

North Dakota Brain Injury
**ADVISORY COUNCIL
STATE PLAN REPORT**

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027



**NORTH DAKOTA
BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK**

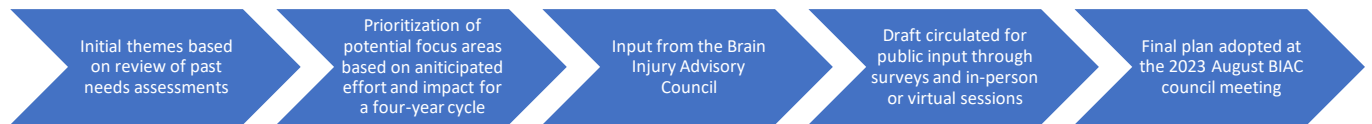
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North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council State Plan Report July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027

The 2022-23 North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) prioritized the development of a four-year plan to guide its efforts from July 2023 through June 2027. Members of the strategic planning committee as well as the North Dakota Survivor Engagement Group (SEG) received facilitation support to implement a process for state plan development. The process included:



The four-year state plan prioritizes six focus areas: services, education and awareness, housing, general financial resources, data, and self-advocacy and engagement. In addition, 24 specific goals along with measurable objectives were determined throughout the plan. The SEG is managing the implementation and activities of the self-advocacy and engagement goals, and the BIAC has responsibility for the other five focus areas.

Person-Centered Philosophies of the State Plan

- Support. Don't "fix."
- Build a culture of learning, partnership, and accountability.
- Apply person-centered approaches work across settings. In organizations as well as families. In the Survivor Engagement Group and the Brain Injury Advisory Council.
- Everyone can learn.
- Change is to be expected.

In addition to this report, the plan is available for review in a detailed, table format and a one-page infographic. The following membership was responsible for the development and approval of the report.

2022-2023 Council Members

The Honorable Howard Anderson, Jr.

The Honorable JoNell Bakke

Barbara Burghart

Shannon Cook

Morgan Edmundson

The Honorable Clayton Fegley

Bobbiann Froemke

Christine Greff

Denise Harvey (Council Secretary)

Bradley Hawk

Nan Kennelly (Council Chair)

Melissa Klocke-Joyce

Skipp Miller

Elizabeth Oestreich

Sarah Ring (Council Vice-Chair)

Darcy Severson

Jessica Siefken

Additionally, subject matter expertise was provided by the North Dakota Brain Injury Network (NDBIN) staff including Rebecca Quinn (director), Carly Endres (senior project coordinator), and Nickie Livedalen (resource facilitator). The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) provided state plan facilitation support and Consensus Council delivered administrative and meeting services for the council and strategic planning committee.

Reference Section

Interim study means: A potential study through the North Dakota Legislative Management to examine if services provided in the state relating to the care and treatment of individuals with brain injury are adequate, including a review of the state's existing programs to identify potential pathways and treatment options for individuals with brain injury, gap identification with programmatic recommendations identifying potential strategies to address the gaps, potential federal and state funding sources for services, and developing a method to evaluate the efficacy of new programs.

NASHIA means: The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators. North Dakota is contracting with NASHIA for support with its 2023-2027 State Plan development process as well as board development activities.

TARC means: The Technical Assistance and Resource Center, a national resource for recipients of Administration for Community Living (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program grantees (which includes North Dakota).

Survivor Engagement Group means: A group of brain injury survivors in North Dakota who meet monthly to provide input and ideas to the Brain Injury Advisory Council to emphasize the delivery of person-centered services.

SERVICES

Improving service delivery and awareness of available services in North Dakota represents the first focus area. Specifically, the BIAC seeks to clarify the brain injury service continuum and improve service engagement for people with brain injury (including underserved and high prevalence populations).

Goal 1 - Research other state approaches and implement an affordable media and/or outreach awareness campaign. Objectives include:

- In state plan year one, NDBIN will partner with the Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TARC) to obtain examples of various state campaigns, funding approaches of varying financial levels, and potential funders for the BIAC/BIAC committee.
- No later than state plan year two, the council will partner on implementation of outreach campaign strategies consistent with available funds.

Goal 2 - Research options for implementing discharge release of information and brain injury registry for the purposes of warm follow up. Objectives include:

- In state plan year one, NDBIN will seek information about other state strategies from the TARC on client referral/release of information at time of hospital discharge.
- Within state plan year two and following receipt of an anticipated interim study report, the BIAC will determine and take action on realistic options for implementation.

Goal 3 - Increase NDBIN provider and survivor exposure at opportunities such as job fairs, health fairs, open house events, hospital, and clinic tours. Objectives include:

- No later than state plan year two, NDBIN, in collaboration with the survivor engagement group, the BIAC, and other interested partners, will establish common and formal protocols for coordinated outreach (e.g. request process and delivery methods) as well as realistic, annual target numbers for annual outreach events.

Goal 4 - Examine feasibility of increasing regional resource facilitation.
Objectives include:

- In state plan year one, monitor the Department of Health and Human Services 2023-2025 budget review and approval process.

Goal 5 - Evaluate and make recommendations for increasing brain injury providers within the 1915(i) program. Objectives include:

- In state plan year one, NDBIN will finalize a brain injury track for peer support specialists through the Brain Injury Endorsement initiative.
- Also in state plan year one, NDBIN will determine a method to track providers by discipline (e.g. Home and Community Based Services, behavioral health, peer specialists) and initiate tracking.
- Upon receipt of interim study report, council will assess and determine actionable recommendations along with courses of action within six months.

Goal 6 - Research models for day programming through Long Term Services and Supports. Objectives include:

- NDBIN, in partnership with the TARC, will request and provide day programming state examples to BIAC committee in state plan year one.
- No later than state plan year one, a new council member to represent aging and adult services will be determined.
- Upon receipt of interim study report, council will assess and determine actionable recommendations along with courses of action within six months.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Focus area two focuses on improving brain injury awareness and brain injury-informed service delivery with consideration of family members, educators, law enforcement/justice settings, healthcare and human services providers, and members of the general public.

Goal 1 - Create a public campaign: "What is Brain Injury" with a focus on topics including concussion, hidden brain injury, brain injury resources, etc. Objectives include:

- No later than state plan year one, NDBIN will initiate video editing support services through the university to create vignettes of individuals with brain injury on awareness topics.
- In state plan year two, the education committee will plan the needed materials for an expanded public campaign using available vignettes and other state examples or templates and determine the extent of the campaign based on available budget.

Goal 2 - Enhance North Dakota school district, adult education, and general educational development (GED) staff knowledge and awareness of NDBIN and specialized supports for people with brain injury. Objectives include:

- In state plan year one the North Dakota Department of Health & Human Services, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, and NDBIN representatives will convene to plan coordinated approach for building awareness along with prospective products.
- No later than state plan year three, the planning team will finalize and implement use of a revised toolkit along with a schedule of regular training offerings.

Goal 3 - Implement a regularly scheduled introduction to brain injury and brain injury services utilizing examples from other states (e.g. Maryland's check-in chat.) Objective:

- Within year one, Living Life Fully staff will research strategies and develop an orientation to brain injury for use with individuals with lived experience, family members, and caregivers.

Goal 4 - Create education opportunities for healthcare and human services providers. Objectives include:

- By state plan year two, the education committee will develop needed resources, finalize an outreach plan, and begin implementation.
- Each state plan year, the education committee will research and prioritize two or more audiences for outreach and brain injury training.

HOUSING

Focus area three focuses on improving the landscape of permanent supportive housing options as well as access to accessible housing for people with disabilities, to include people with brain injury.

Goal 1 - Increase brain injury representation on disability-focused committees and boards such as Money Follows the Person, Medicaid stakeholder groups, and others. Objective:

- In state plan year one, the BIAC or BIAC committee will determine boards, committees, or councils where brain injury representation will be most beneficial and will match opportunities with interested representatives.

Goal 2 - Investigate options for Supportive Long-Term Housing for individuals with complex care needs. Objective:

- Upon receipt of interim study report, council will assess and determine actionable recommendations along with courses of action within six months.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Growing the pool of and awareness about financial assistance options available for people with brain injury in North Dakota represents focus area four of the state plan.

Goal 1 - Examine and communicate resources for helping people with disabilities transition back into the community and home settings, including utilization of the new Social Security Income/Social Security Disability Income Outreach, Access, and Recovery programs in North Dakota. Objective:

- By state plan year one, the BIAC or a BIAC committee, in partnership with NDBIN will conduct research into North Dakota resources available for individuals with brain injury.

Goal 2 - Increase awareness and utilization of supports from the North Dakota Association of the Disabled (NDAD) and North Dakota Assistive and other options. Objective:

- In state plan year two and each subsequent state plan year, the BIAC or a BIAC committee, in partnership with NDBIN, will determine and take action on two or more strategies for sharing information about the North Dakota resources.

Goal 3 - Research other state methods for assisting with time-limited costs associated with brain injury needs, e.g. overnight stay for assessments, home modifications, rent assistance, pre-benefits subsistence, transportation, etc. Objective:

- In state plan year three, NDBIN, in partnership with the TARC at NASHIA, will compile innovative approaches states have used to establish discretionary fund opportunities for individuals with brain injury. The BIAC or a BIAC committee will determine approaches that might be feasible in North Dakota in state plan years three and four.

DATA

Focus area five focuses on improving the consistency and availability of brain injury data among systems in North Dakota.

Goal 1 - Study options to strengthen brain injury data sharing and definition use in ND. Objectives include:

- In state plan year one, NDBIN will transition data management into a new database, Salesforce.
- In state plan year two, the data committee will work to identify opportunities for data sharing and will research how brain injury is defined within North Dakota's state systems to identify opportunities for common definition use.

Goal 2 - Study Medicaid payment and/or coding data and make recommendations related to brain injury services for people with brain injury. Objective:

- Upon receipt of interim study report and in state plan years two and three, the data committee will determine opportunities to build capacity for Medicaid services for individuals with brain injury.

Goal 3 - Strengthen collaboration with the trauma registry. Objective:

- In state plan year three, the BIAC or a BIAC committee will connect with trauma registry staff and explore opportunities to improve collaboration and information sharing.

SELF-ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

The Survivor Engagement Group (SEG) is a stand-alone group of persons with lived experience (outside of the BIAC) who determined a focus area of elevating voices and engagement of people with lived experience.

Goal 1 - Formalize structure and expand diversity of the SEG. Objective:

- In state plan year one, the SEG will define the group structure and associated guidelines for the SEG and determine membership gaps from

a diversity perspective and target recruitment of at least three new members.

Goal 2 - Expand activities of the SEG. Objectives include:

- Each state plan year, the SEG will offer a minimum of one informal activity, e.g. concert, comedy night.
- By state plan year four, goal is to have one informal activity in each of the regions of the state.

Goal 3 - Create a speaker's bureau with the goal of expanding survivor presentations (individual or paired) in varied settings. Objective:

- In state plan year one, the SEG will define the bureau, develop processes and materials, and finalize a statewide roster of speakers with support from NDBIN.

Goal 4 - Expand volunteer opportunities for North Dakota survivors with brain injury. Objective:

- In state plan year two, the SEG will research and prepare a list of volunteer agencies receptive to brain injury training and supportive approaches.

Goal 5 - Connect more people with a brain injury to the Survivor Connections Program. Objective:

- In state plan year one, one or more new marketing strategies will be implemented to increase participation in the Survivor Connections program reaching a target of 10 individuals per quarter.

Goal 6 - Expand reach of the Living Life Fully self-advocacy course through attendance and potentially new trainers. Objectives include:

- In state plan year one, the SEG, in partnership with NDBIN, will seek to regularly increase participation in Living Life Fully by survivors.
- In state plan year two, the SEG, in partnership with NDBIN, will tailor and offer at least one revised version of Living Life Fully to a new audience, e.g., professionals, family members/caregivers.

Along with the SEG, four committees of the BIAC will engage in state plan activities and monitoring – 1) data, 2) services and resources 3) education and 4) strategic planning.

The **data committee** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 4:00 pm Central (January, March, April, June, July, September, October, and December).

The **services and resources committee** meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm Central (January, March, April, June, July, September, October, and December).

The **education and awareness committee** meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at noon Central.

The **strategic planning committee** meets monthly on the third Monday of the month at noon Central.

Those interested in being involved with a state plan committee are encouraged to contact NDBIN Director Rebecca Quinn at rebecca.quinn@und.edu.

A report on progress of the state plan will be produced and disseminated annually.