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GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



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## STATE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY BOARD (STBIAB)

### MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2024

Present: Rita Manriquez, Bill Rodrigues, Kristen Keech, Karen Klemme, Dorothy Ali'ilua, Lisa Dau

Absent: Wayne Parsons

Others: Violet Horvath, Pacific Disabilities Center; Nicole Gustie, Queens Medical Center; Steph Edwards, Kauai BIG; Teri Holter, Rad Balance, Tani Salazar, Executive Office on Aging; BJ Wade, Brain Injury Association of Hawaii

DOH Staff: Michele Tong, Neurotrauma Program

**I. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 1:38 pm by Chair Bill Rodrigues

### **II. Approval of Minutes from July 9, 2024**

Board member Dorothy Ali'ilua motioned to accept the minutes with no changes or edits. Board member Karen Klemme seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor of the minutes being accepted as written. No questions or discussion.

Voting to accept the minutes: Ayes 6 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

### **III. Review of Agenda**

Agenda accepted as written. No questions or discussions.

#### IV. New Business

None

#### V. Old Business

##### A. Pacific Disabilities Center – *Violet Horvath*

Review of the American Stroke Association “Heart and Stroke Helper App” <https://www.stroke.org/en/life-after-stroke/preventing-another-stroke/heart-and-stroke-helper-app> . The free app allows users to track their diet, medication, feelings of well-being and physical activity. With enough information input to the app, the user can see their progress towards their health goals.

In other PDC news:

- With sponsorship of BIHi, Violet will be a poster presenter at the September 2024 NASHIA conference. She is presenting on law enforcement interactions with TBI survivors.
- 10/5/2024 Hawaii Disabilities and Healthcare Coalition (HDHC), founded by Violet, will be on Maui for an educational event to be held at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center (MACC). If anyone has material they would like presented to the Maui community at this event, please contact Violet: [vhorvath@hawaii.edu](mailto:vhorvath@hawaii.edu)
- Recent presentation events have been very successful with more than 30 people in attendance at 2 different events.

##### B. Neurotrauma news across our State – Brief neurotrauma related share from each attendee

TBI Survivor – *Rita Manriquez*

Communication is a big challenge for people with brain injury. Although family and friends know you have a brain injury, when you make a comment, you are misunderstood and people will put you down. This reaction from people causes the brain injured person to become a loner so they will not have to explain themselves and their condition with every interaction.

Psychotherapist – Teri Holter

First STBIAB meeting, connected with NTP while inquiring about neurotrauma resources for a client. Works with people who have complex health conditions and/or those dealing with trauma. Recent sessions have included assistance to persons affected by the 2023 Maui wildfires. Treatments follow the Safe and Sound protocol of Steven Porsche, using the polyvagal theory. Teri also uses “brain spotting” (how the position of the eye affects a person’s neural network) to help people. With support from Violet, Teri will consider doing a presentation on her work for a future STBIAB meeting.

Kauai BIG – Steph Edwards

Next Monday, September 16 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Kauai BIG. Theme for this meeting will be relaxation techniques. A recent experience at work reminded Steph of the need to be mindful of nonverbal communication. A patient unable to verbalize their needs was thought to be combative during their hospital stay. Eventually, Steph asked the person if they needed to use the restroom. After relieving themselves, the person was able to rest comfortably and easily interact with hospital staff.

Executive Office on Aging – Tani Salazar

Continuing work in the area of dementia. One of the aims of the project is to improve brain health of people with Alzheimer's thereby reducing their risk of stroke and/or TBI.

Queens Medical Center (QMC) –*Nicole Gustie*

Continuing to work on education and awareness events for stroke and surfer's myelopathy all over Oahu. With the wrap up of the statewide stroke campaign, will share outcomes and impact data as it becomes available. In collaboration with DOH Chronic Disease, have been working a number of smaller events which allows for serving targeted populations.

Occupational Therapist –*Kristen Keech*

Kristen's doctoral work on best clinical practice for interdisciplinary care of individuals with severe brain injury and disorders of consciousness has been published! (Congratulations!) Work with the International Brain Injury Association involves putting together a family caregiver survey to identify needs and gaps in delivering care. Also conducting assessments to determine brain injury survivors' access to services. Kristen will be doing a presentation at the upcoming OT conference being held at Aloha Tower. Lastly, Kristen continues teaching of new OTs.

TBI Survivor –*Bill Rodrigues*

No update

Kona Brain Injury Support Group - *Michele for Karen Klemme*

- September – reading after a TBI
- October – Changes in Medicare benefits

- November – Advocacy

November 14, 2024 is the Hawaii Community Caregiver Network breakfast. At the event, the topic of dementia will be covered, AARP will be on hand, and Violet will host a vendor table. Attendance is limited to 100 people.

Brain Injury Association of Hawaii – *BJ Wade*

Remembering the fun and popularity from last Summer, July and August, BIOSG meetings were held at Keehi Lagoon for picnicking, games, and fellowship. September's meeting will be back at Catholic Charities and the planned speaker is from Brain Health Hawaii. For October's meeting speech therapist Megan Duly will be presenting. BIHi recently participated in National Night Out at Hickam, bringing brain injury information to military families. Upcoming events for October include a bike rodeo at the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii, in Waianae and the annual fundraiser at the Pacific Club.

Kapiolani Medical Center (QMC) – *Lisa Dau*

KIPC continues to conduct car seat checks and trainings for car seat technicians. Most recently, Kauai has gained 30 newly trained technicians. At National Night Out events and health fairs, KIPC has furnished the public with information on preventive actions and safety measures related to guns, water activities, dog bites, and smoking.

C. DOH Update – Neurotrauma Program - *Michele Tong*

NTP Strategic Plan is awaiting administrative approval. Recent education and awareness events attended by NTP staff include a head injury prevention with HBL in Kaka'ako, stroke prevention with QMC at American Heart Walk, and head

injury education for military families on National Night Out – Hickam with KMCWC. For the month of November, STBIAB members were agreeable to moving the meeting date from November 12 to November 19, 2024.

**VI. Announcements**

None

**VII. Next State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board Meeting**

**Date:** November 19, 2024

**Time:** 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

**Location:** Diamond Head Health Center and Zoom

**VIII. 2024 STBIAB Meeting Dates**

January 9, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, ~~November 12~~, **November 19**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:07pm