers, Department of Health Staff, and anyone who wanted to participate, was that the document was to have everyone in the Traumatic Brain Injury and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion waiver be assessed from the beginning for Environmental Modifications (E-Mods) to increase their independence and also potentially decrease the needs for other services. The cost-saving numbers have been shared. For example, moving more easily within your home, might decrease the need for assistance, which can decrease the cost overall. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Thank you Traci for your added comments. **J. Scandale, Public Representative:** Agrees with Traci's needs for Environmental Modifications upfront and the potential positive impact on cost and independence in the long run. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** This is a great thing to have been highlighted and will hopefully carry on to a program update. **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** Wants to vote on his other resolution for Social Medical Transportation: New York State Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council Resolution Concerning Annual Medicaid Transportation Recertification and the Social Transportation Approval	

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	Process. There are more details in the document provided. During the next meeting, we can have answers. **M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Does everyone understand the resolution that we are voting on? **M. Davison, Public Representative:** Seconded motion to vote. **Vote:** 13 Yes, Unanimous **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** Would like an action item on the ability to have meetings outside of the Albany area. Can like this to be looked into? **M. Davison, Public Representative:** We have had the meetings held at other Department of Health locations. **C. Hymowitz, Public Representative:** I ask that Traci Allen put in her recommendations about a technology assessment because joining remotely is not always the best option, or the individual may not be able to join remotely. Can the Regional Resource Development Centers hold meetings open to the community? To hold biannual meetings for the public? **M. Chittenden, Department of Health:** Gave an update on the National Association of State Head Injury Association membership status. The budget delay has caused membership to not be approved as of yet. We have informed them that other states send members also. **C. LeBeau, Public Representative**: The Veterans and Domestic Violence joining the Council. This was passed by the Senate and went to the Assembly. They are bringing on these two groups. It has not yet signed by the Governor. **J. Dell'Anno, Assistant Counsel:** Shared regarding the meetings at the Regional Resource Development Centers, that as long as we are within the Open Meeting Law we can have the Regional Resource Development Centers host meetings open to the public. **M. Kragness, Public Representative:** Brought up housing issues and what other states are doing for people with a traumatic brain injury. There are funding options available to some, such as a brain injury	

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	trust fund. **M. Kragness** will bring more information to the meeting in September about how to apply, how it is funded, and how to get access to resources. **M. Kragness, Public Representative:** Another area where there is a concern is that the waiver applies to congregate care but not congregate living in New York. **M. Smalling, Office of Mental Health**: When talking about the different types of housing options for those with a traumatic brain injury there are congregate living, apartment living, and single room occupancy. For years there has been a movement to get away from congregate living. The new push is single room occupancy, which is not always the best model. People generally live with someone else for the course of their lives. Congregate living can sometimes be interpreted as institutional living, which can cause many other issues with that label. A potential issue is that the Social Security income drops significantly if an individual wants to live in their own home. It does not incentivize the individual. In addition, the supply of housing is low for these individuals. There are models that exist, but they are not advertised.	
Public Comment	**Traci Allen:** Stated Happiness House is for transitional housing. There are state guidelines that need to be followed, and the Regional Resource Development Centers interpretation has created barriers to accessing services, so people are losing services. The Department of Health has had meetings with the Regional Resource Development Centers and providers, who are having issues getting through the inconsistencies. There is no clear-cut way of saying how it is done. **Tracie Allen:** The Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver is not growing and with the cap in place for the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion waiver there has not been a mention of a waitlist for that waiver program or a mention of how that will be tracked when in place.	Happiness House direct link: https://www.happinesshouse.org/opwdd
Adjournment	**M. Jabonaski, Department of Health:** Motioned for meeting to be adjourned **C. LeBeau, Public Representative:** Second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.	

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