

<p><b>West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBIW) Quality Improvement Advisory (QIA) Council Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>DATE: May 15, 2025</b> <b>TIME: 9:00AM - 12:05 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Members Present:</b></p>	
<p>Rodney Smith, Chair- Consumer Representative William Jones- Consumer Representative Brad Anderson- Consumer Representative Angela Morales– West Virginia Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVCED) Delena Arthur– Community Stakeholder Kimberly Auton and Regina Westfall– ResCare Homecare Taniu Hardy– Disabilities Rights of WV</p>	
<p><b>Members Not Present:</b></p>	
<p>Leslie Slack, Nikki Wills</p>	
<p><b>Others Present:</b></p>	
<p>Teresa McDonough– Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) Shari Heinaman- BMS Amanda Filippelli, Sara Martin, and Jennifer Ferrell- Money Follows the Person/Take Me Home WV (MFP/TMH) April Goebel– PALCO Carissa Davis- Olmstead Barb Recknagel, Jasper Smith, and Kelly Shamblin- Acentra Health</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction</u></b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes were presented and approved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Motion to approve: Delena Arthur</b></li> <li>○ <b>Motion to Second: Regina Westfall</b></li> <li>○ <b>Motion Carried</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Old Business:</u></b></p>	
<p>There was no old business.</p>	
<p><b><u>New Business:</u></b></p>	
<p>During Public Comment, the following motion was made: The Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver’s (TBIW) Quality Improvement Advisory (QIA) Council will endorse the following statement: Brain Injury Specific Rehabilitation Services is a needed service in West Virginia.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Motion to approve: William Jones</b></li> <li>○ <b>Motion to Second: Taniu Hardy</b></li> <li>○ <b>Motion Carried</b></li> <li>• Motion was made to have Brad Anderson fill the vacant voting position on the Council for one year (2025-2026). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Motion to approve: Taniu Hardy</b></li> <li>○ <b>Motion to Second: William Jones</b></li> <li>○ <b>Motion Carried</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**BMS Updates:**

Teresa McDonough presented the following BMS updates:

- The Rate Increase Waiver application amendment was submitted and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The five-year renewal application was submitted to the CMS on April 1, 2025. The CMS has provided feedback and request for clarification on fourteen items. Those items were addressed, and the application was returned to the CMS for their ongoing review. Major changes to the waiver reflected in this application include removal of the pre financial eligibility process, removal of the six-month Assessment and Service Planning requirement and remove criteria for the use of the Service Code, Pest Eradication that was burdensome for the provider.
- The BMS received eight public comments on the renewal application. The completed Comment Log can be found at: TBIW Renewal Public Comment Log March 2025.pdf. Council members can view this document for specific details. In general comments were positive in nature, comments regarding no increase in the number of individuals served were made and consideration for additional services such as respite and brain injury specific, community-based, residential rehabilitation.
- The total number of TBIW slots approved by the CMS is 102, with 91 members currently active (April 2025) and 101 served to date. The MFP/TMH program gave three of its four reserved slots back to prevent waitlist for pending applicants. The program now has a Managed Enrollment List (MEL). The new state fiscal year (SFY) will start July 1, 2025, and any unused slots will roll over and will be used. Four slots are reserved every year for the MPF/TMH services.
- The joint provider calls that begin during COVID have now ended. Each program (TBIW) has maintained holding Quarterly Provider Meetings (remotely). TBIW has structured the provider quarterly meetings in two segments, allowing for the morning sessions focused on policy/program processes and forms. The afternoon session is dedicated to knowledge and skills training for case managers and personal attendant staff. The BMS has started a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document that will be used to provide direction for providers and will be used to formulate or clarify policy.
- Revisions to *Chapter 512, Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver* have been completed, reviewed with the BMS leadership, and put out for public comment. The updated manual was to take effect on February 1, 2025, but the administration put it on hold until further notice. Policy changes that will result from the Waiver renewal have been drafted and sent to leadership. Provider training is tentatively set for June 10, 2025.

**Money Follows the Person/Take Me Home WV (MFP/TMH) Update:**

Sara Martin and Jennifer Ferrell presented the following update:

- One TBIW transition plan is approved, and the last remaining slot for SFY 2025 has been awarded to the applicant. Three of the reserved TMH slots were returned and issued to eligible applicants during this SFY.

**PALCO Update:**

April Goebel presented the following update:

- The April 2025 activity report showed 43 active members, with three members disenrolled for the following reasons: Member Death, Member choice to Transfer and an Involuntary Transfer. Council member William Jones shared concerns that he has experience with self-direction. He shared that the number of hours available has decreased since the new rate increase occurred. April agreed to look into the concern raised and work with the member for resolution.

**Utilization Management Contractor (UMC)/Acentra Health Update:**

Barbara Recknagel provided the following updates:

- From October 2024-March 2025, there have been three Environmental Adaptive Accessibility (EAA) request made and approved for members. All three requests were for home adaptations. During the quarterly provider meeting, Acentra Health presented a revised EAA form and instructions. The revisions were made after reviewing the process with a provider agency and receiving feedback on the format of the form.
- The UMC conducted provider training in the afternoon on April 10th for Personal Attendant and Case Management providers. 12 individuals attended; overall feedback was 4.6 out of 5 (highly agree). The UMC has developed a provider survey to gauge interest in direct care for staff receiving the Trauma Informed Person-Centered Care (TIPCC). Findings from the survey will guide training session. The UMC will be presenting at The Mountain State Conference on Disabilities, September 18-19, 2025. Acentra Health staff, certified TIPCC trainer Kathryne Smith, will present a two-hour workshop.
- The Quality Management Plan for Q3 was presented to the Council. The Service Planning and Member Safeguard performance measures and compliance rating were reviewed. The Council did not have any additional suggestions for remediation or quality improvement activities in addition to what was presented.
- During the third quarter there were 20 critical incidents reported in the West Virginia Incident Management System (WV IMS). The number of incidents reported represents 15 members. 12 members had paid formal supports. There were no noted trends that required remediation by Acentra Health. Council member asked about the Mortality Review committee Performance Measure not reflecting the death in February. Teresa provided the Council with a review of the process, and pending death certificate data, member's death are never reviewed in the same month that it occurred since obtaining death certificate takes time. The Council did not have any recommendations

**Olmstead Update:**

Carissa Davis presented the following update:

- The Transition and Diversion program has funding and is reviewing applications. Carissa provided the link to the Inspector General website <https://oig.wv.gov/>. Carissa informed the Council that her office is monitoring the following lawsuit: ***Texas v. Kennedy (formerly Texas v. Becerra)***. Seventeen states (including West Virginia) sued the U.S. government over the constitutionality of Section 504

and its updated 2024 rules. The states have abandoned the claim that Section 504 is unconstitutional, and the case is "stayed," however, there is still a challenge to the updated rules, including the right to receive services in the community instead of institutions. Another filing is due in July.

### **WVCED TBI Program Update:**

Angela Morales presented the following update:

- Angela reported that from January - March 2025, 53 new/unduplicated referrals have been received. 21 of the unduplicated referrals were determined to be eligible. 44 FUNDS for YOU applications have been approved, 82 clients have received services, and 46 advocacy brochures were sent out. Angela reported that there are still funds in the FUNDS for YOU until the end of June 2025. TBI Services held a March Webinar that was attended by one hundred individuals. Outreach efforts continue with the Federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) funding which is in place through September. Angela reported a vacancy for a TBI community social worker.

### **Disability Rights of WV Update:**

Tania Hardy presented the following update:

- Tania report on the number of services/requests provided under the Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI). To date there have been ten 10 TBI information and referrals, six service requests, and two self-advocacy brochures provided. Tania stated that in addition, 47 individuals with a TBI are being served under different federal programs. She was not able to confirm if any of the advocacy services were related to the TBIW program.

### **Public Comment:**

- Brad Anderson spoke during public comment period regarding the need for Brain Injury specific Rehabilitation Services in West Virginia and made a request that the Council endorses the need. Brad provided the link to the video created several years ago that documented family and those with lived experiences their struggles for finding in state comprehensive brain injury specific rehabilitation services. Due to technical issues, each Council member watched the video independently before returning to the meeting. The video link is below.  
<https://onedrive.live.com/?qt=allmyphotos&photosData=%2Fshare%2FCC0AF5BC9DDAEFBF%2111828%3Fithint%3Dvideo%26e%3DLGmUcT%26migratedtospo%3Dtrue&sw=bypassConfig&cid=CC0AF5BC9DDAEFBF&id=CC0AF5BC9DDAEFBF%2111828&redeem=aHR0cHM6Ly8xZHJ2Lm1zL3YvcyFBcl92MnAyODIRck0zRFQ5STBHa3JZblpwVlk5P2U9TEdtVWNU&v=photos>
- Please see New Business for motion.
- Rod Smith shared a link in chat from New York about that state's TBI Medicaid Waiver program
- <https://www.h2hhc.com/blog/how-the-tbi-medicare-waiver-supports-brain-injury-recovery>
- A discussion was held for the need of a work group, the following Council members agreed to be part of the work group Brad Anderson and William Jones.

Acentra Health staff will help support the work group with coordination and support.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Prepare and submit quarterly Quality Management Plan Summary of findings to Council members	Barbara Recknagel	August 7, 2025,
Schedule Pre-meeting call People with lived experience:	Barbara Recknagel	August 14, 2025- (Call) 10:00 AM
Schedule bi-specific rehabilitation services work group	Barbara Recknagel Brad Anderson William Jones	Date TBD
Determine what form of written support from the Council can be provided to Brad	Teresa McDonough Barbara Recknagel	Date TBD
<p><b><u>Council Meeting Dates and Time:</u></b>            August 21, 2025 (<b>Virtual Only</b>)            November 20, 2025 (<b>Virtual Only</b>)            Meeting Time: 9:00AM - Noon            Pre- meeting call People with lived experience: August 14, 2025            Location: Microsoft Teams            Start Time: 10:00 AM            Please send TBI QIA Council Evaluation to Barbara Recknagel by emailing: <a href="mailto:barbara.recknagel@acentra.com">barbara.recknagel@acentra.com</a>.</p> <p>Minutes taken by Barbara Recknagel, Acentra Health</p>		