

<p>West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBIW) Quality Improvement Advisory (QIA) Council Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>DATE: 2/19/2026 TIME: 9:00AM – 12:00PM</p>
<p>Members Present:</p>	
<p>Rodney Smith, Chair, Consumer Representative Angela Morales, West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVU CED) Carolyn Lecco, Consumer Representative William Jones, Consumer Representative Delena Arthur, Community Stakeholder Nikki Wills, Provider Representative Tania Hardy, Disabilities Rights of WV</p>	
<p>Members Not Present:</p>	
<p>Brad Anderson, Consumer Representative Leslie Slack, Consumer Representative Regina Westfall, Provider Representative Kimberly Auton, Provider Representative</p>	
<p>Others Present:</p>	
<p>Teresa McDonough, Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) Sara Martin, BMS Shari Heinaman, BMS Joshua Phillips, BMS Carissa Davis, Olmstead Office/Council Ashley Quinn, Palco Laura Teasdale, Palco Nikki Tennis, Acentra Health Jasper Smith, Acentra Health Kathyne Smith, Acentra Health Sarina Cutlip, Acentra Health Kaitlyn Lucas, Acentra Health</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Smith, Chair, had the voting and non-voting members introduce themselves. 	
<p>Old Business</p>	
<p>November 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes were presented and approved with a correction to the name of WVU CED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve: Nikki Wills • Motion to Second: William Jones • Motion Carried 	

New Business

The group reviewed the TBIW QIA Council membership list compared with the procedural handbook, located at <https://tbiwprogram.wv.gov/qia-council>.

- Teresa McDonough referred to the membership terms section of handbook, which states terms are five years with a one-year break that may be waived “if recruitment efforts have resulted in no viable applications, and the person has a desire to remain on the council.”
- With no viable applications, the council voted to extend the present members’ (Rodney Smith, Carolyn Lecco, William Jones, Delena Arthur, and Nikki Wills) terms to 2032. (WVU CED and Disability Rights of WV have unending terms.)
 - Motion to approve: Angela Morales
 - Motion to Second: Carolyn Lecco
 - Motion Carried
- Nikki Tennis will confirm whether the absent members wish to extend their terms.
- For the vacant voting member position for family of or a youth with TBI, Sarina Cutlip has a potential recruit. She will follow up with the council.

BMS Update

Teresa McDonough presented the following update:

- After BMS Commissioner Cindy Beane retired in January, the Governor [appointed](#) Christy Donahue as the new commissioner.
- Teresa now manages Applied Behavior Analysis, in addition to TBIW, at BMS. Personal Care (PC) is now managed by Luann Summers.
- BMS and Acentra Health have been working with Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) on a pilot “Expediting the Discharge-to-Services Process” to help patients with TBI apply for TBIW. This will be similar to the existing CAMC pilots for the Aged and Disabled Waiver (ADW) and PC services.
- March is Brain Injury Awareness Month, so Teresa encouraged everyone to do outreach. BMS will issue a [press release](#) to raise awareness of TBIW.

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

Sara Martin presented the following update:

- No one is in the TMH pipeline for TBIW, although there may be one potential candidate.
- 121 ADW members are in the TMH pipeline.
- Updated TMH operational protocols are in the works.
- Joshua Phillips is the new TMH data specialist working on Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) quality measures from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Teresa gave an overview of TMH’s purpose to give people with long-term care needs a greater choice of where to live and receive the services and support they need. It is a transition program to identify Medicaid members

living in long-term care facilities (e.g., nursing homes) who wish to live in the community and help them do so with HCBS. Read more at <https://bms.wv.gov/take-me-home-tmh-transition-program>.

Palco Update

Ashley Quinn and Laura Teasdale presented the following update:

- Palco experienced a slight delay in incorporating rate increases into its system, so providers received backpay after recalculations.
- West Virginia is one of 20 states that allow [self-direction](#), which nearly half of TBIW members choose. Ashley credited a good relationship with the state, and Teresa said this is a higher number than other states.

Utilization Management Contractor (UMC) Acentra Health Update

Nikki Tennis provided the following updates:

- She gave highlights of legislative bills introduced during the 2026 WV regular session related to brain injury or disabilities generally. The session concludes on March 14, 2026, and completed legislation will be posted [here](#).
- The quarterly report (October–December 2025) included performance measures and critical incidents. The clinical assessors continue to provide technical assistance to providers who receive plans of correction following their quality reviews. From October 2025 to January 2026, there were 12 critical incidents. The group discussed criteria for hospitalization and emergency room visits and clarified that elective surgery (three of the reported incidents) is not considered critical.
- Nikki introduced clinical Kaitlyn Lucas as new staff that will be helping with TBI and learning from Kathyne and Sarina.
- The Council reviewed the TBIW annual report, which will be posted [online](#). Given a recommended area for improvement was non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), the group inquired whether Modivcare is still the state's NEMT vendor, which Teresa confirmed.

WVU CED TBI Services Program Update

Angela Morales presented the following update:

- More than 140 people registered for the 'Mo' Crazy Strong Alive to Thrive – Pushing the Peak, Elevating Brain Injury Science event January 22-23 at Canaan Valley Resort, including 30 who tried adaptive skiing or tubing.
- Angela explained the components of the WVU CED [TBI Services Program](#), including state program with direct services and service coordination and the federal partnership.
- She had questions about CAMC's connection with [Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation](#). Teresa will follow up.
- Angela said Jeremy Dixon is meeting with state pediatric traumatic healthcare providers and EMS about a new protocol to do a Rancho assessment when they arrive to a scene of a traumatic event of a pediatric patient. Jeremy is also the contact for the [REAP](#) (Remove/Reduce,

Educate, Adjust/Accommodate, Pace) and [TACT](#) (Teacher Acute Concussion Tool) programs.

- Everyone is invited to attend or share an occupational therapy student’s capstone project to evaluate the effectiveness of the educational materials she developed for caregivers to help improve their mental health and sleep hygiene. Hybrid sessions will take place February 27 and March 12. Contact tbi@hsc.wvu.edu for more information.
- TBI webinars will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 27. WVU CED is presenting these in collaboration with the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute. Register [here](#).

Disability Rights of WV Update

Tania Hardy presented the following update:

- There were 19 interventions and referrals (I&Rs) this quarter.
- There were no service requests, but 23 individuals with TBI are being served through other federal programs, and three advocacy brochures were distributed.
- Delena Arthur asked if individuals with TBI can be accepted at the state’s psychiatric hospitals. Tania said she would follow up.

Olmstead Update

Carissa Davis said that FY26 transition/diversion funds have been received but no one from the TBIW program applied this round.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be May 21, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon. Members may participate by Google Meet or in person at WVU CED South, Equities House, 900 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
No action Items		
<p><u>Remaining 2026 Council Meeting Dates (all 9 a.m. to noon):</u> May 21, 2026 (hybrid) August 20, 2026 (hybrid) November 19, 2026 (virtual)</p> <p>Please send TBI QIA Council Evaluations to Nikki Tennis by emailing nikki.tennis@acentra.com.</p> <p>Minutes taken by Nikki Tennis</p>		