



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.

Virtual Public Meeting  
Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries  
Full Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2022 via GoToTraining**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attendance:

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

**Voting Council Members not in attendance:** Oliver Bryan; James Sieffret;

**Non-voting Council Members in attendance:** Tim Flood, Kristen Mackey

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

**Council Contractors:** Shannon Carter, Az Spinal Cord Injury Association; Carrie Collins-Fadell, Brain Injury Alliance of AZ. Tiffany Wilkinson, Empowerment Research, LLC

**Presenters:** AzDHS: Yomy Castillo; Alexis Griffin; Jacqueline Kurth; Amanda Swanson.

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

*Chair Tara Pepiton called the virtual meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Participants were asked to introduce themselves.*

**2. Vote: To approve draft Full Council Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2021: Special Full Council Meeting for June 9, 2021 to approve access to COVID 19 Relief funds by the Brain Injury Alliance of AZ**

*Kay Wing moved to approve the draft June 9<sup>th</sup> Minutes with corrections; Tammy Abbott-Thiel seconded; Motion passed. Kay Wing moved to approve the draft November 10th Full Council Meeting Minutes with corrections; Tammy Abbott-Thiel seconded; Motion passed. The approved Minutes with corrections will be posted on the Council website.*

**3. Arizona Department of Health Services Presentations: 2020 AZ TBI Report; Child Fatality Review Report**

*Alexis Griffin provided a presentation on the 2021 Child Fatality Review Report; Amanda Swanson provided a presentation on the 2020 AZ TBI Report. A. Tarcy will coordinate with AzDHS to share the reports for us to post on the Council website.*

**4. Reports**

**a. Executive Committee**

**i) Review 2022 Full Council Meeting dates**

*Chair Pepiton reviewed the 2022 Meeting Dates with the Council Members. This document is in the Padlet.*

**b. RSA**

*Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator, provided an update. Currently, there are no plans to move towards all "in person" services; for any vaccine mandates. Morgan Harman, the Financial Analyst for the Council, provided the following update: approximately 17% of the SFY 2021 budget was unspent and returned to the Spinal and Head Injury Fund (SHIF); current projections for SFY 2022 are that the Council budget will be underspent by 22% but the budget they have seen an increase in spending over the past few months; SHIF collections continue in a downward trajectory. Mr. Harmon, RSA, and A. Tarcy will continue to closely monitor SHIF for the Council.*

**c. Council Office**

A. Tarpy provided an update on Council Office activities.

- *ISA with AzDHS: A. Tarpy reported that she continued to work with RSA Procurement to develop the ISA with AzDHS that was an approved project at the September 2021 Council Meeting. The ISA allows for regular AzDHS data presentations at Full Council Meetings, other data-related activities, and continued co-hosting of the three annual Injury Prevention Advisory Council (IPAC) meetings.*
- *Arizona Coalition for Military Families Annual Symposium: A. Tarpy shared that she is on the Symposium Planning Committee and is assisting with the coordination of two sessions: one on the intersection of Interpersonal Violence and TBI; the other with the TBI Polytrauma Team at the Southern AZ VA on Reconnecting after 20+ months of COVID. She will be reaching out to several Council members and BIAAZ for participation in the TBI/IPV session.*

**i) AzSCIA**

*Shannon Carter, Executive Director, provided an update on their activities. Staff are in the Office during the week and people come in on a regular basis. They continue conducting in person and virtual events for their community. The in-person events have been well attended and appreciated by the participants. Transportation services remain in high demand.*

**ii) BIAAZ**

*CFO, Carrie Collins-Fadell, provided an update on BIAAZ's activities. They continue to offer in person and virtual support and events. Staff are excited to be attending events out in the community again. The Rays of Hope event will be in person this year at Desert Willow Conference Center on May 13<sup>th</sup>.*

**(1) COVID Relief Funds**

*Carrie Collins-Fadell provided an update on the educational programs they completed for the COVID Relief Funds. The required report for the use of the funds was submitted on time.*

**5. Council member updates and announcements**

*Chair Pepiton shared that, We're Moving Forward, the non-profit that she and two other mothers of sons with brain injury had been created years ago, was dissolved. It was a difficult decision. They distributed their funds among six organizations who provided social and recreational activities accessible for brain injury survivors and their families. Jim Ledgewood shared information about two events that he is charge for the BIAAZ: the Run, Walk and Roll-a-Thon; and the April Victim's Crime Week activities. All are invited and more Information is available on the BIAAZ website.*

**6. Next scheduled Council Meeting**

*Will be Virtual on May 11, 2022. Council members were invited to share potential agenda items with A. Tarpy/Council or with Chair Pepiton.*

**7. Other**

*No other agenda items were identified.*

**8. Adjournment**

*There being no further business, Chair Pepiton adjourned the meeting at 3:27 pm.*

