



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.

Notice of Virtual Public Meeting
Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries
Full Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
GoToMeeting

This virtual meeting is open to the public. Registration is not required to attend via GoToMeeting. Meeting information is available on <https://headspineaz.org/>. The Go to Meeting link will be open for access (live) fifteen (15) minutes prior to the meeting start time of 1:00 pm AZ time on May 13, 2020

Attendance:

Voting Council members: Tammy Abbott-Thiel, Kristen Bishop; Mary Lu Bushnell, Georg Hishaw, Michael Lavoie, James Ledgewood, Jonathan Lifshitz, Tara Pepiton, James Sieffert, Keith Watt, Evan Werk, Kay Wing

Non-voting Council members: Kristen Mackey, Tim Flood

Staff and contractors: Ann Tarpy, Sylvia Aguilar, Joe Bezich, Carrie Collins-Fidell, Shannon Carter, Carol Lopinski, Tiffany Wilkinson

Public: Tomi St. Mars, Brian Mickelson

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Dr. Jonathan Lifshitz, Acting Chair, opened the virtual meeting at 1:02. He welcomed the participants and invited the Council members to introduce themselves.

2. Vote to approval draft Minutes of meeting on February 12, 2020.

The draft Minutes from the meeting on 2/1/2020 were made available to the Council members for review prior to the meeting. A. Tarpy advised that Council Member T. Abbott-Thiel had advised that her name was missing from those in attendance and that the draft Minutes had been changed to add her name. Acting Chair Lifshitz called for a vote to approve the draft Minutes as amended; Keith Watt so moved and Tammy Abbott-Thiel seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. Ms. Tarpy will change footer in the Minutes from draft to approved with the date.

3. Presentation on Spinal and Head Injuries Fund (SHIF)

A. Tarpy provided a powerpoint presentation on "Understanding SHIF" to educate the Council Members about the Spinal and Head Injuries Trust Fund.

4. Updates on Council budget information for FY 2021

Sylvia Aguilar, Financial Analyst in the Finance and Budget Operations Administration (FBOA), provided an update on the status of the current spending for the FY 2020 budget and the proposed budget for FY 2021. Ms. Aguilar advised that FBOA wouldn't have sufficient information to prepare the FY2021 budget until July, 2020. For now, they are proposing the same budget that we have for FY2020.

5. Discussion of document prepared comparing the current and three prior strategic plans for the Council

Acting Chair Lifshitz requested at the February meeting that we conduct a comparison of at least the past two strategic plans for the Council as a way of beginning to assess the need to do a complete new strategic planning process. A. Tarpy had arranged for a strategic planning consultant, Carol Lopinski, to conduct the analysis. The analysis was provided to the Council members for their review prior to the meeting. It was discussed that it would be important to provide an opportunity for current Councilmembers to provide input on the Vision, Values, and Key Directions. The Mission is based on the statutes. The review of those areas of the Strategic Plan will be added to the agenda for the September meeting to provide members the opportunity to further review the current Strategic Plan and be prepared for a discussion at the September meeting .Dr. Tim Flood provided some recommendations for prevention that will be shared with the Council members and incorporated into the discussion in September.

6. Reports

- a. RSA Update from RSA Administration and the VR Unit serving clients with TBI and/or SCI

Kristen Mackey, RSA Program Administrator, provided a RSA Program update and the need to move to telework during the COVID-19 Response. She had prepared some VR TBI and SCI case numbers. Ms. Mackey will provide the information to Ms. Tarpy to share with the Council members.

- b. Council office –

- i. ***Council office updates on virtual TBI educational programs***
 - A. ***Tarpy shared information regarding the following activities:***
 - Website and COVID-19 information: The website has been updated and information about and/or links to information about BIAAZ and AzSCIA activities and about COVID-19 related to persons with disabilities are provided;***
 - TBI 100-505 educational programs: These are the programs that Empowerment Research provides for the Council. Dr. Wolf created and piloted virtual trainings for each of these programs; updated each program based on lessons learned and feedback; is conducting a second round of the series. Feedback has been very positive and the sessions are well attended. Many of the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors have been attending;***
 - VR TBI 101: We were working with Dr. Wolf and the counselors and Supervisor in the VR Unit at the Van Buren St. office to develop the first in a series of TBI educational programs specifically for VR Counselors. We had scheduled the first program for 4/7/2020 – before COVID-19. We were able to conduct the program virtually – morning session- on 5/12; we will conduct the afternoon session on 5/19/2020. We will share the evaluations and plans for VR TBI 202 and maybe 303 with Ms. Mackey.***

- ii. Contractor Updates

1. BIAAZ

Executive Director, Carrie Collins-Fadell, provided a powerpoint presentation on the variety of ways the BIAAZ was meeting the significant needs of persons with brain injury, their families and caregivers virtually. Staff are working virtually and still providing Resource Facilitation. Rays of Hope Expo has been virtual since May 1st and will be available through the end of the calendar year. Many other educational, support, and outreach events were conducted and are planned. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response. Virtual activities are likely to continue, at least through the end of the fiscal year.

2. AzSCIA

Executive Director, Shannon Carter, gave an update on the "Push Forward" conference on March shared how they have provided virtual support and outreach programs for their population. They held their first virtual Wheel Chair Skills class on 5/11/2020. She discussed how they see how these virtual events have helped them think about ways they could continue virtual programming and reach more consumers. Ms. Carter had found a grant opportunity that could provide funding special services (e.g. transportation for medical appointments, pick up prescriptions, someone to pick up groceries). As the Association has an accessible van, they were able to provide specialized services. They were awarded the grant and have been able to help a number of consumers. They were awarded additional funding based on how well they used the initial funding. Some of that funding was used to take all kinds of durable medical equipment and supplies from their loan closet and other needed goods up to the Navajo Nation. They were definitely a grateful nation.

7. Council member updates and announcements

Acting Chair Lifshitz shared that he had been reviewing the Council-related statutes provided in the Padlet and highlighted some of the duties in the Chat feature for the Members to review. Among them, "A.1 Advise appropriate state agencies, the governor, and the legislature on matters and issues relating to spinal and head injuries and rehabilitation." He inquired if Dr. Tim Flood if there were data that would assist in identifying issues. Dr. Flood shared that it would be a good idea to review the data to identify key issues to take action on, such as advising on prevention of leading causes of head and spinal cord injury- falls, motor vehicle crashes, and assaults. Dr. Flood recommended talking with other organizations charged with prevention and provide data to guide their efforts. He had created a document that he was sending to Dr. Lifshitz and A. Tarpy with recommendations for prevention strategies. Ms. Tarpy advised that this document would be placed in the Padlet for this meeting and be included in future discussions on the strategic plan.

	<p><i>Acting Chair Lifshitz asked the Council members to be thinking about what information about our head and spinal injury populations that we might consider preparing a report to share with the Governor, legislatures, or others for whom the information would be appropriate.</i></p> <p>8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting – September 9, 2020</p> <p><i>Acting Chair Lifshitz reminded the Council members of the next scheduled meeting.</i></p> <p>9. Call to the public</p> <p><i>The call was made; no response.</i></p> <p>10. Adjournment</p> <p><i>Acting Chair Lifshitz asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Abbott-Thiel moved and Council Member Lavoie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.</i></p>