

August 13, 2019

Dear Members of the Arkansas Trauma System Rehabilitation Sub-Committee:

In June, 2018, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL) awarded the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Institute for Digital Health & Innovation (IDHI), funding to implement the Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program (TBI SPP) in Arkansas. The grant, in the amount of \$150,000 per year for three years, was received in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program.

Grant deliverables for Arkansas include:

- Building an advisory board with engagement from those living with brain injury
- Identifying and developing a plan for the state's underserved TBI population
- Building a trust fund and/or waiver program

In August, 2018, a TBI Advisory Board Workgroup began to form with a focus on the deliverables of the grant. Participants in the workgroup currently represent 20 agencies, organizations, and health care professionals who work with the TBI population along with people living with brain injury.

Workgroup participants meet on a quarterly basis to contribute their unique perspectives and experiences to enhance person-centered clinical and education resources, and infrastructure for individuals with TBI, their caregivers, family members, and providers. The workgroup continues to grow as stakeholders learn of the program and feel the need to better serve this population.

In February, 2018, three sub-workgroups were formed to dig deeper into the issues related to the grant deliverables: State Plan Development, Underserved Populations, and Trust Fund and/or Waiver. These sub-workgroups meet at least once a quarter to discuss and focus on specific needs and projects.

In less than a year, the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup has made great strides towards accomplishing the Arkansas grant deliverables. We want to share some of our accomplishments with you.

State Plan Development Sub-Workgroup

With input from our Advisory Board Workgroup and other stakeholders, the State Plan Development Sub-Workgroup developed and implemented needs assessments for both professionals and people living with brain injuries, family members and caregivers at regional events, conferences, workshops, and on the TBI SPP website.

Results from the surveys are being compiled for inclusion into the state plan. Surveys will continue to be implemented and compiled throughout the life of the grant. A draft of the Arkansas State Plan can be found on the TBI SPP website >>

<https://idhi.uams.edu/programs/trauma-telemedicine-programs/tbi-state-partnership-program/>.

Underserved Populations Sub-Workgroup

The Underserved Populations Sub-Workgroup has been making efforts to identify service and support gaps for this underserved population.

Recent changes to the PASSE system have created a need for education with health care professionals and family care providers serving the TBI community. The Underserved Populations Sub-Workgroup worked with the Trust Fund/Waiver Sub-Workgroup to organize a meeting with PASSE representatives. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the impact of PASSE on the TBI community and increase understanding of the system.

Trust Fund/Waiver Sub-Workgroup

The Trust Fund/Waiver Sub-Workgroup has been benchmarking other states in an effort to understand how funding was put into place to support the TBI population and how we may incorporate these models into a program for Arkansas.

In addition to the work being done within the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup and sub-workgroups, other accomplishments include:

- Organized, sponsored, and/or promoted regional events for the TBI community, including Survivor's Day Conference - Little Rock; Brain Injury Regional Workshop – Northeast Arkansas; Brain Injury Regional Workshop – Northwest Arkansas (June 19); 2019 Brain Injury Conference (August 9)
- Partnered with Arkansas State Independent Living Services to present the TBI SPP Arkansas program and implement the needs assessment survey at the 7th Annual Day at the Capitol for Individuals with Disabilities
- Partnered with Arkansas State Independent Living Services to hold the Brain Injury Regional Workshop – Northeast in Batesville
- Partnered with Sources for Community Independent Living Services and Northwest Health Systems to hold the Brain Injury Regional Workshop in Springdale

- Served on several planning committees, including the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium; Survivor's Day Conference – Little Rock; and the 2019 Brain Injury Conference
- Presented “Telemedicine with SCI and TBI Patients Today & in the Future” at the Arkansas Trauma Symposium; implemented needs assessment surveys; and promoted Arkansas’s efforts on a full page ad about the TBI SPP
- Provided content for three editions of the Brain Waves newsletter, which was delivered to the TBI community in paper and digital formats
- Began planning the development of an online story repository that will provide a platform for people living with brain injuries, and family members interested in sharing their stories with others in the TBI community and the public
- Attended ACL national meetings in Washington D.C., and participated in “Hill Day” sponsored by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) in an effort to show support for TBI funding at the federal level
- Participated and contributed in three Administration for Community Living (ACL) national workgroups – Advisory Boards; Trust Funds; Underserved Populations
- Enhanced the Arkansas TBI Registry to capture more information and improve the referral rate to Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program (ATRP)
- Collaborated with ATRP to update contact information in the TBI Registry by making personal invitation phone calls to survivors living in the area of a regional brain injury workshop
- Continued to enhance and maintain the TBI SPP website to educate and inform the public about TBI SPP and the current work that is taking place in Arkansas
- Worked with UAMS Marketing and Communications to create a state-wide press release to announce the TBI SPP in Arkansas and to foster support and input for the state plan

- Engaged with NASHIA through committee involvement to continue building relationships, obtain education, and promote the use of technology in TBI health care
- Helped to identify, collaborate with, and promote resources for the TBI community at regional events, including Arkansas Independent Living Services; Canine Companions for Independence; Smart 9-1-1; ICAN Assistive Technology; Choices in Living, Sources, and Social Security
- Worked with ATRP to organize, promote, and participate in a CBIS course that resulted in 17 new certifications in Arkansas
- Submitted and received acceptance of a presentation proposal – “Using Telemedicine to Meet the Needs of the Arkansas TBI Population” - NASHIA 30th Annual SOS in Head Injury Meeting to be held in Kansas City
- Collaborated with Choices in Living to have TBI added to a respite waiver program

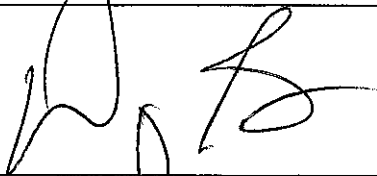


As you can see, the work being done by the TBI SPP team and the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup is helping to promote awareness of the needs within the TBI community; connect the TBI community with needed resources; and build an infrastructure that better serves this vulnerable population.

Thank you for your support of the work done to date. We look forward to reporting additional accomplishments over the lifecycle of the grant.

TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Participants

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