

Officers

Chairperson:
Marsha Bancroft

Vice-Chair:
Anna King

Secretary:
Clayton Clark

TBI Staff:
Adèle Edelman
Erin Weaver
Glen McClintock
Al Urpsis
Samantha Baraw
Jane Culver

TBI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 4, 2010

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Stanley Hall, Waterbury VT

In Attendance: Marsha Bancroft, Clayton Clark, Bob DeGeus, Todd Lefkoe, Maureen Mayo, Carole McCay, Glen McClintock, Trevor Squirrell, Jim Vyhnek, Erin Weaver, Barbara Winters

Guests: Chris Straub

Notetaker: Jane Culver

Call to Order and Announcements - 9:15 AM

- Review and approval of previous Advisory Board minutes.
Minutes accepted.
- New Member – Bob DeGeus. Bob is a TBI survivor who has spent years exploring TBI on his own. When his daughter had an internship with the BIA-VT last year he found out there is a network around TBI in Vermont which led him to becoming interested in TBI Advisory Board
Voted onto the Board. Welcome Bob!
- Advisory Board Overview
 - The “Three legged stool” - State TBI program, Disability Rights VT, & BIA-VT all work together to create a system of support.
 - Advisory Board goal is to be a stand alone Board which supports the BIA.VT, the State TBI Program and advocacy across the state.
 - The State has had oversight guided by a Needs Assessment and Action Plan. A new Needs Assessment and Action Plan needs to be developed that better represents the growing difference in how services are provided in Vermont. This will be one are of focus in the coming year.
 - The Action Plan will help provide direction to the BIA-VT as it grows to become the primary support for the 8000 Vermonters who don't receive State TBI services.
 - Another focus of the board for the next year will be supporting TBI leadership development.

Presentation:

“Spreading PHAT in Vermont: The Vermont Ski and Snowboard Helmet Project”
Robert K William, MD, Associate Professor of Anesthesia and Pediatrics. College of Medicine, University of Vermont

Updates

State TBI Program

- TBI is the only program not targeted for cuts in July. Many other states are having significant cuts.
- This year the program is \$200,000 over budget and funding is frozen. This will be reconciled by the end of June.

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- There is currently a wait list of folks who need the intensive services of the TBI Program.
- Lorraine Wargo is the new Executive Director of NASHIA. The National office is now located in Waitsfield.
- Statewide the TBI program is working to find ways for the VA to collaborate with local based TBI providers to explore if all services have to be done at the VA hospital.
- New TBI services provider - Choice TBI Support Services located in Montpelier.

Disability Rights VT

- Recent trainings: ADA coordinators at DOC; Probation and Parole in Barre.
- Upcoming training at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury.
- Marsha will assist Barb Winters, who will facilitate a round table discussion at the Vermont Family Network Conference on May 13th at the Sheraton in Burlington.

VT Brain Injury Association

- Walk for Thought – June 19, 2010. The Website is up and running for registration. There is a different approach this year, doing a lot more and using a consultant, Sue Tidd, formerly with the BIA in Maine.
- TBI Conference – November 2, 2010 at the Sheraton in Burlington. The Planning Committee has been meeting and the program is almost set. Kara Swanson is the Keynote speaker. There are 6 tracks in 3 time slots. There is also a good balance of survivor workshops.
- Projects - Christy Opuszynski and a volunteer are updating the current resource directory.
- NRF System development
 - Barb Winters is the NRF system program coordinator
 - Larry Lewack is the NRF in Chittenden County
 - Kelly Martin is the NRF in Rutland and Bennington Counties
 - Christy Opuszynski is the NRF in Washington and Lamoille County, and also ½ time administrative support in the office.
 - Currently interviewing for state wide Job Developer.
 - Also hope to hire a NRF in the Connecticut River Valley on down.
 - How we accommodate the Northeast Kingdom will come later.
 - Working with Clayton Clark looking for a part time Veterans outreach person.

TBI Grant Development

- The HRSA grant ends on June 30, 2010.
- The Leahy Earmark, a Department of Labor (DOL) grant, has been received. It will last for 3 or 4 years.
- The Earmark grant changes the focus from basic NRF services to NRF services and employment with a focus on serving Vermont veterans
- The BIA-VT will help coordinate employment services for individuals with TBI across the state, working collaboratively with DOL, VR and other employment service providers.

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- Currently looking to hire an NRF Job Developer, in a partnership with VR, to help educate Vermont business about the issues facing returning veterans with TBI.

Discussion: Creating our Future – “What are the most important needs for individuals with TBI and their families? – “What areas of development should the system focus on?”

- More focus on services that not only help with employment, but help with job retention – Could provide more education to human resource departments around the state.
- Create peer support networks– Take a broader and more creative look at how it can be developed using electronic social networking systems. It will be important that the system includes a way to access mentors who have had the experience and know what families and TBI survivors are going through. Being around other survivors has a great beneficial effect.
- Need to provide more support for families at the acute first stages when they have no information.
- Continue to support community awareness around TBI and establishing strong community supports to help survivors push and challenge themselves in different areas.
- Clubhouse models may have potential. This may be another way to create and support community and provide a place to connect and share experiences. It should only be one option, however, since we must continue to work on building community awareness to support access and integration.

Discussion of Previous Topics / Closing / Public Comment

12:00 Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: Advisory Board
 TBI Annual Retreat
 Tuesday, September 14, 2010
 Location: TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
TBI Grant Administrative Assistant