

Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries  
October 1, 2010  
Disability Empowerment Center  
Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center  
5025 E. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Council members : Robert Bohm, Mary Lu Bushnell, Javier Cardenas, Gary Frandino, Tim Flood, Greg Lewis, Bryan Longie, Kathy Levandowsky, Laura Nelson, Carolyn Mitchell, Sharon Phillips, Sydney Rice, Paula Seanez

Council Staff: Lisette Camacho, Aurora Gonzales, Ann Tarpy

Facilitator: B.J. Tatro

Guests: Mattie Cummins, Paul Mortensen, Chrystal Snyder, Christopher Deere, Kathleen Cady

**1. Welcome and opening activities**

Council Chair, Sharon Phillips, welcomed the Council members and thanked them for coming today. Ann Tarpy, Acting Executive Director for the Council reviewed the agenda and the desired result for the Retreat: Increased awareness of the connection between the Strategic Plan and the results we are seeing from the Council's activities, programs, and projects.

**2. Review and approve minutes of meeting on June 29, 2010**

The draft minutes had been sent to the Council members prior to the meeting for their review. There were no additions or corrections.

Motion and vote:

Ms. Phillips called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Bryan Longie so moved; Paula Seanez seconded the motion.

Ms. Phillips called for a vote: All signaled "aye". Motion carried.

**3. Review and approve updated Council budget for SFY 2011**

The revised and updated budget had been sent to the Council members prior to the Retreat for their review. Lisette Camacho, Business Manager for the Council, reviewed the documents and discussed the changes. The total budget amount remains the same but minor adjustments had to be made in some of the line items.

Motion and vote:

Ms. Phillips called for a motion to approve the revised Council budget for SFY 2011

Motion: Laura Nelson so moved; Carolyn Mitchell seconded the motion.

Ms. Phillips called for a vote. All signaled aye. Motion carried.

**4. Set meeting dates for 2010-2011**

APPROVED 02/02/11

The members agreed to keep the quarterly meetings on Wednesdays and the annual strategic planning retreat on a Friday. The following dates were selected. The Council meetings will continue to be held on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. The annual retreat will held on a Friday in October; starting time TBD. The members selected the following meeting dates:

Quarterly meetings at 1:00 pm on: December 1, 2010; February 2, 2011; May4, 2011

Annual Council Retreat: October 14, 2011; start time TBD

Meeting locations: TBD

5. **Review and reaffirmation of mission, vision, values and beliefs and key directions**

Ms. Tatro reviewed the current strategic plan with the members. The members reaffirmed the mission, vision statement, values and beliefs statement, and the Key Directions.

6. **Council program and project presentations and strategic analysis**

Presentations were made by: the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association (AzSCIA) and the Brain Injury Association of Arizona (BIAAZ) on the services provided through their contracts with the Council; Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on the use of Council funds for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) TBI Specialists and Independent Living Rehabilitation Services (ILRS) Programs. Chrystal Snyder of Bablove Ridgewood Work Group, one of the contractors working with the Council on the Federal TBI grant (AZ Transitions Project), provided a presentation on the Warrior Support-related activities. Upon completion of the presentations, Ms. Tatro facilitated a discussion of how and whether these activities, programs, and projects serve to advance the Key Directions in the Council's strategic plan. It was agreed that they do support the work of the Council and are in alignment with the strategic plan.

7. **Review, discuss, and update Strategies in the Council's 2010-2013 Strategic Plan**

At the 2009 Strategic Planning Retreat, the Council members updated and made some revisions to the strategies for the Key Directions in light of the economy and the impact of the state budget crisis on the Spinal and Head Injuries Fund. The members were asked to again review the strategies for further refinement. The following is a summary of the discussion:

Key Direction #1 Facilitate empowerment of consumers and families

There was a question and discussion about what "empowerment" means and how can we know if we have been successful in "facilitating empowerment."

Key Direction #2: Improve system inclusiveness and responsiveness

It was noted that:

- Improving system inclusiveness and responsiveness has become increasingly difficult in the face of budget cuts in services and systems that impact persons with SCI and TBI and their families.

- The Council will need to continue to monitor the impact of healthcare reform on persons with SCI and TBI.

Key Direction #2 includes a strategy related to education for providers. There was a question about whether first responders would be included and they are. For example, some attended the professional development symposium held in collaboration with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families as part of the warrior support activities for the federal TBI grant. It was noted that this is an important group.

Key Direction #3: Promote prevention of injuries and subsequent conditions

It was noted that aging with a disability will be a topic of increasing interest because persons with SCI and TBI are living longer. This subject has been and will continue to be addressed in some of the educational classes provided by AzSCIA as part of their contract with the Council.

Key Direction #3 includes a strategy related to data collection and surveillance. What are we doing now and what should we be doing with respect to this strategy? This may need further discussion. Currently, ADHS funds an injury epidemiologist through an injury prevention grant from CDC. They have prepared annual reports on TBI for the past three to four years. The data are very helpful for presentations as well as supporting injury prevention efforts.

Key Directions #1-#3 all include the strategy “education for survivors and family members”. Members recommended that this be expanded to read “education **and support** for survivors and family members.”

Key Direction #4: Strengthen and sustain the Council

When the group reviewed Key Direction #4, it was recommended by one Council member that the strategies be stated in action terms and perhaps further explained. For example, rather than saying “Planning” as the strategy, the action to be taken with respect to planning should be stated.

It was recommended that the results of the strategies also be stated—if we do X, we expect Y to happen.

Key Directions #2 and #4 include a strategy related to education for elected officials and other policy makers. What are we doing now and what should we be doing with respect to this strategy? This may need further discussion. Dr. Flood reported that the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is able to produce some data by legislative district.

**8. Council member announcements and updates**

Bryan Longie provided an update on the work he is doing at Phoenix Indian Medical Center. Javier Cardenas provided an update on the B.R.A.I.N.S. clinic and the connection to the BIAAZ.

9. **Call to the public**

Ms. Phillips extended a call to the public; no response.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.