

Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

Officers

Chairperson:
TBA

Vice-Chair:
Jim Vyhnak

Secretary:
Position Vacant

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



Traumatic Brain Injury Program

Vermont Agency of Human Services

TBI Steering Committee Meeting

January 27, 2009

Present: Ted Stachulski, Maureen Mayo, Marsha Bancroft, Erin Weaver,
Glen McClintock, Trevor Squirrel
Notetaker: Jane Culver

Introductions/Announcements

- Advisory Board updates:
 - Advisory Board secretary, Diane Bogdan can no longer participate. David O'Vitt is stepping down from Steering Committee and Advisory Board due to his job changes. If Jim Vyhnak accepts the Chairperson, the position the vice chair and secretary positions are vacant. Recommendations from the Steering Committee to fill these positions should be submitted to Glen by February 10th at the Advisory Board meeting. Margaret Higgins may be interested in being on Steering Committee.
 - Glen is hoping to create a more formal process for the Board. He has drafted new By-laws. The By laws are basically the Operational Guidelines with a few added guidelines for clarity. They were distributed to the Steering committee to look over in the next month for input and suggestions to Glen.
 - New Advisory Board member - Staci Pearo Quality Assurance at VDH Department of Mental Health.
 - Other possible Advisory Board consultants:
 - Dr. Deborah Black and Dr. Thomas Simpatico both with the VDH Mental Health. The collaboration with the Department of Mental Health is needed and very welcome.
 - Dr. Lanier Summerall, Director for TBI at the Veterans Hospital in White River Junction – Ted will contact her.
 - Others will be identified as we move along.
- Minutes from September 4, 2008 Steering Committee were accepted.
- The next TBI Conference will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Burlington Sheraton.
- Grants pending
 - HRSA \$250,000 a year for 3 years
 - Leahy Earmark \$250,000 a year for 4 years.

BIA-VT Update (Trevor)

TBI Conference Update

- This was the BIA-VT's first year as sponsors of the annual TBI Conference. There were some space issues. There were more TBI professional involved in the conference this time.
- There were over 400 registrations and at least 380 in attendance.
- The 2008 conference made money – around \$20,000. There is much room to grow and expand.

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- Laurie will stay involved with planning the 2009 conference.
- The 2009 conference committee will be getting together in the next few weeks to make plans for the conference.
- Healthbridge management from Mass. Med director Treating the trifecta substance abuse in MH. Presenting at conferences. Erin will give contact info to Trevor.
- The BIAVT is looking for presenters, themes, topics, keynote speaker options for the 2009 TBI conference. Contact Trevor with ideas.

BIAVT Board Updates:

- New Board members:
 - Laura Flashman from Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital
 - Kim Daniels and Michele Corrow from PRIDE, TBI Providers
 - Ashley Couture
- Trevor would like the BIAVT Board to have 15 members.

Brain Injury Advocacy at the State House

- Trevor is giving the Vermont House Committee on Human Services an update and report on where the BIAVT was last year, what the statistics and issues are and what they are trying to accomplish. They would like to follow up with advocacy groups. Anna King is going with Trevor.
- The BIAVT would like to work on educating the State legislature on TBI.
- February 5th is Brain Injury Advocacy Day at the State House. PRIDE is planning to attend with some of their clients.
- Megan Wright the new Information and Referral Specialist at BIAVT. She is working 15 hours a week for now.

NRF Systems Update (Glen)

Last year a plan was developed to hire 5 positions. Two of these positions are filled - Veterans Outreach worker, Ted Stachulski and Information and Referral specialist, Megan Wright.

The process for hiring two more positions is underway:

- A full-time job developer in the next few months is a joint venture with VR. The BIAVT will be the home base for this position. Duties will include educating Vermont businesses about returning Vets with TBI. And will work with VR to make sure that the goals from the Governors Summit are met. This person will also have a handle on employment for returning Vets.
- The first Neuro Resource Facilitator position is being advertised in Rutland. It is a part time, 20 hour a week position.
- A second NRF may be hired in Chittenden County who may be a liaison with the SAHMSA grant in collaboration with the Department of Mental

Health. This position would be developed around veterans with mental health issues with a focus on veteran offenders. This position would also

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provide assessment for TBI and PTSD and establish a Veterans court which would steer offenders toward more appropriate treatment. This will be a half time position. And will act as a court liaison providing expertise in TBI resources to the court.

Applications for Neuro-Resource Facilitation Services and TBI Grants are being sent out by BIAVT. This is a dual application for NRF services and TBI grants up to \$2500 per person. Even if there is no NRF services in the applicants area the whole application should be filled out. TBI providers will be contacted so they can apply for funds. Megan Wright at the BIAVT is the point person. Applications will be handed out at the quarterly TBI Case Manger meeting on February 4th.

Systems are in place and services ready to expand if more funds are received through the Leahy Earmark.

State TBI Program Update (Erin)

- The TBI program does many other things besides providing services to the 67 TBI clients on the program.
- The TBI unit structure has changed in the last few months. The Quality Management Unit has been disbanded and now each program has its own quality assurance people. The TBI unit is redoing its quality assurance plan so it more accurately reflects what providers do to assure quality of services.
- In FY '09 the TBI program escaped the rescission. It was the only program that didn't have a cut. For FY '10 there is a 4% rate cut for all the programs except for DS. Every reimbursement rate will be cut 4% across the board. There is a freeze on positions and no slots will be filled in hopes of not to having to cut the rates. In addition AHS is targeted to lose 285 jobs. The grantee meeting was canceled as there is no state travel allowed.
- NASHIA is having public policy training to get people to come and meet their legislators.
- On the national level the HRSA technical assistance 5 year contract ends January 30, 2009. NASHIA can extend their funds until March but new grant money won't be out until May 1st. They will have no funds for March and April. They are asking for funds through PNA and hope to find a way to keep the NASHIA staff on until May when new funding becomes available.

Subcommittee Reports (Glen)

Subcommittees meet only four times a year. Moving forward there is a need for the work of the subcommittees to be tied to the grant and the full system.

Veterans Subcommittee Meeting – Clayton Clark, Chairperson

- Brainstorming around educating veterans, and communicating with providers.

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- Look at the broader initiatives of the Maine and New Hampshire BIA models.
- Assessing the number of Vet's that are going to the war and coming back with a TBI and the way those with TBI are measured.
- Look at those who qualify for TBI benefits and those served by the BIAVT.
- Assess what is happening - are the numbers increasing or decreasing. Look at identifying how people are being assessed and the number of veterans receiving benefits.
- Establish a system with the VA about who they are serving and get a Memorandum of Understanding with the VA.
- The focus of the subcommittee is on identifying Vets with TBI in Vermont. And making sure that BIAVT is the repository for information about TBI. This will increase the credibility of the BIAVT.
- Ted will meet with Dr. Summeral. She mentioned that she knows what the BIAVT does to help veterans and give them information and referrals in the community. She acknowledged that the VA will never provide these types of services.
- There is a new TBI Veterans clinic/center in Colchester. All veterans who have TBI will be served in a training group setting at this clinic/center. This is not a support group. The clinic/center is expanding and adding new therapists. It will transition VA- WRJ services to Chittenden County.
- Ted's role is outreach and making service connections. He is keeping track of all the calls and correspondence he gets from professionals. Ted gives out information on support groups and lets the VA know what's going on in the TBI world.
- Dr. Coffin, Clinical Director at Howard Mental Health is doing an assessment of 190 veterans who are due to be redeployed in December.

HRSA/SAHMSA Subcommittee meeting

- The work is around how to form this collaboration and to hire the NRF position in Chittenden County.
- The focus of this subcommittee is to make the HRSA/SAHMSA collaboration happen.
- Funding after April may be a problem. BIAVT is increasing its capacity and may be able to pick up the cost of this position.

Education subcommittee

- Glen is involved in a Community Learning group at Harwood HS developing and educating student while involving them in the community.
- Connect with PHAT and sports concussion. In the past a message was sent to organizations around sports concussion with no response. This

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- subcommittee will begin to develop systems relationship with school sports and other sports organizations to get information out to folks that we are an educational resource.
- Check with Dr. Williams about the IMPACT funding stream around sports concussion.
- This is an opportunity to do something more around this and then the BIAVT can take over and continue to get information out and make connections with people.

Provider subcommittee

- Dr. Lefkoe and Erin discussed the role of capacity and quality assurance.
- New TBI providers NCSSC, HCRS, UCS need training around quality services areas. Invite new providers to an Advisory Board meeting.
- VNA hired a new case manager. Invite a provider and TBI survivor to talk about what they are doing. This would keep the board closer to the issues.
- WCMH have some TBI survivors as DS clients but have never accepted a referral from Erin. They have seen TBI as apart from Mental Health services and have overlooked the whole area of mild TBI. TBI funding is too restricted for them.
- Ted will invite Dr. Summerall to attend the Feb 10th Advisory Board meeting to give a presentation about TBI services at the VA.
- Glen will invite Dr. Simpatico to give a presentation on his.
- Tie in work we did at the retreat and the past year . So board members can see the results of their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 from 9 AM until 12:00 PM at Stanley Hall, Room 107, Waterbury
- The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Waterbury, Weeks Building, Conference Room 2A (Porch)

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
Administrative Assistant