

# Iowa HHS Brain Injury Advisory Committee

January 31, 2025

# Background

The Advisory Council on Brain Injuries was eliminated in July 2024, following the signing of Senate File 2385.

In November 2024, the Brain Injury Program brought forward a recommendation to the Iowa Health & Human Services (HHS) Council to form a subcommittee on brain injury, including recommendations for membership based on requirements within the federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act and the Administration for Community Living TBI grant.

# Committee Members

## Community Voices

- **Tia Clark**
- **Andrea Gomez**
- **Eric Lietsch**
- **Brenda Easter**
- **Ashley Smith**
- **Jim Torner**
- **Jordan True**
- Open - 4 individuals with lived experience
- Open - Representative from an Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Open - Family member
- Open - Brain Injury provider

# Committee Members (continued)

## Organization Representatives

- **Krys Purscell**, Exec. Director. Statewide Independent Living Council
- **Brooke Lovelace**, Exec. Director. Developmental Disabilities Council
- **Catherine Johnson**, Exec. Director. Disability Rights Iowa
- **June Klein-Bacon**, Exec. Director. Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa
- **Melissa Walker**, designee for Director Snow. Dept. of Education
- **Zach Rhein**, Administrator. Iowa HHS Aging & Disability Services Div.
- **Angela VanPelt**, Long-term Care Ombudsman. Iowa HHS.
- **Margot McComas**, designee for Dr. Kruse. Iowa HHS Public Health Div.
- **LeAnn Moskowitz**, designee for Medicaid Director. Iowa HHS Medicaid Div.
- **Marsha Burreight**, designee for Dr. James Williams. Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

# Iowa HHS Brain Injury Team

**Maggie Ferguson, MS, CRC, CBIST**

Disability & Injury Prevention Project Director

**Jim Pender, LMSW**

Brain Injury Grant Manager

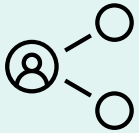
**Toby Yak, PhD, MPH**

Injury Epidemiologist

## Ground Rules



**Be present.**



Avoid jargon and acronyms.  
**Use Plain Language.**



**Respect** all voices in the room.  
Step up & Step back.



**Come prepared.**  
**Ask questions.**

# Committee Structure

- ▶ Designate a Committee Chairperson.
- ▶ Other roles?

# Mission Statement (Decision)

- ▶ Iowa HHS Council directed the first task of this committee to develop a mission statement.
- ▶ A mission statement is a simple statement describing
  - a group's purpose or reason for being,
  - what impact you hope to have, and
  - who you are trying to help.

Draft Mission:

*To reduce the impact of brain injury in Iowa by recommending policies and programs to prevent brain injury and to improve outcomes for those who have sustained one.*



# Upcoming Activities for Agenda

## **Conduct red-tape reviews**

Review and update administrative rules

- Brain Injury Services Program (chapter 56),
- Brain Injury Registry (chapter 21), and
- Concussion Return-to-Play Protocol (chapter 54).

## **Conduct a brain injury needs assessment**

## **Draft new *State Plan on Brain Injuries***

# Committee Meeting Schedule (decision)

- ▶ Frequency of meetings?
- ▶ Meeting length?
- ▶ Virtual or hybrid?

# Where to find committee information

Webpage: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/advisory-groups/iowa-hhs-brain-injury-advisory-committee>

Email: [brain.injury@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:brain.injury@hhs.iowa.gov)