

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 RETREAT

September 14, 2010

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Jericho, Vermont

In Attendance: Marsha Bancroft, Paula Black, Bob DeGeus, Anna King, Todd Lefkoe, Larry Lewack, Kelly Martin, Maureen Mayo, Carole McCay, Glen McClintock, Joe Nusbaum, Christy Opuszynski, Barbara Prine, Sarah Shirley, Trevor Squirrell, Erin Weaver, Barbara Winters
Notetaker: Jane Culver

Call to Order and Announcements - 9:15 AM

- Review and approval of May 4, 2010 Advisory Board minutes.

Updates:

Disability Rights VT

- Disability Rights Vermont contracts out legal services to the Disability Law project which has staff in five areas around the state – Rutland, Springfield, Montpelier, St J, and Burlington. They provide services to people around their disabilities.
- Barb Prine gave details of several of her cases representing TBI clients in the Rutland area. One involved a client's employer helping to keep the client from losing his job and another working with the Department of Corrections to get accommodation around a client's disability. Parole/corrections does not recognize anger as part of a TBI disability.
- Deputy Secretary Patrick Flood wants to get people with disabilities out of the prison system.
- Corrections recently funded a TBI client to come onto the state TBI waiver program.

State TBI Program

- The State TBI program was one of the few programs that did not get a funding cut. It still doesn't have funding to support the numbers needing help. The new acting commissioner is meeting with program and business office to give them some idea of the needs and ways to meet those needs. Overall the administration is supportive.
- Eleven people graduated off the program last year. There is still a huge need for more funding.
- Last year ended in the red by \$338,000.
- New providers:
 - HCRS in Springfield area. They are doing a great job with some medically challenging clients.
 - Choice TBI Support Services in the Montpelier area.
 - VNA is now doing 24 hour supports.

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- Erin and Glen will attend the NASHIA NABIS conference in Minneapolis in October. There will be 35 exhibitors. PRIDE Supports and Services of Barre will be Vermont's first ever exhibitor.

VT Brain Injury Association

- The Walk for Thought in June more than doubled revenue from previous year. More a web based approach to the walk this year.
- TBI Conference is coming up November 2nd. The program content is very strong. Out of 25 exhibitor spots only 2 are left. This year there will be a silent auction and art show.
- Trevor is doing legislative work around a bill concerning school sports and concussion. He has worked through some difficulties with Fletcher Allen doctors and last week came to agreement with the wording. It will be submitted to the legislature in January. The legislation recognizes the significance of concussion in youth sports and mandates all coaches for middle school and high school sports take training around sports and concussion every two years.
- NRF system development has 73 clients – some are not seen on a regular basis. John Swarz is the new NRF in the Windham/Windsor area. He is a retired AHS field coordinator and a veteran. There are monthly NRF/BIA/State TBI program meetings. The Northeast Kingdom is the one area that remains uncovered by NRF services.
- Interviews for Veterans outreach specialist are taking place.
- BIAVT have been doing outreach to the VA as often as possible.
- Joe Nusbaum is the new NRF job developer. Jobs for returning Veterans is his biggest focus.
- Glen and Erin will meet with the VA medical director to talk about self directed care for vets. The VA is looking for pilot programs for vets with brain injury.
- Barb did a PSA around fall prevention that will air on all radio stations. Falls are the biggest source of brain injury according to a CDC statistic.
- CDC has a new school nurse module with great information around concussion.

Other issues

- How to approach stigmatism around people with TBI.
- The behavior of people with TBI can be perceived as suspect such as anger problems or speech issues.
- This perception problem is worse for veterans. Purple Hearts are not awarded to TBI injured vets.
- Are there ways to address this perception in the community? Is there a way to separate someone's affliction from any judgment about them as a person?
- Every TBI is unique. There is no support system or forum that gives people with TBI the chance to say 'I have TBI I have behavior issues'.
- There needs to be a focus on the individual aspects of TBI. The voice of TBI needs to be heard to promote integration and acceptance.
- March 2011 is Brain Injury month and is an opportunity to utilize the many faces marketing campaign by BIAVT.
- The broader goal is for every Vermonter to know where to start if someone has a concussion. Make this an overall goal of the Advisory Board and explore what

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needs to be done to accomplish this. This might lead to a statewide TBI registry.

TBI Needs and Resources Assessment

- In 2001 using HRSA grant funds, a State TBI needs assessment and action plan were completed. Guidelines suggest that this be done every 5 years.
- Survey Monkey is being used to collect data. Opportunity for people to have input on what they want. The survey is straight forward and can be completed in 10 minutes or less. There are 2 surveys – one for families and survivors and one for providers.
- Did a test run and have made revisions. The front page information was off putting and has been changed and is now very short.
- Ready to go on line from October 1 through November 30.
- The hope is to collate responses and by March have a developed Action Plan in time for National Brain Injury Awareness month.
- The hope is to reach as many people as possible to get a good sense of what people's needs are. There will also be a written survey available so people don't have to take it on line.
- The actual doing of the Needs assessments and Action Plan itself will be good for getting future funding form HRSA. Factors that the feds rate us on for future funding.

Developing a Distribution Plan for the Needs Assessment: What can the TBI Advisory Board do to support people taking the survey?

- Distribute the survey at the TBI Conference in November.
- Have a contest with a donated prize to encourage people to take the survey. Put a reminder to take the survey in the TBI Conference packet. Include where to take survey and encourage them to take the survey. UVM students could be coached to do this.
- Have people (possible students) available to read questions to and help survivors take the survey.
- Providers could help their TBI clients take the survey.
- We want to reach the populations that don't know about TBI services. Get ADRC involved in the distribution.
- Hospitals, Occupational therapist, speech pathologist, ER doctors at individual hospitals.
- In and Out patient therapy departments, discharge planners – have them give the survey to families.
- NASW, ambulance associations, EMS districts or the head of EMT group with Dept of Health.
- Resource web based information and referral system in the works through ADRC. Homeless in shelters, COTS. VT State LTCCC regionally.
- Have VNA case managers take the survey with them on clinical assessments.
- DIVA/OHVVA chronic care managers, Turning Point centers across the state.
- Sound bite social networking – give a link to the survey. Put a link on the BIAVT Facebook page and have everyone send it to all their friends.

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- Friends of Recovery. Blurb in BIAVT newsletter. People running support groups.
- NRFs – have their case load take the survey.
- One thing biggest difference – have someone you know say it's important and to please take the survey.
- Please let Glen know if you think of some other people you think would be good.
- State contacts - VR, DOL Corrections caseworkers. Also give them a link or an attachment to a TBI screening tool to help them verify a suspected case of TB. This gives them leverage to refer a client for additional supports. DOC is required to do a screening for disabilities within three days admission.
- Meredith Larson at DOC.
- Home Front newsletter – sent via email to all families with someone deployed re link to survey.
- VT Family Network - get information about the survey on their web site.

Discussion of Previous Topics / Closing / Public Comment

12:02 Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
TBI Grant Administrative Assistant

Next Meeting: Advisory Board
 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM
 Tuesday, December 7, 2010
 Location: Waterbury Complex, Stanley Hall, Room 100