

**Virginia Brain Injury Council  
Priorities Committee Meeting**

**DRAFT MINUTES  
January 16, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Jason Young, Derek O’Neal, Gayl Brunk, Dan Reeves, Carolyn Turner

Committee Members Absent: Mike Puglia

DARS Staff Present: Donna Cantrell (staff), Charlotte Arbogast, Marcia DuBois

**Welcome**

Donna advised that a quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

**Approve DRAFT Agenda**

Jason drew members attention to the proposed agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Derek O’Neal made the motion and Dan Reeves seconded. The agenda was passed unanimously.

**Approve DRAFT Minutes from January 10, 2025 Minutes**

Jason asked if members had a chance to review the minutes of the December meeting and asked for a motion to approve them for the record. Dan Reeves motioned to approve the minutes and Gayl Brunk seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Review of 2024 Priorities Committee Survey and Results**

Jason drew members attention to the survey that was used for the 2024 cycle. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of surveys. It was noted that BIAV has access to needs based on their callers, and there is data available from the survey done last year. Dan indicated he would look into that for the Committee and follow back up.

The Committee discussed the purpose of the Council’s Priorities Letter, with a focus on making recommendations for the 2026 letter that are broader, more focused on the brain injury services, and address the direct service needs expressed by individuals with brain injuries. Reflecting on the materials that were provided at the December meeting, Jason noted that the purpose of the Priorities Letter was to describe recommendations that the Council would like to see DARS and the Commissioner focus on for the upcoming year to expand brain injury services in the Commonwealth.

There was considerable discussion around data collection and using data to inform recommendations. DARS and the brain injury services providers are going to be exploring ways to improve data collection and reporting for the DARS funded brain injury services. The Committee concluded that while the results of that work may provide more

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information on unmet needs in the future, this likely is something that should be addressed as a report out to Council rather than a priority that needs to go in the Priorities Letter.

The Committee spent time discussing the 2024 Priorities Letter Recommendation #4 (increased neurobehavioral health services and waiver recommendation from last year), noting that there are pending actions in the General Assembly this session that might move that one forward. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of Medicaid residential neurobehavioral health services as well as Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver for brain injury services. There was more detailed discussion about some of the discussions that have been occurring, including the connections to the HB 888/SB 176 workgroup that met in the fall. The topic is consistent with priorities the Council should pursue.

The Committee concluded that there is more to be explored around the possible recommendation before a formal Priorities Letter is developed.

### **Next Steps**

Jason noted that this Committee does not need to have specific recommendations prepared for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> full Council meeting. The January 22<sup>nd</sup> full Council meeting is an opportunity to provide an update on recent activities and give some ideas about where the Committee is leaning and ask for feedback and thoughts.

Donna will send a Doodle poll out to the Committee members following the Quarterly meeting to determine what meeting date will work in early March, after the 2025 General Assembly adjourns. The Priorities Letter needs to be proposed for adoption at the April full Council meeting.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjourn**

The Committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m.