

## Minutes of Public Meeting Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

### Full Council Meeting

A public meeting of the Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries (GCSHI) was convened on February 12, 2020 at 3425 E. Van Buren Street, Suite # 102 Phoenix, AZ 85008

**Council Members**

**Present:**

Jonathan Lifshitz  
Georg Alex Hishaw  
Tara Pepiton  
James Ledgewood  
Tim Flood  
James Sieffert  
Mary Kay Wing

Michael Lavoie  
Keith Watt  
James Oliver Bryan  
Benjamin Gross  
Evan Werk  
Kristen Bishop  
Kristen Mackey

**Council Members**

**Absent:**

Mary Lu Bushnell

**Staff Members:**

Ann Tarpy  
Belen Hamilton

Sylvia Aguilar  
Shelia Washington

**Guests:**

Carrie Collins-Fadell, BIAAZ  
Brian Mickelson, Public  
Jessica Lamartiniere, RSA/VR  
Carol Lopinski

Shannon Carter, AzSCIA  
Joe Bezich, DES/FBUA  
Lina Jones, RSA/VR  
Debbie Gebert, RSA/VR

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
  - a. Acting Chair, J. Lifshitz, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
2. Welcome and Introduction of newly appointed Council members
  - a. As there were eight (8) newly appointed Council members, the Acting Chair welcomed the new and reappointed members to introduce themselves.
3. Approvals
  - a. As we finally had a quorum to convene a meeting, the Council was able to approve the FY 2020 Council operating budget. Shelia Washington, Financial Manager and Analyst for the Council, reviewed the budget handouts for the Council members and responded to their questions. The Acting Chair called for a vote to approve the FY 2020 budget; Member M. Lavoie so moved; Member T. Pepiton seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.
4. Reports

a. RSA Update

i. Kristen Mackey, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Administrator and DES non-voting representative on the Council, provided the following updates for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program:

1. Significant progress on reducing the number of individuals on the Wait List due to the Order of Selection that began in 2009 with the goal of eventually suspending the wait list;
2. Continuing to explore ways to attract and retain staff;
3. New Voice of the Customer project to improve customer relationships with the clients;
4. Partnership with the DES/Department of Developmental Disabilities to increase the participation of individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities into the workforce.
5. RSA finished strong last fiscal year by exceeding their goals last year in job placements, number of exits with employment and quality of work.
6. A Customized Employment Pilot Project starting in March 2020 in the Southern part of the state;
7. Moving the current contracts with the Comprehensive Neuro-rehabilitation Programs to the Multiple Service Provider contract as of March 1, 2020. This provides an opportunity to contract with additional neuro-rehabilitation programs that meet the contract requirements.

b. DERS Finance & Business Operations Administration (FBOA)

i. FY 2020 Budget Spending Update

1. Provided by Ms. Washington as part of the approval of the budget. She advised that she would be leaving DES to take another position. Ms. Sylvia Aguilar will be the Analyst for the Council and has been working with Ms. Washington to prepare for the transition. The Acting Chair and Ms. Tarpay thanked Ms. Washington for her years of service to the Council.

ii. SHIF updates

1. The Spinal and Head Injury Fund (SHIF) will be discussed in more detail at the May Council Meeting.

c. Council office

i. Contractor updates and AzSCIA and BIAAZ presentations

1. The Executive Directors of the Arizona Spinal Cord Association (AzSCIA) and the Brain Injury Alliance of AZ (BIAAZ) provided slide presentations to the Council to update them on their contracted services.

ii. VR TBI educational series

1. Ann Tarpay, Executive Director of the GCSHI, shared that the Council is collaborating with RSA/VR and the VR counselors housed in the office and specializing in TBI and SCI to develop a series of TBI educational programs to increase the capacity of VR counselors: to identify clients

with brain injury and consistently use the Specialty Populations protocol to refer potential clients to the Unit here for consultation; and appropriately serve clients with brain injury to improve outcomes. Dr. Sue Wolf, consultant who has provided TBI and SCI education for the Council for over twenty (20) years will be the instructor. We will conduct a pilot program of TBI 101 for VR counselor on April 7, 2020 here at the Council office. We plan to create a TBI 202 and maybe 303 depending on the need. We are building in accountability measure for increase in use of the Specialty Protocol and improved client outcomes.

iii. Brain Injury Learning Collaborative

1. The National Center for Advancing Person Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS), housed in the Administration for Community Living where the Federal TBI Program is located, invited states to apply to participate in an unfunded eighteen (18) month Brain Injury Learning Collaborative (BILC) starting January 2020. The Council's application was accepted. The BILC will bring together teams that include individuals with lived experience of brain injury and leaders from service systems to work together to learn together and bring real and evidence-based changes to their systems. The AZ team includes: myself; the BIAAZ/Carrie Collins-Fadell; Tara Pepiton/Council Member and person with Lived Experience; and Jacy Farkas/Person Centered Initiative at the UA Sonoran University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and Austin Duncan/UCEDD and person with Lived Experience. Ms. Tarcy will provide additional information at the May Council Meeting.

iv. Updating Strategic Plan

1. The Strategic Plan was last updated in 2016. Carol Lopinski, a consultant with the Council, will begin the process at the May Council Meeting. The Acting Chair requested that Ms. Tarcy provide copies of the current and prior strategic plans for the Members to review as part of the update.

v. Plans for two (2) new opioid-related projects

1. Ms. Tarcy shared potential projects as a follow-up to the work that was done by the Council, AzSCIA, and BIAAZ in calendar years 2018 and 2019. The Association and the Alliance will share information at the May Council Meeting on the opioid-related projects they are doing through funding from AHCCCS.

5. Introduction to the Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

- a. Ms. Tarcy provided a power point presentation on the history of the Council, the budget, and introduction to the SHIF. She will provide a more detailed SHIF presentation at the May Council meeting.

6. Council member updates - none

Draft for discussion only until approved by the Council

7. Announcements and other items - none
8. Call to the public – No response
9. Next Scheduled Council Meeting – May 13, 2020
  - i. Tentative agenda items: approval of 2/12/2020 draft Meeting Minutes; Reports; SHIF presentation; Association and Alliance presentations to include their opioid-related projects with AHCCCS; begin review and update of current Strategic Plan.
10. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm