

Brain Injury Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

January 31, 2025

Community Voices Members	Organizational Representative Members	Brain Injury Program Staff
Tia Clark	Marsha Burrignt	Maggie Ferguson ✓
Brenda Easter ✓	Catherine Johnson ✓	Jim Pender ✓
Andrea Gomez ✓	June Klein-Bacon ✓	Toby Yak ✓
Eric Lietsch ✓	Brooke Lovelace ✓	
Ashley Smith	Krys Purscell ✓	
Jim Torner ✓	Margot McComas ✓	
Jordan True ✓	LeAnn Moskowitz ✓	
	Zach Rhein ✓	
	Angela VanPelt ✓	
	Melissa Walker ✓	

Guest/s: Jancy Nielson, Legal Counsel for Iowa HHS Public Health Division.

Call to order. Ferguson started the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Summarizing the role of this committee. Jancy Nielson, summarized the role of this committee and answered questions. She will provide information for an orientation packet that this group may find useful related to statutory requirements. She did not have an update on a process for collecting or selecting applications at this time, but stated the group should feel free to start recruitment activities.

Member introductions. Members of the committee introduced themselves and their role or background. Ferguson then shared some additional information regarding the background of the group and a list of community members and organization representatives who comprise this committee. (A complete list of members and their affiliation is included in the meetings slides, *brain injury committee 1.31.2025 final.pdf*).

Establish ground rules & committee structure. Committee members established the following ground rules for this group:

- Be kind.
- Ask to speak by raising hand or requesting in chat.
- Be present.

- Avoid jargon and acronyms; Use plain language.
- Respect all voices in the room; “Step up and step back”.
- Come prepared. Ask questions.

The group discussed and decided to have a committee chairperson. This person will facilitate meetings and as a representative of the group to present recommendations (as needed) to the Iowa Health & Human Services (HHS) Council. Easter was asked to serve in this role by the committee members and accepted the responsibility.

Committee mission statement. Committee members were tasked by the HHS Council to develop a mission statement. After robust discussion, True made a motion, seconded by Liesch, to approve “*To help Iowans by suggesting system changes that can stop brain injuries from happening and make things better for those who already have one*” as the committee’ mission statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming agenda topics/tasks. Ferguson outlined potential agenda topics/tasks for future meetings, including

- Conduct red-tape review (review and, as needed, update administrative rules),
- Conduct needs assessment, and
- Develop state plan development.

The plan is to have meetings be focused on discussion and tasks, not as report heavy as meetings of the former Advisory Council on Brain Injuries (ACBI).

Moskowitz shared that she would anticipate opportunities for this group to participate in Medicaid discussions related to waiver and service changes, similar to how the ACBI participated in these conversations in the past, particularly with the upcoming changes to the Home and Community Based Waivers. She also shared a brief overview of the [Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments \(HOME\) project](#) as an opportunity for discussion.

Establish meeting dates. The group discussed frequency and length of meetings for the future. The consensus was that they will meet no longer than 4 hours and settled on meetings 1 to 3 hours in length. They would like to establish meeting dates via doodle poll, with meeting to also be planned for prior to the HHS Council meetings. The group also determined that meetings could be held remotely, with one meeting a year to be held in person, with the potential to hold the meeting in conjunction with the annual brain injury conference.

Action item: Ferguson will send out doodle poll.

Public comment. Klein-Bacon shared that registration is open for the annual brain injury conference. No other public comment was made.

Adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Pruscell and seconded by Lietsch. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting concluded at 11:43 a.m.