

BIAC April 15, 2021 Meeting

Attendees: Dan Arnold, Sahithi Aurand, Mary Charney, John Corrigan, Kathryn Coxe, Danny Eakins, Julie Fasick-Johnson, Jessica Folsom, Amy Lawson, Monica Lichi, Brei Miller, Rachel Ramirez, Stephanie Ramsey, Bob Roehm, Eva Shinka, Spencer Smith, Kathy Stachowski, Teresa Teeple, Greg Wagner, Mussa Zatreh

Guest(s): Brian Wilson

10:00 a.m. Call to Order

Meeting Minutes – change to meeting minutes to state that Ohio does NOT have a plan for rationing care in place. Julie motioned to approved and Danny seconded. Minutes approved.

10:10 a.m. OAC 4123-6-34 Payment for Treatment of Concussion Injuries

Dr. Brian Wilson, Bureau of Workers' Compensation

One of the largest state run compensation insurance systems. Ohio BWC pays for medical treatment when a worker is injured on the job. BWC also pays for home and vehicle modifications as well as lost wages. Approximately 85,000 new injury/illness cases are filed per year. Last year they saw a 30% decrease in claims. This is from a combination of COVID and increased use of safety equipment and practices within the workplace. Of those cases filed each year about 2000 of the cases are brain injury with 97% of those being mild. The most seen causes of injury are fall, being struck by an object, or motor vehicle accident.

To help mitigate long term risk timely interventions need to be provided. Some claims are not being approved because the mechanism of injury has not been looked at to see why the service/item is being requested. A concussion subcommittee was developed to address these issues. The subcommittee agreed that early intervention decreases the duration of disability. Every concussion is unique in the clinical manifestation.

A rule was made that governs BWC's reimbursement for services. The rule supersedes the clinical guidelines. The rule makes one look at the mechanism of injury and the clinical manifestations to see if treatment is required.

Clinical manifestations include a change in mental state, loss of consciousness, retrograde amnesia, and limited security. These are the signs and symptoms associated with the injury.

According to the rule the reasonable timeframe for evaluation and treatment is six weeks from time of injury. Signs and symptoms generally appear within six weeks of injury. The rule authorizes treatment for the injury for six months from date of injury, extensions can be requested if warranted.

10:40 a.m. Ohio BRAINS – John Corrigan and Stephanie Ramsey

The Brain Injury Program and the BIAC have developed a plan for Ohioans living with the effects of brain injury. Want to identify and link Ohioans with brain injury to resources and increase access to care and quality of care. Want to create partnerships to assist communities to establish support groups and programs.

House Bill 110 has a \$550,000 line item for the Ohio Brain Injury Program. The original ask was almost double that amount. The revised budget from the Ohio House is being released this week. The House should pass the budget soon and then it will move to the Senate. The deadline for a balanced budget is midnight on June 30.

11:10 a.m. Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Grant –John Corrigan

The ACL grant is up for renewal. The application deadline is May 27. The new funding cycle is projected to begin July 1. This time the grant is for five years instead of three (OH actually only got two years because the grant was received one year into the cycle). Other requirements are that there must be 2:1 matching state funds and 50% of the advisory board members must have had a TBI. Those members have to be in place within twelve months of the start of the grant. If not there could be a decrease in funding. Need to have 1 FTE employee (can be more than one person, but needs to equate 1 FTE), need to have an emphasis on diverse, underserved populations, and establish culturally competent resource facilitation practices.

Person-centered Resource Facilitation- it is a four step, structured interaction between the person and a facilitator. The steps are 1) explain the role of the brain injury in their life, 2) identify compensatory state, 3) review brain health, and 4) make plans for the next steps.

11:40 a.m. Workgroup Updates

Data Stephanie Ramsey

Group talked about goals for the next report which is due at the end of the first quarter of 2022. They have discussed the timetable for the distribution of that report. They are working on how to divvy up the writing of the report. The group has been divided into two sub-groups; analytic development group and the cost group. They also plan to reach out to the Chronic Brain Injury group.

Communications Kathy Stachowski

Lots going on with Ohio BRAINS. In the last work group meeting elevator speeches were discussed and the notes from the TBI Summit were reviewed. Group has discussed how this information can be included in Ohio BRAINS. Group wants to know how we can better educate ourselves as a group.

Education & Training- Monica Lichi

Continuing to work on Spencer Smith's white paper.

Services Teresa Teeple

The Workgroup has been brainstorming over the past few work group meetings about ways to build in time for partners to share during the group. They have had partners come speak about behavioral health services to fill in the gaps for care for brain injury and Larke Recchie spoke about AAAs.

11:50a Adjournment.

Next meeting July 15 via Zoom. May be able to meet in person for October 21 meeting.