

Officers

Chairperson:
Jim Vyhnač

Vice-Chair:
Position Vacant

Secretary:
Position Vacant

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

TBI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 17, 2009

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Jericho Vermont

In Attendance: Glen McClintock, Erin Weaver, Maureen Mayo, Marsha Bancroft, Carole McCay Al Urpsis, Anna King, Kim Patten, Adèle Edelman, Trevor Squirrell, Barbara Winters, Barbara Prine, Margaret Higgins Clayton Clark, Guest Marianne McEnrue; Notetaker: Jane Culver

Call to Order 9:25 AM

Introductions/Announce Agenda and additions to agenda

- Jim is stepping down as Chair.
- Advisory Board minutes of June 17, 2009 reviewed and accepted.
- Steering committee minutes were reviewed. They will be approved at the next Steering committee meeting.

Vote on new members

- Barbara Prine is a staff attorney VT Legal Aid Disabilities Law Project. Barbara has represented people with disabilities for 13 years. A few of her highest needs clients are TBI survivors. Barbara is interested in getting more services to more people.
- Barbara Winters is a staff member at the Brain Injury Association of Vermont (BIA-VT). She has been on the BIA-VT Board since 1999 and thinks it's wonderful to watch how the BIA VT has developed. She is working with BIA VT as Neuro Resource Facilitator and intake, resource and referral contact.
- Anna King has known many of the TBI Advisory Board members throughout her injury that happened 4 years ago. She's very happy to be working with the TBI Advisory Board. Anna believes that the TBI waiver services are too limited and would like to advocate for TBI broader services. She looks at this as a chance to learn and grow. She has worked with Trevor doing legislative outreach giving very powerful testimony. Anna also worked with the DDAS on the Quality Assurance team. She went around the state and talked to service providers and consumers.
- Kim Patten has 25 years as an occupational therapist and has always known she'd be involved in TBI in some way. She has worked in Winston Salem NC and at Fletcher Allen Hospital doing outpatient rehabilitation. Kim feels she is most effective working in the community in the places where her clients live and work. She likes being out in the people's world and having a community focus. She struggles to find funding for people in the community with TBI. She is also passionate about helping the medical community to understand the need for a really strong liaison with the community.
 - Barbara Prine was voted onto the TBI Advisory Board.
 - Kim Patten was voted onto the TBI Advisory Board.
 - Barbara Winters was voted onto the TBI Advisory Board.
 - Anna King was voted onto the TBI Advisory Board.

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Discussion of leadership positions

Jim stepping down as Chair the TBI AB has no leadership. . His ukulele business is taking off and he doesn't have the time to be chair.

The BIAVT is taking more responsibility and looking for people who want to create a new role around TBI.

The Steering committee is comprised of the state TBI program supervisor, the TBI grant manager, the BIAVT, Protection and Advocacy and consumers.

The Steering Committee also has a role in admission and discharges in the TBI program and in determining if a consumer meets eligibility and making recommendations if they don't meet eligibility.

Protection and Advocacy provides direct legal services to the Disability Law Project. VT has won a national award for collaboration with the State program.

Trevor has offered to form and chair a nominating committee of three people. Please contact Trevor if you are interested in being on this committee.

Updates

Protection and Advocacy

- There has been plenty of activity around direct services. P&A has done outreach trainings, National Guard military families.
- They are changing their name to Disabilities Rights of Vermont. There will be a party on 10/16 at the Main Street Landing in Burlington from 5 to 8 pm.
- Prize winning handout book, Your Rights as a Vermonter with a TBI, at legal trainings that will to be reprinted with the new name.
- Upcoming trainings for the next year are slated for Veterans and also providers in two areas around the State.

State TBI Program

- There are currently 22 approved TBI providers. People are graduating from services and new folks are coming on the program.
- The VNA of Chittenden and Grand Isle is now providing 24 hour services.
- Lorraine is taking early retirement to pursue other work. She'll be done at the end of December.
- Trevor and Erin will represent Vermont at the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) conference in Santa Fe at the end of October.
- To further technology it is hoped that all providers will have access to the Social Access Management System (SAMS). This allows clinical documentation to be submitted electronically. Information will be streamlined and available right away.
- Currently the TBI program has 72 TBI clients on the waiver, two on the waiting list and four applications pending.
- It is exciting to now have NRF services to refer people to. NRF applications not available on line as part of SAMS.

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BIA-VT

The Annual TBI Conference

- October 22nd at the Burlington Sheraton Hotel.
- The conference planning committee did a great job putting together a great looking program
- Registrations are coming in slower this year. The BIA-VT is waiting to see what impact the economy might have on conference attendance. Lori Sandefur with the BIA-NH has said that the NH TBI conference attendance was down.
- So far there are 25 vendors.
- The Art show is back for this year.
- A number of nominations for awards have been received though none for caregiver of the year yet.
- There are funds to cover 50 scholarships. The VA may also contribute scholarships for this year.
- Any Advisory Board member wishing to volunteer should contact either Jane Culver at the State TBI Program or Barbara Winters at the BIA-VT offices.

NRF system development

- With current funding 2 NRF half time individuals have been hired; Kelly Patten in the Rutland area and Larry Lewack in the Chittenden county region. Larry has a wealth of experience as the former director of NAMI. His position is ½ time NRF and ½ time case manager with the Veterans Court, a subset of the Mental Health Court. Interviews have been held for an NRF position in Washington County area. There is also funding to hire a full time Statewide Job Developer to be paid half by the BIA VT and half by VTDVR/VABIR.
- Waiting for Earmark money which is expected to start to flow by the end of the year. The Federal Department of Labor said it was the best earmark request they have ever seen. It was submitted to the clearinghouse on Wednesday for final approval.
- The State Legislature allotted \$140,000 for TBI services. \$70,000 went to the State TBI program part of which has been set aside for case management services through the NRF system.

TBI Advisory Board – What’s Next

- Plans for Leahy earmark and possible future HRSA funds are focused on training and awareness.
- Of the 32 HRSA applicants only 4 will receive awards of \$1,000,000.
- The State of Vermont is well positioned to develop trainings and to develop capacity around TBI by integrating TBI training into existing trainings.
- Funds will also be used to build awareness and sustainability through the BIA-VT.
- In the past the Board has operated as an advisor to grant activities as well as promoting public awareness.

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- In the future we'd like to expand non State sponsored ideas that board members could do in their own communities.
- Combine funds with Mental Health to integrate TBI training into all aspects of their trainings.
- Collaborate with VCIL, ADARC, Howard Center AAA, BIA-VT in making appropriate referrals.
- Delivery systems - TBI training modules for providers.
- Making it known that we want to and are available to integrate TBI information into existing trainings and systems.
- Infuse systems with TBI knowledge without adding any state positions. This is a sustainable approach.
- If any one has systemic ideas or other training ideas, please let Glen know.
- Redo the State Needs Assessment and Long Term Plan providing opportunities to ask people what their needs are and create a feed back loop.
- Educate service providers and state agencies.
- Provide on the job training.

Small group Brainstorming Exercise

- TBI registry
- State police provide free helmets – develop a program with them
- IMPACT program – pre and post testing in schools
- Educating special educators – Linda King
- VT Occupational Therapist Associations – state wide training – NASW is interested in focusing on this.
- Referring all students with cognitive issues to be reviewed to see if they need alternative courses i.e. drivers education.
- Train gatekeepers in the school systems.
- Mentally ill – lots of them have TBI and providers need training to diagnose and refer.
- Homeless – partner with community action, food shelves, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities.
- Spectrum might have people with TBI and these people are just thought to be mentally ill. Raise awareness that this behavior might mean they have TBI.
- JOBS program connected to all services – train them around TBI.
- Homeless vets not hooking up with the VA.
- Training for advocates about what the different programs provide.
- Advocates training – what new things are happening in all the different direct services programs.
- Incarcerated community partners - parole officers, offenders programs, diversion programs, prison case managers. Help identify TBI in the prison system. Neuro Resource Facilitator with court diversion might be able to build on that. Get national statistics on the number of people in jail with brain injury. Probation and parole is important around getting screening and services.

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Protocols for people going into and out of the prison system are being developed by the Disabilities Law Project. DOC has a screening system and a training system we could hook into if they would let us.

- 0-4 population - more can be done with kids with special health needs. Shaken baby syndrome training in schools, prisons etc. Continue to support these programs. All VNA healthy baby and licensed child care providers have information to them, helmets etc.
- Elderly - The Brain Injury Association of America is doing assessments around how to identify TBI by looking at behaviors and making case managers aware of TBI and how to recognizing TBI symptoms in order to differentiate dementia from brain injury. Promote community based fall prevention awareness in communities. Get TBI information to rehabilitation staffs about where to refer these people.
- Initiative around military service members - Clayton Clark & Marianne McEnrue, the new coordinator for the Veterans Military Family Community Network and Family Readiness programs, hope to combine strengths and funding with the State TBI program and the BIA-VT.

Discussion of previous topics/closing/public comment

Meeting adjourned at 12:45

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 2009 10 AM – Noon
Weeks Building, 2A Porch, Waterbury

Next Advisory Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 9 AM – Noon
Stanley Hall Room 100, Waterbury

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
TBI Grant Administrative Assistant