



ARIZONA

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL  
ON SPINAL AND HEAD  
INJURIES

**MISSION**

Increase awareness and understanding of traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, strengthen services and supports for those who have sustained injuries and their families and promote prevention to enhance quality of life.

Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries  
Full Council Meeting  
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 via Zoom  
Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

**Voting Council Members in attendance:** Tammy Abbott-Thiel; Kristen Bishop; Mary Lu Bushnell; Alex Hishaw; Michael Lavoie; James Ledgewood; Jonathan Lifshitz; Tara Pepiton; James Sieffert; Keith Watt; Evan Werk.

**Voting Council Members not in attendance:** Oliver Bryan; Kay Wing

**Non-voting Council Members in attendance:** Tim Flood

**Non-voting Council Members not in attendance:** Kristen Mackey

**Council Staff:** Ann Tarpy; Lindsey Powers

**Public:** Tomi St. Mars; Yomaria Diaz; Carrie Collins-Fadell

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

*Acting Chair, J. Lifshitz, called the meeting to order at 1:03. Council Members and public introduced themselves.*

**2. Votes on the following:**

*The Slate of Officers was presented at the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Council Meeting and provided again to the Council members for review prior to this Meeting to prepare for the vote: for each position. Acting Chair Lifshitz called for a vote to elect each candidate.*

**Vote: Chair: Tara Pepiton- Motion passed**

**Vote: Vice-Chair :James Sieffret - Motion passed**

**Vote: Secretary- Tammy Abbott-Thiel - Motion passed**

**Vote: To approval draft Minutes of meeting on May 12, 2021.**

*Copies of the draft Minutes were provided to the Council Members for review prior to the meeting. Acting Chair Lifshitz called for a vote to approve the draft Minutes as written. Council Member Thiel moved to approve the draft Minutes; Council Member Pepiton seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**Vote: Proposed plan for Council projects**

*Executive Director A. Tarpy had prepared a document describing the proposed Council projects for SFY 2022 for the Council members to review prior to the Council meeting. Acting Chair Lifshitz asked A. Tarpy to review and discuss the document and respond to questions from the Council members. Following the discussion, Acting Chair Lifshitz called for a vote to approve Proposed plan for Council projects for SFY 2022. Council Member T. Pepiton so moved; Council Member Thiel seconded; the Motion passed.*

**3. Reports**

**a. Executive Committee – Acting Chair, Jonathan Lifshitz**

*Acting Chair Lifshitz announced that Council Member Michael Lavoie would be resigning from the Council. Dr. Lavoie was thanked for his years of service and contributions to the Council. Acting Chair Lifshitz shared that he would be staying on as a Council Member.*

**b. RSA Update – Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator**

*Unfortunately, Ms. Mackey was unable to attend due to a family emergency.*

**c. Council Office Updates – Ann Tarpy, Executive Director of the Council**

**i. Federal TBI Program grant application**

*Ms. Tarpy advised that while we have not received official notice of not receiving the grant but had seen an e-mail from the Administration for Community Living announcing the new grantees for the Federal TBI Program.*

**ii. Update on COVID Relief Funds made available to the BIAAZ**

*Prior to the meeting, Ms. Tarpy provided a document for the Council Members to review with an update on the seven (7) virtual educational conferences submitted by the Brain Injury Alliance of AZ (BIAAZ) for approval for the COVID Relief Funds. Four (4) have been approved; three (3) are pending and close to approval. Carrie Collins-Fadell, Executive Director of BIAAZ share information about the conferences. Another update will be provided at the November 10, 2021 Council Meeting. Six (6) of the seven (7) events will have been completed by then.*

**4. Council member updates and announcements**

*Acting Chair Lifshitz asked if the Council Members had any updates or announcements to share. None were provided.*

**5. Next Scheduled Council Meeting – Virtual November 10, 2021**

*Acting Chair Lifshitz reminded the Members of the next Council Meeting on November 10, 2021 and that it would be virtual.*

**6. Other**

*Acting Chair Lifshitz asked Ms. Fadell to provide an update on their progress in the Learning Practice Academy they are participating in through the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). She shared a power point with a brief update. As part of their participation in the Academy, they are required to provide a progress report to the Council.*

**7. Call to the public**

*Acting Chair Lifshitz made the Call; no response.*

**8. Adjournment**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm*