

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SPINAL AND HEAD INJURIES (GCSHI)
Full Council Meeting**

A public meeting of the Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries (GCSHI) was convened on May 10, 2017 at 1:07 p.m. at 3425 E. Van Buren, Suite #102, Phoenix, AZ. Present at the meeting were the following members of GCSHI: Tim Flood/ADHS representative (via teleconference), Benjamin Gross, Jonathan Lifshitz, Mary Lu Bushnell, Tara Pepiton, Michael Lavoie, Gary Smith, Keith Watt. Absent were: Ricki Ray, James Pallas, Javier Cardenas, and Sara Harris.

Council staff: Ann Tarpy

Guests: Lindsey Powers, Malissa Mallett, Shelia Washington, Ryan Temple, Cameron Harris, Oliver Bryan, Shana Tobkin, Veronica Murillo, Melissa Ann Santora.

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Jonathan Lifshitz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, thanked them for coming and invited the members to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of draft November 16, 2016 and February 8, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes

Tara Pepiton motioned to approve the November 16, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes. Michael Lavoie seconded the motion. The November 16, 2016 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Tara Pepiton motioned to approve the February 8, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes. Michael Lavoie seconded the motion. The February, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Reports

a. Council Chair

- i. Executive Committee – No updates at this time.*
- ii. Concussion Coalition Committee - No updates were available at this time.*

b. RSA Update

Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator, was attending a WIOA conference in San Diego and unable to attend the meeting. A. Tarpy discussed some projects that the Council and RSA were working on. More information will be provided at the meeting on 9/20/17.

c. RSA FBU –SFY 2017 budget and SHIF updates; presentation of SFY2018 budget for Council approval

Final Approved by Council on 9/20/17

SFY 2017: Shelia Washington reviewed and discussed the handout that was provided to the Council members on the Council SFY2017 expenditures as of May 2, 2017.

SFY 2018: Ms. Washington reviewed and discussed the proposed SFY 2018 Council budget for Council approval. Mary Lu Bushnell motioned to approve the SFY2018 Budget. Benjamin Gross seconded the motion. The SFY2018 Budget was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Spinal and Head Injury Fund (SHIF) (Trust Fund) update: SHIF is on target to collect the 1.8M needed to meet the Council's appropriation. Ms. Washington and the Council office track the income and interest monthly.

d. Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) –Data Reports and other updates

In response to a question raised at the February Council meeting regarding how the Arizona TBI data compared to other states, Dr. Tim Flood provided a PowerPoint presentation on 'How Different is Arizona TBI Compared to Other States' using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) website. The site provides fatal injury mapping statistics for the United States. Dr. Flood reviewed the AZ information on the website as well as the different types of queries available.

The WISQARS website is available at
<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

e. Council office

Ann Tarpy, Executive Director of GCSHI, provided updates on:

-The planning for the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) conference being held here in Phoenix September 11-14, 2017. GCSHI will be able to provide scholarships to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and others in AZ interested in attending the pre-conference on September 11, 2017.

- Art in the Atrium - In recognition of Brain Injury Awareness month, RSA and the Brain Injury Alliance of AZ collaborated with the Council to conduct an art show featuring the work of artists with brain injury. The event was held on Wear Purple Day – March 15, 2017 - in the Atrium at 1789 W. Jefferson. The event was well attended by RSA and DES staff. There is interest in holding the event again next year.

4. Highlights/updates from the BIAAZ and AzSCIA on contracted services with the Council

- Cameron Harris, Program Director for AzSCIA, provided an update on their educational conference, Push Forward, held on March 10, 2017. Over 160 individuals attended, 17 class topics were included, and over

Final Approved by Council on 9/20/17

25 community partners participated. Mr. Harris shared information on their upcoming Community Outreach events. Details will be available on their website. He shared information on a new initiative, Fresh Start backpacks, through their Peer Mentor Program.

- Malissa Mallett, Program Director for the BIAAZ Resource Facilitation Service, announced the hiring of their new Operations Coordinator, Faes Ibrahim. She also shared information on upcoming activities, including the annual Rays of Hope conference on May 12, 2017 for persons with brain injury, their families and caregivers. Several of the Council members will be presenters at the conference.

5. Council member updates

Ms. Tarpy thanked Dr. Lavoie for presenting at the April 2017 Mesa Nights. This project is funded through the Federal TBI program to offer education to parents and youth with TBI four times during the year. For the past three years, Dr. Lavoie has provided information to families about neuropsychological evaluations and brain injury. This is a favorite night for the families.

Keith Watt, Jonathan Lifshitz, and A. Tarpy are scheduled to present at the Rays of Hope Conference on May 12, 2017.

Tara Pepiton shared information on upcoming activities for the non-profit organization, ['Moving Forward'](#). They provide social events for survivors of brain injury, family members, and caregivers. They will be among the Community Partners at Rays of Hope.

Benjamin Gross shared that the current Arizona State budget proposal includes the request for funding for adults on Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to receive outpatient occupational therapy services. Currently this is not a funded service for adults.

6. Announcements and other items

Ms. Tarpy had invited Ms. Melissa Ann Santora, Director of Administration/Youth Activities at AZ Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), to present on the 'AZ Youth Leadership Forum' (AZYLF) for Students and Transitioning Young Adults Who Have Disabilities. The Forum is an innovative, 6-day conference, for students and young adults who have disabilities, as they prepare for and experience transition to adulthood. This June will be the fourth Forum. Designed to foster personal growth through self-discovery, AZYLF provides experiential learning opportunities to assist each individual as they identify and embrace their strengths and gifts, in conjunction with planning for their future. Ms. Santora shared data from the first three Forums. They now have an alumni association for past Forum

participants. Many of the alumni are part of the staff for the Forum as well as serving on the planning committee. Youth with brain injury have participated in the Forum.

7. Tentative agenda items for Council Meeting on September 20, 2017
In addition to the regular reports, the Council will report on the NASHIA pre-conference and conference.
8. Call to the public
A call to the public was made with no response forthcoming.
9. Adjournment
Michael Lavoie moved the meeting be adjourned. Keith Watt seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.