ARKANSAS STATE PLAN FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

2018 - 2021

UAMS

Institute for Digital Health & Innovation

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Collaborative Effort

The Arkansas State Plan for Traumatic Brain Injuries is a collaborative effort to identify specific needs and gaps in services within the Arkansas TBI population and a commitment to work together to meet the needs of survivors, caregivers, family members, and health care providers.

While the adult population is the focus of this plan, there is an understanding that TBI affects individuals across their lifespans. Additional focus is needed on the impact of mild concussions to improve the care, coordination, and outcomes for Arkansans of all ages.

Collaborating partners include:

- Administration for Community Living, TBI State Partnership Program (ACL TBI SPP)
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)
- Institute for Digital Health & Innovation (UAMS)
- Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)
- Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program (TRRP)
- All the volunteers that comprise the Arkansas TBI Advisory Board Workgroup

The Arkansas State Plan for Traumatic Brain Injuries is a grant deliverable. In June, 2018, IDHI UAMS received a $450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living (ACL). The Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program State Funding Opportunity was awarded in the amount of $150,000 a year for three years. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) provides $75,000 annually through an “in kind” match with the TRRP.

Efforts and outcomes of the TBI SPP grant support the goals of the TRRP, which houses the Arkansas TBI Registry. An overview of the grant and status of deliverables is available in Appendix A.

The goals of this plan include: (1) Identify needs and ways to address needs within the Arkansas TBI population; (2) Promote awareness and education of TBI; (3) Motivate others to support infrastructure and resource development for this vulnerable population.

It is the hope of the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup, organized through the ACL TBI SPP grant, to gain recognition by the Arkansas Governor’s Office. This recognition would help to further conversations about the legislation needed to develop a trust fund and/or waiver program and other infrastructure needs within the TBI community in Arkansas. A TBI Advisory Board Workgroup Directory of participants is available on the TBI SPP in Arkansas website.

Arkansas TBI Registry

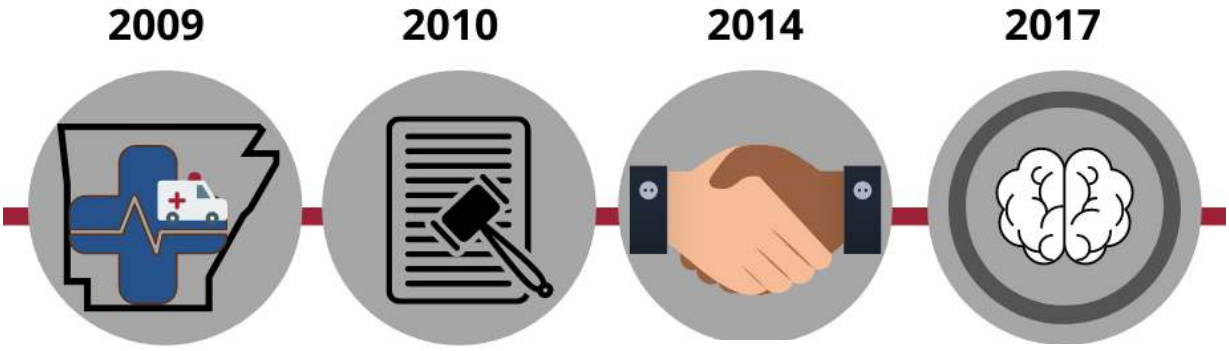
412 moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injuries were reported to the Arkansas TBI Registry in 2019. ~ AR TBI Registry Data

Individuals living in Arkansas who sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) went mostly unnoticed prior to the development of the Arkansas Trauma System (ATS) [1]. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is the agency responsible for implementing and maintaining the Trauma System, which originated from Act 393.[2]

The ATS and the ADH began mandating reporting through Statute 20-14-703,[3] which requires that public and private health, social agencies, and attending physicians refer Arkansans who have sustained newly-identified, moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injuries to the Arkansas Traumatic Brain Injury Registry.

The registry was created under a 2014 memorandum of agreement with the Brain Injury Alliance of Arkansas (BIAA, which is no longer active in the state) and a contract with the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission (SCC) who subcontracted with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). After a year of subcontracting, UAMS formed the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program (ATRP) under the direction of the Institute for Digital Health and Innovation (IDHI). The grant was then awarded to IDHI. The registry was rebuilt in house at UAMS and is currently managed by the Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program (TRRP).

The Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program shares registry data to plan for future TBI prevention and recovery efforts and provides resource facilitation to the TBI community. While the registry collects data across all ages, TRRP's focus is the adult population of those individuals over the age of 18. Currently, mild concussions are not documented in the Arkansas TBI Registry. (https://atrp.ar.gov/)



Arkansas Trauma System Formed through Act 393

Mandated reporting of head injuries, Arkansas Statute 20-14-03

Registry created by a Memorandum of Agreement with the BIAA and a sub-contract with the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission

Sub-contract with the Arkansas Department of Health moved maintenance of the Registry to the UAMS IDHI Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program

Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major cause of death and disability in the U.S. Approximately 2.5 million Americans visit emergency departments with TBI-related injuries each year. Those who survive TBI can face effects that last a few days, or the rest of their lives. ~ CDC

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is defined as a blow, jolt or penetration to the head that disrupts the function of the brain. Most TBIs are caused by falls, jumps, motor vehicle traffic crashes, being struck by a person or a blunt object, and assault. Blast injuries sustained in combat have been a growing cause of TBI.[4]

TBI can range from mild to severe, and the effects can be temporary or permanent. Many people who experience a TBI have long-term effects, which can result in lifelong, disabilities and impairments in a number of areas, including: [5]

Thinking and Reasoning	Attention
Speech	Physical Activities
Vision	Memory
Behavior	Understanding Words
Problem Solving	Hearing

Improvements in health care and technology have resulted in people with TBI living longer with the opportunity for a healthier life. With the improved prognosis, the need for services for those living with TBI and assistance for their families and caregivers is increasing. Equally important is education for the public in regards to TBI. Individuals living with TBI have an invisible injury and the lack of understanding of the changes in the person who is now living with the effects can cause that person to be isolated even more. There is a greater need to provide community resources than ever before.

There is no cure for TBI; however, prevention is the most prevailing factor. Improving efforts to promote the use of seatbelts, child safety seats, helmets, reduction in the occurrence of child abuse, domestic violence, and other non-accidental injuries are vital to reducing the number of lives impacted by a TBI.

Many states, including Arkansas, have taken steps to prevent long-term harm to student athletes who sustain concussions. Prevention measures are essential to reducing the social and economic burden caused by TBI.[6]

Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury in Arkansas

There were 3,014 cases of significant head trauma with a 22% readmission rate to Arkansas hospitals from2010-2014.
~ 2018 Arkansas Study [7]

In Arkansas, resources that provide assistance for people living with brain injuries, their family members, caregivers, and health care providers are needed to properly care for the underserved TBI population. In addition to the injury-related challenges, those impacted by brain injury may have difficulty navigating, accessing, receiving, and paying for services, partly due to the lack of funding but also to the rurality and lack of resources in their communities.

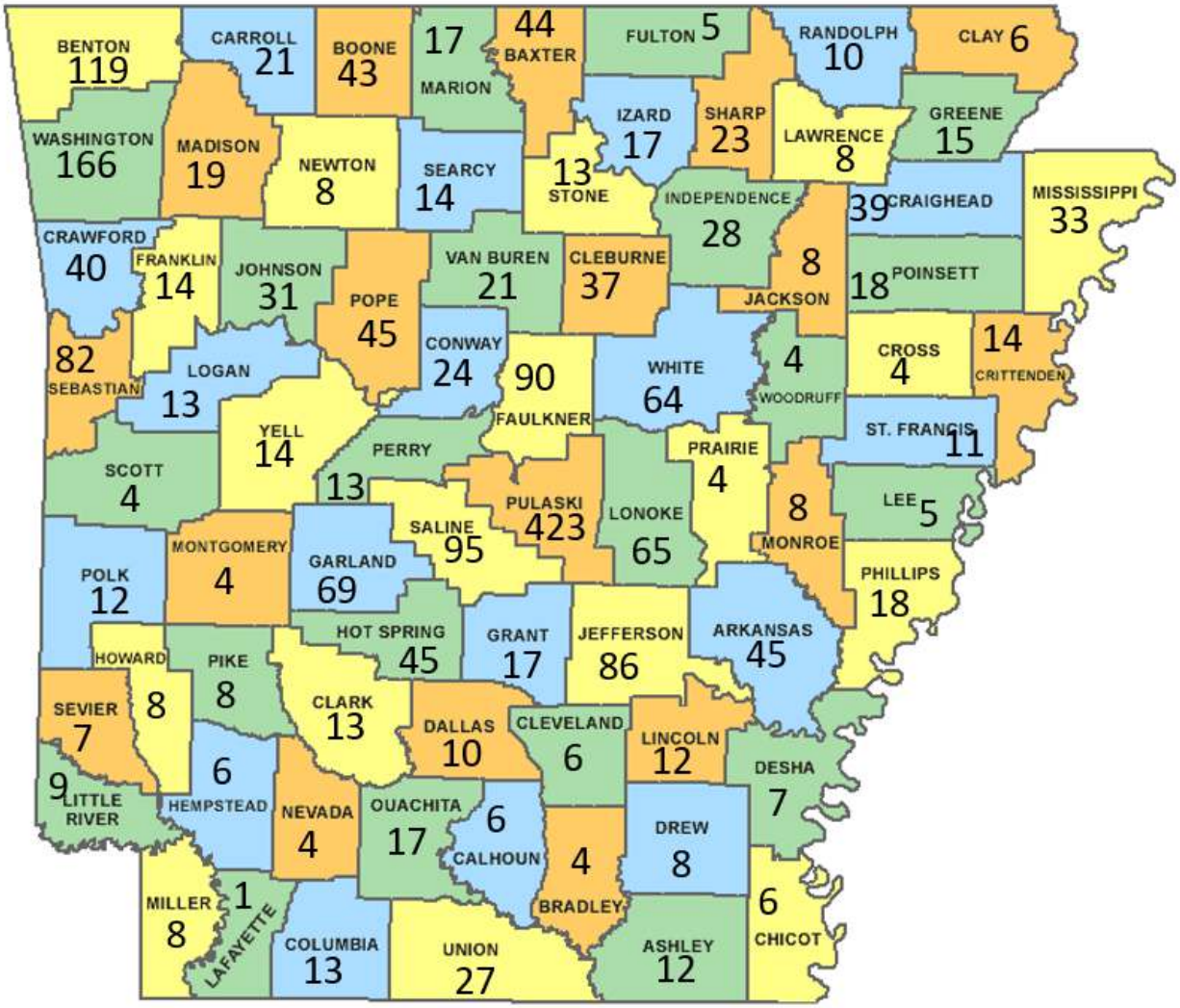
To address the needs of the TBI population, almost half of the states have enacted legislation to designate funding. Funding in many of the states is associated with traffic fines and/or surcharges to vehicle registration and motor vehicle licenses, which supports an array of programs and services for those living with TBI and their families.[7] Arkansas is one of the few states that does not have a fund generator. Arkansas also lacks a Medicaid Waiver program specifically for people living with brain injuries.

Arkansas's aging population also faces risk of resources and services related to TBI. Data collected by the National Council on Aging indicates that falls are the leading cause of TBI among adults over the age of 65.[8] The Arkansas State Plan on Aging (2020-2022) cites U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2013 that ranked Arkansas 10th in the nation for percentage of persons aged 60 and above. [9] Between January 1, 2020 and July 16, 2020, 398 referrals to the TBI Registry or 41.46% of TBIs in Arkansas have occurred in citizens aged 61 and older.[10, 11]

Without access to appropriate resources and services, people living with brain injury and their family members often experience unemployment, social isolation, re-occurring hospitalizations, institutionalization, and homelessness. The Arkansas TBI Registry currently documents 103 rehabilitation or long-term care facilities within the state by patients discharged from hospital care.[12] The Arkansas Department of Health documents 26 inpatient rehabilitative facilities on their website.[13]

Traumatic Brain Injuries by Arkansas County

Arkansas currently has more than 2,300* people living with brain injury documented in the TBI Registry. The registry has been in existence since 2013 and documents moderate to severe injury. TBI by county is provided on the map below, with the exception of 13 with an unknown county designation.



*Through December 31, 2019

Top Needs in Arkansas

Top needs in Arkansas are currently being identified through online and in-person surveys. In addition, individuals entered into the Arkansas TBI Registry are contacted by a TRRP staff member within 30 days of discharge from the hospital to assess needs. TBI survivors, caregivers, family members, and healthcare providers can provide a broader view into each TBI survivor's needs.

By identifying the top needs and working to meet those needs, our goal is to help TBI survivors forge a path to resources that can allow them to return to work, school, or even relearn the skills needed to live independently. Meeting some of their needs can improve the quality of life for those living with the life-long effects of TBI.

The top needs currently identified through data collection are listed below:

- Case management and appropriate referral to rehabilitative services
- Resource facilitation
- Employment supports and job training advocacy
- Trust fund and/or Medicaid waiver program

Surveys are available on the TBI SPP in Arkansas website: (https://idhi.uams.edu/programs/trauma-telemedicine-programs/tbi-state-partnership-program/).

Focus Area 1: Case Management and Appropriate Referral to Rehabilitative Services and Facilitation Resources

The goal of rehabilitation after a head injury is successful reintegration back into community and improved quality of life. Services and needs vary by TBI survivor. While some TBI survivors need little assistance to regain function, others need ongoing support. Currently, case management resources are sparse for the TBI population in Arkansas. In fact, there is no dedicated case management support for TBI survivors. Lack of case management is a major barrier to success because the medical system can be difficult to navigate. Many TBI survivors may not be aware of or have access to the services and supports needed to live their most productive lives within their communities.

***Goal 1:* Develop a sub-workgroup to focus on the needs of the underserved populations, including case management and resource facilitation, employment and job training advocacy, awareness/educational events**

Step	Year	Action	Status
1.1.1	1	Organize sub-workgroup November, 2018	Complete
1.1.2	1, 2, 3	Meet quarterly	Ongoing
1.1.3	2, 3	Develop educational and awareness events • PASSE – Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity – public meeting August, 2019 • Legal Aid of Arkansas August, 2019	Ongoing

***Goal 2:* Identify and benchmark case management resources in Arkansas and programs within the TBI SPP partner/mentor states to gain input for a statewide TBI case management program**

Step	Year	Action	Status
1.2.1	2, 3	Identify case management programs and set up meetings	Ongoing
1.2.2	2	Meet with Tennessee Case Management Program Leaders – TBI SPP	Complete

1.2.3	2	Meet with Missouri Case Management Program Leaders – TBI SPP	Complete
1.2.4	3	Meet with the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission to discuss case management and their existing case management program July, 2020	Complete
1.2.5	3	Meet with UAMS case management leaders to discuss case management and follow up available to discharged patients July, 2020	Complete
1.2.6	3	Meet with community case management resource leaders- Sources, etc.	Upcoming

<u>Goal 3:</u> Create a report of findings and outline a proposed plan for case management of TBI in Arkansas

Step	Year	Action	Status
1.3.1	3	Draft a report based on the information received from case management meetings, including preliminary outline for an Arkansas case management program	Upcoming
1.3.2	3	Present findings to the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup in a public forum (potentially virtual) and gather feedback	Upcoming
1.3.3	3	Incorporate feedback and produce a final report that will be available to the public on the TBI SPP website	Upcoming

<u>Goal 4:</u> Develop a proposed plan for case management of TBI in Arkansas

Step	Year	Action	Status
1.4.1	3	Develop a proposed plan for case management, including identification of existing resources and gaps in services and infrastructure	Upcoming
1.4.2	3	Present proposed plan to the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup in a public forum (potentially virtual) and gather feedback	Upcoming
1.4.3	3	Incorporate feedback and produce a final case management proposed plan that will be available to the public on the TBI SPP website	Upcoming

<u>Goal 5:</u> Implement the proposed plan for case management in Arkansas

Step	Year	Action	Status
1.5.1	3+		To Be Determined

Focus Area 2: Resource Facilitation

Resource facilitation provides TBI survivors, caregivers, and family members with information and connections to successfully integrate back into their communities and their lives. Resource facilitation includes independent living assistance, access to Medicaid, Social Security, workforce services, home health, assistive technology, nurse-staffed call center, and even apps that can be accessed on a phone or tablet. Resource facilitation can be done by phone, in-person visit, email, and regular mail.

***Goal 1:* Develop a sub-workgroup to focus on the development of a needs assessment and a state plan**

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.1.1	1	Organize sub-workgroup November, 2018	Complete
2.1.2	1, 2, 3	Meet quarterly	Ongoing

***Goal 2:* Develop and implement online and in-person needs assessments to identify gaps in services and supports and to collect data for the TBI State Plan**

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.2.1	1	Benchmark needs assessments from partner and mentor states	Complete
2.2.2	1	Develop online and paper needs assessments	Complete
2.2.3	2, 3	Implement survey	Ongoing
2.1.4	2, 3	Collect and analyze data for inclusion into the state plan	Ongoing

<u>Goal 3:</u> Develop and promote awareness and resources, including CE when available, for the TBI community, including TBI survivors, caregivers, family members, and health care providers

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.3.1	2, 3	Host a minimum of four brain injury regional workshops • Batesville – May, 2019 • Springdale – May, 2019 • Helena – October, 2019 • Jacksonville – December, 2019 Note: Workshops are currently on hold due to COVID-19.	Ongoing
2.3.2	2, 3	Host teleconferences with CE and store as enduring material on LearnonDemand.org • Serving Arkansans Living with Brain Injuries – July, 2019 • Legal Aid for Low Income Arkansans – October, 2019 • Assistive Technology – September, 2020 • Workforce Rehabilitation Services – October, 2020	Ongoing
2.3.3	1, 2, 3	Work with TRRP to develop a TBI community resource newsletter and provide the survivor story for each edition – BrainWaves • The Parker Family (Winter, 2019) • Joe Page (Spring, 2019) • Kerrie Snyder (Summer, 2019) • Tony Thornton (Autumn, 2019) • Miracles for Mary (Winter, 2020) • Crystal Payne (Spring, 2020) • Kim Knight (Summer, 2020)	Ongoing

2.3.4	1, 2, 3	Participate on conference committees • Arkansas Survivor's Day Conference • Arkansas Trauma Symposium • Brain Injury Conference • Miracles for Mary – MaryThon	Ongoing
2.3.5	1, 2,	Participate in partner events • 7th Annual Day at the Capitol for Individuals in Partnership with Arkansas State Independent Living Services – April, 2019	Ongoing
2.3.6	1, 2, 3	Create repository on the TBI SPP website and document TBI survivors, family members, and caregivers sharing their stories to support the TBI community and efforts toward the need for a trust fund/waiver program • Tony Thornton • Crystal Payne Note: Filming on hold due to COVID-19.	Ongoing
2.3.7	1, 2, 3	Manage media requests • UAMS Awarded $450,000 Telemedicine Grant to Serve Traumatic Brain Injury Survivors (Press Release – July, 2018) • Traumatic Brain Injury Program Seeks Input Through Online Survey, Workshops (Press Release – August, 2019) • Local Groups Form Alliance to Build Brain Injury Awareness Through Inaugural Walk (Press Release – January, 2020) • UAMS Expands Brain Injury Resources for Rural Communities Across the State (KTHV TV Interview – August, 2019) • TBI State Partnership Program Hosts Brain Injury Regional Workshops (DigiHealth Newsletter – Fall, 2019)	Ongoing

		• Update on Traumatic Brain Injury Resources in Arkansas (AFMC Journal – August, 2020)	
2.3.8	2, 3	Seek Brain Injury Awareness Month Proclamation from Arkansas Governor	Ongoing

<u>Goal 4:</u> Participate with an Arkansas TBI survivor in the Annual ACL Meeting and NASHIA Hill Day to share the needs of Arkansans living with brain injury and to gain support for needed services

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.4.1	1, 2, 3	Annual Event Joe Page, Warden, Arkansas Department of Corrections (2018, 2019)	Ongoing
2.4.2	3	TBI SPP to sponsor NASHIA memberships for three TRRP staff members	Complete
2.4.3	3	TBI SPP to sponsor travel to ACL annual meeting for two TRRP staff members	Upcoming

<u>Goal 5:</u> Provide TBI SPP updates at the quarterly meetings of the Arkansas Trauma Council (TAC) and the TAC Rehabilitation Sub-Committee to support awareness of resource facilitation and to promote awareness of accomplishments

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.5.1	2, 3	Share a quarterly letter of accomplishments from the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup for inclusion in the Rehabilitation Sub-Committee minutes	Ongoing
2.5.2	2, 3	Share TBI SPP update at the quarterly TAC meeting	Ongoing

<u>Goal 6:</u> Promote the use of telemedicine and the nurse-staffed call center, especially for TBI survivors living in rural areas within Arkansas and with TBI SPP partner/mentor states through presentations, publications, and events

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.6.1	2, 3	Conduct presentations at conferences • Telemedicine with SCI & TBI Patients Today and in the Future – Arkansas Trauma Symposium, May 2019 • Using Telemedicine to Meet the Needs of the Arkansas TBI Population – NASHIA SOS, September, 2019 • Arkansas Rural Outreach Plan presented to the ACL Underserved Populations Group for inclusion in Year 3 toolkit deliverable – October, 2019	Ongoing
2.6.2	2, 3	Conduct presentations at Brain Injury Regional Workshops • Batesville – May, 2019 • Springdale – May, 2019 • Helena – October, 2019 • Jacksonville – December, 2019	Ongoing
2.6.3	2, 3	Publish articles to promote awareness and available resources • Resources Update for Traumatic Brain Injury Patients, Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, August, 2020	Ongoing
2.6.4	2, 3	Conduct media interviews to promote resources	Ongoing
2.6.5	2, 3	Organize teleconferences through Connecting Across Professions (CAP) that incorporate telemedicine	Ongoing

***Goal 7:* Participate in ACL workgroups to gather ideas and improve resources availability**

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.7.1	1, 2, 3	Advisory Board and Survivor Engagement Monthly	Ongoing
2.7.2	1, 2, 3	Underserved Populations Monthly	Ongoing
2.7.3	1, 2, 3	Trust Fund/Waiver Program Monthly	Ongoing

***Goal 8:* Develop Arkansas presence for a national brain injury organization**

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.8.1	1, 2, 3	Research national brain injury associations and make contacts to gain information about bringing a national organization to Arkansas	Ongoing
2.8.2	2, 3	Meet with David King, Chief Executive Officer, Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance	Complete
2.8.3	2, 3	Identify a champion	Ongoing
2.8.4	3	Complete the paperwork to create the organization	Upcoming
	2, 3	Outreach to Amy Zellmer (Brain & Life Magazine)	Ongoing

***Goal 9:* Provide support for resource materials provided to families leaving acute care and rehabilitation facilities and share resources for inclusion on the TRRP website**

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.9.1	1, 2, 3	Share new resources for inclusion on the TRRP website	Ongoing
2.9.2	1, 2, 3	Review and provide feedback for the TRRP Family Resource Guide	Ongoing
2.9.3	2	Provide 500 BIAA Family Resource Guides	Complete

<u>Goal 10:</u> Provide 30-Day follow up for resource facilitation by TRRP for individuals entered into the Arkansas TBI Registry

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.10.1	1, 2, 3	Phone contact	Ongoing

<u>Goal 11:</u> Assist TBI community through the services and support of the outreach nurse education, including coordination of telemedicine visits with the TBI population during COVID and others who have difficulty traveling to see their doctors

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.11.1	1, 2, 3	Phone and in-person contact	Ongoing

<u>Goal 12:</u> Provide input into the development and maintenance of the Arkansas TBI Registry by making benchmarking connections with other states in the TBI SPP program and through knowledge gained by working with the TBI community

Step	Year	Action	Status
2.12.1	1, 2, 3	Provide feedback and enhancements through knowledge gained by working with the TBI community	Ongoing
2.12.2	2	Benchmark other state registries to make connections and gain ideas to improve the Arkansas TBI Registry • Alabama February, 2020	Ongoing

Focus Area 3: Employment and Job Training Advocacy

Employment and job training advocacy can help those living with brain injuries prepare for and maintain meaningful employment. Needs can range from training and education to job placement services.

Goal 1: Develop relationships with agencies and organizations that provide employment and job training advocacy

Step	Year	Action	Status
3.1.1	1, 2, 3	Develop relationships with agencies and organizations that provide employment supports and job training advocacy • Sources • Arkansas Department of Career Services	Ongoing

Goal 2: Promote awareness of resources

Step	Year	Action	Status
3.2.1	1, 2, 3	Brain Injury Regional Workshops	Ongoing
3.2.2	2, 3	Brain Waves Newsletter	Ongoing
3.2.3	3	Teleconferences • ICAN and Assistive Technology September, 2020 • Arkansas Department of Career Services October, 2020	Upcoming

Focus Area 4: Development of a Trust Fund and/or Medicaid Waiver Program

A trust fund and/or waiver program can help those living with disabilities receive the services and supports needed while addressing financial need.

***Goal 1:* Develop a sub-workgroup to focus on trust fund and/or waiver program**

Step	Year	Action	Status
4.1.1	1	Organize sub-workgroup November, 2018	Complete
4.1.2	1	Meet quarterly	Ongoing

***Goal 2:* Identify and benchmark trust funds and waiver programs that exist across the country to help support the development of these resources in Arkansas**

Step	Year	Action	Status
4.2.1	2, 3	Research programs in other states • NASHIA • Meeting with Judy Detmer, Colorado February, 2019	Ongoing
4.2.2	2, 3	Identify a champion legislator and possibly a spokesperson(s) from the TBI community	Ongoing

<u>Goal 3:</u> Create a report of findings and outline a potential plan for a trust fund and/or waiver program in Arkansas

Step	Year	Action	Status
4.3.1	3	Draft a report based on the information received from research	Upcoming
4.3.2	3	Present findings to the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup in a public forum (potentially virtual) and gather feedback	Upcoming
4.3.3	3	Incorporate feedback and produce a final report that will be available to the public on the TBI SPP website	Upcoming

<u>Goal 4:</u> Develop a roadmap plan for a trust fund and/or waiver program in Arkansas

Step	Year	Action	Status
4.4.1	3	Develop a potential trust fund and/or waiver program roadmap	Upcoming
4.4.2	3	Present proposed roadmap plan to the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup in a public forum (potentially virtual) and gather feedback	Upcoming
4.4.3	3	Incorporate feedback and produce a final trust fund and/or waiver program roadmap that will be available to the public on the TBI SPP website	Upcoming

<u>Goal 5:</u> Implement the trust fund and/or waiver plan

Step	Year	Action	Status
4.5.1	3+	To be determined	To be Determined

<u>Goal 6:</u> Ensure communication and seek input with appropriate resources

Step	Year	Action	Status
4.6.3	1	Meet with UAMS government relations liaison to discuss need for a trust fund/waiver and governor involvement; ensure that the office is informed of TBI Advisory Board Workgroup efforts	Ongoing
4.6.3	3	Engage NASHIA technical assistance for guidance	Upcoming
4.6.4	1, 2, 3	Brain Waves newsletter, and social media	Ongoing

Appendix A – Arkansas TBI Advisory Board Workgroup

The mission of the Arkansas TBI Advisory Board Workgroup is to improve upon Arkansas's TBI infrastructure in an effort to maximize independence, wellbeing, and health of persons with TBI, their family members, caregivers, and providers.

Identifying ways to achieve goals set within the focus areas outlined in the plan, each participant of the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup also contributes their expertise and knowledge to a sub-workgroup. The efforts of these sub-workgroups are outlined in this working plan.

Program leaders and the Arkansas TBI Advisory Board Workgroup will continue to identify partnerships that can leverage outcomes consistent with those identified in the working plan.

The Arkansas TBI Advisory Board Workgroup does not have the resources to accomplish this plan alone, but rather identifies itself through its mission as the organization that must lead in the establishment of these collaborative partnerships.

TBI Advisory Board Workgroup participants are currently engaging on a volunteer basis with plans for ongoing recruitment and expansion for TBI survivors, families, and caregivers. The TBI Advisory Board Workgroup seeks to promote engagement of all members and recognition at a state level.

As previously mentioned, participants in the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup also volunteer to serve in a specific sub-workgroup based on their interests and expertise. The sub-workgroups meet at least once per quarter and are tasked with providing updates at the quarterly TBI Advisory Board Workgroup meeting.

The sub-workgroups are listed below.

- TBI State Plan Development
- Trust Fund, Waiver Program, Financial Strategies
- Underserved Populations

It is the hope of the TBI Advisory Board Workgroup, organized through the ACL TBI SPP grant, to gain recognition by the Arkansas Governor's Office. This recognition would help to further conversations about the legislation needed to develop a trust fund and/or waiver program and other infrastructure needs within the TBI community in Arkansas.

Arkansas State Plan Development Sub-Workgroup

The mission of the State Plan Development sub-workgroup is to guide public communication for the TBI Advisory Board workgroup and sub-workgroup efforts and the Arkansas State Plan and to determine the structure of the Arkansas State Plan.

Tasks:

- Benchmark states with existing plans
- Determine a framework for the Arkansas State Plan
- Benchmark assessment tools used by partner and mentor states
- Develop and identify ways to implement assessment tools in Arkansas
- Incorporate the outcomes of sub-workgroups and Advisory Board Workgroup feedback into the plan
- Provide updates at quarterly Advisory Board Workgroup meetings
- Other tasks identified by the sub-workgroup

Resources Reviewed:

Traumatic Brain Injury in Missouri State Plan
https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/tbi/pdf/tbistateplan2012-2017.pdf

Missouri Green Book: Living with Brain Injury
http://www.nashia.org/pdf/hotopics/mo-tbi-guide-green-book.pdf

West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Social Service Model 2018-2018
http://tbi.cedwvu.org/media/3366/wv-tbi-social-services-model-plan-2018-2019.pdf

Iowa State Plan for Brain Injury (2013-2017)
http://publications.iowa.gov/17257/1/Brain%20Injury%20Plan%20final.pdf

Colorado State Plan
https://mindsourcecolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/MINDSOURCE-Strategic-Plan-FINAL-010120-with-updates.pdf

Trust Fund, Waiver Program, and Financial Strategies Sub-Workgroup

The mission of the Trust Fund, Waiver Program, and Financial Strategies sub-workgroup is to research and identify ways to develop and implement a trust fund and/or waiver program(s), and to identify financial strategies for the state's underserved populations, including those over the age of 18 and those who receive Medicaid benefits.

Tasks:

- Benchmark states with existing trust fund and waiver programs
- Work toward development of a trust fund and/or waiver program by identifying funding sources and opportunities
- Promote understanding of service coverage (i.e., Medicaid, Medicare, Money Follows the Person, Social Security, and private insurance)
- Identify specific areas of need within the TBI community (i.e., respite assistance, transportation, education, etc.)
- Provide updates at quarterly Advisory Board Workgroup meetings
- Other tasks identified by the sub-workgroup

Resources Reviewed:

- *TBI/ABI HCBS Waiver Programs and Other Options for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)*
  https://www.nashia.org/pdf/tbi_hcbs_waiver_ltss_overview_update_sept_2018.pdf
- *State Brain Injury Trust Fund Programs: Overview*
  https://www.nashia.org/pdf/state_trust_fund_overview_listing2018.pdf
- *Resource Facilitation Program – Missouri*
  Meeting with Jennifer Braun, TBI SPP
- *Case Management Program – Tennessee*
  Meeting with Paula Denslow, TBI SPP
- *TBI Registry Design – Alabama*
  Meeting with April Turner, TBI SPP
- Medicaid Waiver Program – Iowa
- Medicaid Waiver Proposal – Oregon

Underserved Populations Sub-Workgroup

The mission of the Underserved Populations Sub-Workgroup is to identify ways to promote and disseminate resources, services, education, and information within the TBI community, especially in the underserved populations identified by the ACL TBI SPP for 2018 – 2021.

Tasks:

- Benchmark states with existing plans
- Identify gaps in resources and services that are needed to integrate TBI survivors back into their communities
- Brainstorm ideas and develop solutions to fill the gaps
- Identify community and survivor engagement opportunities and events to provide support and information on resources and education
- Provide updates at quarterly Advisory Board Workgroup meetings
- Other tasks identified by the sub-group

References

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