

Vermont Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

Officers

Chairperson:
TBA

Vice-Chair:
Jim Vynak

Secretary:
Position Vacant

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



TBI Steering Committee Meeting
April 28, 2009
Waterbury

Present: Glen McClintock, Erin Weaver, Marsha Bancroft, Trevor Squirrell, Jim Vynak, Ted Stachulski, Al Urpsis. Notetaker: Jane Culver

Introductions/Announcements

- There are two new TBI service providers:
 - Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southwestern Vermont (HCRS) in the Springfield and Brattleboro area.
 - Northwestern Counseling and Support Services (NCSS) in St. Albans is in the process of becoming a TBI provider.
- The next advisory board meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 17, 2009.
- Jim Vynak is the new Advisory Board chairperson. The vice chair and secretary positions are still open. Please keep an eye out for possible candidates for these positions and let Glen know.
- Minutes from the January 27, 2009 Steering Committee meeting approved with corrections.

BIA-VT update

- The BIA-VT's 7th annual Walk for Thought event is coming up on June 20th.
 - The brochure has been mailed out.
 - More participation and awareness is a priority.
 - Ted is rounding up captains and recruiting teams for the event.
 - Hopefully it will be a more successful event through advertising and getting the word out.
 - Twitter, Blogs and event calendars could be used for promotion in the future.
- Planning for the annual TBI Conference on October 22, 2009 is moving along.
 - Jennifer Fields will be the Keynote speaker.
 - It will be held at the Sheraton in Burlington.
 - Advertising in other states for attendance. Get on other state BIA calendars.
 - DS providers transitioning into TBI services. Use some DS funds to provide scholarships for TBI clients to attend the BIAVT conference. A meeting between Trevor and Karen Topper might be useful.
- Trevor will attend the BIA Northeast Regional meeting in May to speak about the NRF program.

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TBI State Program update

- There will not be a 4% rate cut in FY 2009. There could be a cut in funding in the FY 2010.
- There has been work on TBI Quality Management changes. AI has put together a Powerpoint presentation to help with explain the new TBI quality review process and will present it to case managers at their next meeting.
- NASHIA meeting in Washington D.C. Trevor and Michele Corrow attended the public policy meeting and met with Congressmen Sanders, Welch and Leahy.
- NASHIA offices are moving. Erin is working with them on negotiating to provide services for the next 5 years.

Protection and Advocacy

- Vermont Protection and Advocacy is fully staffed.
- They are seeing lots of people falling through the cracks.
- People are discovering that previously undiagnosed TBI is a problem for them.
- The Social Security grant is helping to keep people who receive Social Security disability employed.

NRF System Update

- Interviews are happening for the VABIR job developer. This person will help educate Vermont businesses about the valuable contributions of Vermont veterans and the issues that returning Vets are facing. The job developer will work collaboratively with Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Interviews are also proceeding to hire an NRF facilitator in the Rutland area. This position is harder to fill because it is a half time position.
- Tom Simpatico has a strong candidate for the NRF position in Chittenden County.
 - This position will help identify people entering the correctional system who have TBI and funnel them into more appropriate services.
 - Better referrals will help keep people out of the corrections system. This program is not just for veterans.
 - This position will be half-time NRF and half-time time with the mental health courts.
 - This office will be in Burlington where there is clinical staff who can provide appropriate assessment before people are put in jail.
 - Future plans are to expand education to lawyers and judges around TBI issues for appropriate assessment of people in the court system.
- Prioritize needs for direction to go in. Protection and Advocacy has money for education around disability rights.
- The NRF Committee met to look at 7 or 8 NRF/TBI fund applications. They approved two applications and made recommendations to several others.
 - The terminology of the application is confusing. The revised application may be clearer. Suggestions for clearer information should be given to Glen.

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Traumatic Brain Injury Program Vermont Agency of Human Services

- These funds available through September. And can be used to help someone be more independent. They are short term, time limited funds.
- Ted is in the best position to get information about the NRF/TBI fund application to the VA.
- The Leahy earmark money will help get NRF services to all VT regions. It will help fund NRF after 2010.

Setting Agenda for Advisory Board meeting

- Dr Summerall is scheduled to give her presentation at 11am at the June meeting.
- Al will give a quick update on the new TBI quality review process.
- Other suggestions:
 - Invite a provider and TBI survivor to speak.
 - More information shared between services. DS crossover to TBI providers. Ask Karen Topper if it would be worthwhile for her to give the board some information around DS and brain injury.
 - Numbers – here is what we are seeing. Is there training we can pass along?
 - State perspective - there are 8000 people in VT with brain injury and most are not being served. Broaden the service system to provide service. Most TBI will never qualify for State TBI services.
 - Group discussion around training needs.

VA Update

- The annual TBI Conference will have a VA section that make a presentation on the services they provide.
- Ted is making connections and continuing to educate and support VA families - educating families and soldiers about all the services available while the vets are deployed.
- This is the largest deployment from VT since WWII

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

TBI Advisory Board Meeting:
Wednesday, June 17, 2009; 9 AM to 12 noon.
Location – Chapel Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Culver
Administrative Assistant