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KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



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NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD (NTAB)

MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2025

Present: BJ Wade, Molly Trihey, Valerie Yamada, Bill Rodrigues, Stella Wong, Scott Sagum, Matt Wells

Absent: Dr. Kent Yamamoto, TJ Donayri

Others: Violet Horvath, Pacific Disabilities Center; Ryan Tamashiro, Pacific Disabilities Center; Anna Asuncion, Pacific Disabilities Center; Troy Furutani, UH HCAMP; Jamie Higa, UH HCAMP; Nicole Gustie, QMC Stroke

DOH Staff: Michele Tong, Neurotrauma Program

- I. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 1:33 pm by NTAB board member, Bill Rodrigues/STBIAB chair

Quorum was established, and introductions were made, including Jamie. Jamie is a dual-licensed clinical and school psychologist with a background in concussion rehabilitation, who recently joined the team at UH HCAMP.

- II. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted**

No public or written testimonies submitted

III. Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2025

Board member, Matt Wells, motioned to accept the minutes with no changes or edits. Board member, Bill Rodrigues, seconded the motion. All board members present at the time of voting voted in favor of the minutes being accepted with no further discussion, questions, or edits.

Voting to accept the minutes: Ayes 5 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

IV. Old Business

A. Update Neurotrauma Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2025-2030

Activities and work on the neurotrauma strategic plan have been on the goals and objectives in its entirety, with small wins and slow progress. Neurotrauma Program recently met with (*Maria Crowley*) National Association for State Head Injury Administrators aka NASHIA, of which NTP is a member. Discussion with NASHIA surrounded focusing on one goal/objective/activity and engaging in work that would result in meaningful outcomes for the neurotrauma community.

Another meeting is planned to discuss strategies to focus efforts and consider contracting with NASHIA to facilitate progress on the strategic plan. However, finding funding for such a contract may pose a challenge. Funding for the Neurotrauma Special Fund has steadily decreased over the years and the available funds are being prioritized for the Hawaii Neurotrauma Registry (HNTR) contract slated to start in FY2027. Matt highlighted the increasing number of traumatic brain injury cases due to motor vehicle accidents, emphasizing the need for continued funding and support.

Last NTAB, the first draft of a “medical passport” was shared. While it contained valuable information and a way to facilitate communication with health providers, the general consensus was the passport would be difficult to implement due to the need for coordination between survivor, caregiver, and numerous health provider staff. Until such issues can be addressed, creation of a passport will only be done in a passive manner.

The board discussed the partner agency sheet listing the mission and vision of different agencies that provide neurotrauma related services. Hawaii Falls Prevention Alliance, (HFPA) to be added as one of the partner agencies. By identifying the needs and purpose of an agency, we will be able to see if our goals align and if there are opportunities for collaboration, while avoiding a duplication of efforts and siloed operations. Request was made for board members to be part of a work group to research each of the different agencies. Molly and Violet expressed interest. The work group will start with SCI providers for which we have the fewest number of partner agencies listed. Work group members will be contacted after STBIAB on 9/9/2025 where an invitation will be extended to board members to join the work group.

With Hawaii currently benefitting from AHA’s Mission Lifeline, there will be a separate workgroup for stroke. Violet will out to Chasen Fukuda to assist with identifying leaders from each of the stroke organizations and discuss arranging a stakeholder meeting.

B. University of Hawaii College of Education – BrainSpace contract

Troy provided an update on the Brain Space project, which is expanding to include modules for youth, parents, coaches, athletes, and officials. The project is in post-production after recent filming, with a target completion date of late October – November 2025.

V. New Business

No items for New Business

VI. Open Forum

A. Neurotrauma news and announcements from across the state.

The meeting discussed updates on various support groups and events. The BIHi Hilo resource fair was postponed due to medical emergencies of key organizers, highlighting the need for better collaboration among community organizations. BIOSG recently did a home visit to a support group member as a way to address isolation and socialization issues. Future home visits may be pursued to further this effort. Think BIG discussed the progress of their support group on Kauai. Hui Malama Po’o discussed the possibility of opening their group to invite new members after years of restricting membership. STBIAB is acquiring a new board member, Cameron Rogers, from Maui Health/Maui Memorial Medical Center. Cameron and co-worker Casi are discussing starting a support group for stroke and brain injury survivors.

Violet will create a list of upcoming education and awareness events to keep board members informed about outreach opportunities. There was some discussion on the effectiveness of large events such as the Mayor's 49th Craft and County Fair being

held on November 20th, which attracted 2,000 visitors last year. While there is a voluminous number of contacts made, there is little to no engagement at such events making the interaction meaningless. Consensus among board members was targeted, interactive approaches are more effective than mass information distribution at large events.

Nicole announced that Dr. Koenig found extra grant money to restart the stroke campaign on KHON from September 1st to November 2nd. Violet mentioned a new working group on surfer's myelopathy starting September 24th, which Nicole is coordinating. Finally, Valerie informed the group that Aloha Independent Living Hawaii has been accepted into Foodland's Foodbank program starting September 1st.

B. Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

Matt announced the revival of the Hawaii Falls Prevention Alliance (HFPA) and will present its mission and membership at the next meeting.

VII. Next Neurotrauma Advisory Board Meeting

Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Location: Diamond Head Health Center and Zoom

2025 NTAB Meeting Dates

February 27, April 24, June 26, August 28, October 23, December 11

Meeting Adjourned at 2:54pm