

Officers

Chairperson:
Marsha Bancroft

Vice-Chair:
Anna King

Secretary:
Clayton Clark

TBI Staff:
Adèle Edelman
Erin Weaver
Glen McClintock
Paula Black
Jane Culver
Trudy Thomas

TBI ADVISORY BOARD

December 7, 2010

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Waterbury State Complex, Stanley Hall

In Attendance: Marsha Bancroft, Clayton Clark, Bob DeGeus, Glen McClintock, Barbara Prine, Sarah Shirley, Trevor Squirrell, Erin Weaver, Barbara Winters

Notetaker: Jane Culver

- Introductions
- TBI Advisory Board Mission and Vision read
- Addition to the agenda – Clayton Clark will give an update on the returning troops
- Review and approval of September 14, 2010 Advisory Board minutes.
- Advisory Board meeting schedule for 2011 reviewed and approved.

VA/National Guard Update:

- The Vermont National guard is demobilizing from Afghanistan. All the troops, 1,400+, are out and are should be processed by Christmas.
- In addition to those returning from Afghanistan, at any given time the VT National Guard has about 100 deployed around the world.
- Although the Vermont press focuses on the National Guard there is also an equal number of Vermonters on active duty in the regular military.
- Compared to their counterparts in the past, the systems in place are much more robust to meet the challenges faced by returning troops.
- A Veterans fund was created during the last legislative session. It will be funded through a state income tax return check off and will be administered through the Treasurers office. The funds will provide assistance to Veterans with brain injury.
- Military, Family, Community Network (MFCN) is a network of service providers; not creating new programs but making sure existing programs are better connected. MFCN came up with the 4 Corners concept to get folks help in the areas of economics, community, health and employment.
- It is important to be aware of all available veteran services including the Family Assistance Centers, the Readiness Units, and the Veteran Outreach Teams which are paid for by an earmark set to help returning veterans and their families.

VT Brain Injury Association Update:

Legislation

- Return to Play legislation is in good shape. The bigger issue is how to take the legislation and address the issue of concussion and youth sports with the schools and youth sports groups that use school facilities.
- School concussion legislation passed in several states is having a good affect but legislation is sometimes being ignored on the local level. Vermont needs to

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have a local level educational outreach plan. The hope is to create a pilot program in 2 or 3 different school districts and come up with a curriculum.

- There is a CDC coaches training link on the BIAVT website.
- The TBI trust fund remains unfunded. The hope is to have it funded again within the next 2 years after educating legislators about TBI. The difficulty is finding a sustainable source of funding, perhaps a surcharge on moving violations.

TBI Conference

- The November 2, 2010 TBI conference was successful with over 405 registrations and 385 attending. There was a silent auction for the first time which made money. It was an opportunity to bring both survivors and families together. Post conference planning committee meeting – great ideas – set up a pediatric TBI track, and a track for speech language pathologists
- 2011 TBI Conference set for November 1, 2011.
 - Wish for presenters to have more handouts, hard copies of information for attendees to take with them.
 - Will utilize an on-line registration process.

Neuro-Resource Facilitation (NRF)

- The Neuro-Resource Facilitation program currently has 4 neuro-resource facilitators covering Burlington, Rutland/Bennington, Central VT and Southeastern VT areas. The NEK still needs coverage.
- Joe Nusbaum is the job developer.
- A veterans outreach person should be hired soon.
- Over 80 clients are being served with the NRF program.
- NRF pamphlets, applications and website are being changed to reflect employment as the priority goal. Those applying with employment as a goal will get priority. This includes those going back to school and those working part time.

TBI Support Groups Update

- Groups in Montpelier, Burlington, Middlebury and Rutland have a steady core of members.
- There is interest in starting a support group in the Bennington area.
- The new Veterans Outreach Worker could set up a vet's support group.
- Support Groups Hot topics - trauma informed yoga therapy, therapies, benefits, life care planning with Jim Caffrey

Disability Rights VT Update:

- The executive director of Disability Rights Vermont is now also working with the Vermont Coalition of Disability Rights.
- Disability Rights Vermont contracts with the Disability Law project to help people with disabilities.
- Disability Law project continues to work with people with TBI who have legal issues. They are currently working with 2 cases of exploitation.
- It would be helpful for TBI clients to have case management which might help prevent exploitation. Adult Protective Services are understaffed and are not able to investigate reports of exploitation of people with disabilities.

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- Before releasing people with developmental disabilities from jail, services need to be in place along with a plan to keep them out of jail. It is important to get different service providers comfortable with dealing with each other and have everything set up before they are released from jail. Communication needs to filter down to all levels.
- There is Disability Rights Vermont victim of crimes money that can help TBI crime victims who need support around the criminal justice process or getting over the effects of a crime.

State TBI Program Update:

- Doug Racine has been appointed the new secretary of AHS. Patrick Flood will remain as Deputy Secretary. Dave Yacavone is the new commissioner of DCF. The deputy commissioner position is open. All positions are appointed by the governor.
- Paula Black has been transferred to APS for 3 months consequently all TBI quality reviews are on hold.
- National Association of Head Injury Administrators is continuing to work on self directed care for veterans.
- There are currently 71 people on the state TBI waiver program.
- The TBI Program is getting lots of calls about people with criminal charges that also have TBI as well as developmental disabilities. There is a need to find ways to support these folks who are not eligible for state TBI waiver services.
- All people applying for TBI waiver services have to be put on a waiting list and be approved by a review board.
- Even with a \$700,000 adjustment the state TBI waiver program is over budget for the year.
- Exciting new research was presented in the summer 2010 TBI Challenge magazine by Dr. Donald G. Stein, Ph.D. He is a physiological psychologist and Asa G. Candler Professor of Emergency Medicine and Neurology at the Emory University School of Medicine who is studying the beneficial effects in the treatment of traumatic brain injury using progesterone at the time of an injury. High progesterone levels help prevent brain swelling and cerebral edema, and enables better behavioral recovery.

Advisory Board training suggestions:

- Jim Caffrey – the value of life care planning – What if?
- Adele Edelman give information on the Choices for Care Program.
- Presentation on neurobehavioral disorders
- Health Care reform
- Addressing practical supports

TBI Needs and Resources Assessment Update:

- The last State TBI needs and resource assessment was done in 2003. Guidelines suggest this should be done every 5 years.
- The State didn't get funding to do this so it is being done by using survey monkey to get input in order to create a state action plan.

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- In last 2 months there have been 165 survey responses. The survey will remain open until ready to the plan is completed.
- Advisory Board members are asked to please complete the survey at BIAVT.com.

Discussion of Previous Topics / Closing / Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at: 11:45
Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
TBI Grant Administrative Assistant

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2011
9:00 AM until 12:00 PM
Waterbury Complex, Stanley Hall