

Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

Officers

Chairperson:
TBA

Vice-Chair:
Jim Vyhnaek

Secretary:
Position Vacant

TBI Staff:
Adèle Edelman,
Erin Weaver,
Glen McClintock,
Samantha Baraw.



TBI Steering Committee Meeting
September 4, 2008

Present: Marsha Bancroft, Glen McClintock, Erin Weaver, James Vyhnaek
Maureen Mayo, Adèle Edelman, David O'Vitt, Ted Stachulski
Jane Culver

Introductions/Announcement

- Jim has published the first nationwide Brain Injury newsletter.
- Minutes from the June 5, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.

BIA-VT Update (Marsha)

New Hire

Ted Stachulski has been hired by the BIA as a Veteran's Outreach specialist. Everyone was impressed with Ted's presentation at a recent Veteran's day at the VA hospital in White River Junction. The VA appreciated his assistance with veterans who have experienced a TBI. A few weeks ago there were 120 vets diagnosed with TBI – this number has increased to 150 in a matter of weeks. There are many veterans who have been living with TBI for 2 to 3 years who have fallen through the cracks or have not recognized TBI in themselves.

The Walk by the Lake

This event was very successful. There were fewer participants than last year but more money was raised. Walk organizers are looking for ideas on how to improve the scope for next year. They'd like to add more locations in the future.

TBI Conference Updates

The TBI conference brochures have been mailed out. Everyone is happy with sponsors. Laurie is doing a great job following up with the sponsors.

New BIA-VT Board member - Ashley Couture. Ashley is a speech pathologist.

TBI State Program Update (Erin & Glen)

Waiver Program

The DDAS Quality Management Unit (QMU) is reorganizing and revamping the review process. Feedback was received that emphasized that reviewing all providers and consumers in the same way and didn't work. Division of Disability and Aging Services is currently gathering information from consumers, advocates, providers and staff about what a

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good review process would look like. The DAIL DDAS vision is being used as a guide. If you would like to review the current TBI review process you can view it online at www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-policies/policies-qmu. The TBI program is currently serving 68 individuals. There are 38 new client intakes going on now. The TBI budgets escaped the State budget cuts but there will be another round of cuts in November. Only individuals coming out of hospitals with new injuries are being accepted. All others are being wait-listed.

Trust Fund Update

This money is now being split between the TBI Program and David Mullholland. He is trying to set up a home for returning veterans with a focus on community integration. He thought the entire trust fund was supposed to go to him. Discussions are being held about where this money is going. The Commissioner is working hard to ensure that TBI program gets this money.

Stay tuned for a comprehensive plan for Community Neuro Rehab. We will serve 400 people over the next year

NRF Systems Overview (Glen)

TBI will fund Neuro Resource facilitation for Vermont. This system is just beginning to develop. The goal of HRSA grant is to support the capacity of the system. Trevor is the Executive Director, Ted is the Outreach Worker, and Jessica is the Administrative Assistant. The hiring of an Information and Referral Specialist is in process. A contract is being processed for a job developer position. Two Neuro Resource Facilitators will help work with veterans to navigate the TBI system. There are lots of vets in the Northeast Kingdom and Rutland areas so the facilitators will be stationed in those places. If the Leahy earmark money is received the NRF system could be in place in less than a year and half. The BIA will take the lead. The State and BIA will work together. The BIA will form a committee to oversee fund administration. DDAS and the Neuro Resource Facilitators will interface around intake.

This is about sustainability; building blocks that will not fall down. That is why the TBI Advisory Board retreat is very important.

Preparation for Advisory Board Retreat (Glen, Terri O'Shea-by phone)

Terri O'Shea will be the facilitator for the TBI Advisory Board Retreat, September 18, 2008.

The proposed agenda was reviewed.

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The purpose of the retreat is to reinvigorate and give the board a new direction and clear goals to work toward; to plan for the future and to recognize the past.

This will be a living breathing process. It will be something we will work with and revise as we go along. This is integral for the new people who have been invited to check us out.

In section 'Desired Outcomes' it was decided to delete 'agreement on revised mission and vision statements'. This will be more of a process to identify the mission and vision.

The difference between a vision and a mission statement: vision is where you want to go; your dream. A mission is what you do and how you do it. Glen will provide and prioritize grant goals; goals - how will the goals be accomplished. How do we make the goals happen.

Diane's name was added to 'Welcome, Introductions, Overview and Conclusion'.

The TBI Program will pay the \$6 fees for all who attend.

Glen will check in with all advisory board members during the next week or two to encourage them to attend the retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Advisory Board Retreat is on September 18th from 10 AM until 3:00 PM at the Mt. Philo Shelter in Charlotte.
- The next Steering Committee meeting is on October 2, 2008 from 1 PM to 3 PM in Waterbury, Weeks Building, Conference Room 2A (Porch)

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
Administrative Assistant