



2011-2012

Annual Report

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

Our Principles

NASHIA:

- *Respects the past and embraces the future.*
- *Values diversity, creativity, innovation and individuality in people and systems.*
- *Is goal-directed, and strives to learn from others.*
- *Believes brain injury is a significant public health and disability concern that requires resources for prevention, research and service delivery commensurate with its scope and impact at the local, State and federal level.*
- *Believes individuals with brain injuries have the right to a life in the mainstream of society with the full range of service and support options necessary to meet individualized needs across the lifespan.*
- *Believes State service delivery systems should outreach to and support all individuals with brain injuries, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, in setting their own goals, determining their own needs, and choosing their own services and supports in culturally appropriate environments.*
- *Believes service delivery systems should be accessible, available, acceptable, appropriate, and affordable, and respect the values, knowledge, and history of individuals with brain injury and their families.*
- *Believes individuals with brain injury, their circle of supports, and their families should be active participants in the planning and implementation of service delivery systems that balance financial responsibility with the dignity of risk.*
- *Values collaborative approaches across organizations and systems and the contributions of all partners and stakeholders who share NASHIA's goals.*

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****Giving States a Voice****

Welcome and Introduction
Lorraine Wargo, RN, Executive Director

As NASHIA's Executive Director, I invite you to read this report about the work carried out this past year through its committees, Board of Directors, and Support Team. It is through the commitment of our volunteer officers and Board, with assistance from the NASHIA Support Team, that we are able to continue to provide stability and continuity to the organization. As such, several administrative functions were accomplished this past year, including the adoption of an updated policies and procedures manual and a strategic plan. A Board Manual will also be provided to the new Board, which will meet for the first time during the 23rd Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting, September 10-13. The outgoing Board is meeting for the last time on September 9th. I am grateful for the time this Board has put forth to ensure that NASHIA remains a viable organization.



Our members have again been generous in contributing their time, talents and funding to a number of activities, including the annual Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day, an ad for a special publication of USA Today, featuring football teams in the New York market and articles on concussions, and the annual Silent Auction and other fundraising activities held during the annual Meeting. These contributions and support, and the success of the annual meeting allow us to support member services and NASHIA's public policy and public education activities.

NASHIA members continue to request assistance in locating information and resources to improve and expand state services. The website provides the latest information and individual assistance. Please keep us informed of your state's initiatives and any personnel changes so that we can have the latest information. Our public policy staff added a new weekly publication to keep members abreast of current federal news, grant opportunities, proposed rules and resources, studies and reports. *NASHIA News* Newsletter is source for up to date information about NASHIA, our individual states and our partners. We can provide additional technical assistance to states and others who wish to contract with our organization for such services.

NASHIA is always interested in pursuing funding and collaborative opportunities with other organizations so that we may expand our resources. We strongly believe that we are the "go to" organization to help states expand their capacity to provide services, as well as to help those needing state and local resources to find them.

NASHIA is a non-profit organization, and any financial contribution is tax deductible. NASHIA originated in 1990 as the first and *only* forum addressing state government's significant role in brain injury. In addition to state government employees, membership includes retirees and associate members who represent non-state government professionals, consumers and others interested in TBI service delivery.

In keeping with its mission and history, the organization offers members an array of services and benefits through education, training, resources, as well as collective representation before members of Congress and federal agencies. Information on state TBI programs, NASHIA communications, and other resources may be found at www.nashia.org. Please participate on NASHIA's committees and provide feedback if there are particular areas of interest that you wish for us to pursue. We look forward to working with you this coming year as we work to grow our capacity in order to help you grow yours!



*Message from the President
Janice K. White*

NASHIA salutes all of our hard working state employees, associate members, families and survivors of brain injury and thanks you for all you do. We continue to work each day to assist states in giving the best support to those who have sustained a brain injury, their families and the providers and people in each state who support them. Our Support Team works long hours to bring our members the best and most up to date information about brain injury; we support their dedication. We are pleased with our accomplishments, but are never satisfied as there is always more to do! This report is a glimpse at the last year.

The NASHIA Board and Support Team have worked very hard on a strategic plan which will be completed by the time you read this. We thank Sharron Corle and Librada Estrada of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), who helped NASHIA's Board members with strategic planning efforts. Please visit the NASHIA website for timely information on public policy and hot topics. Allow NASHIA to assist you in locating resources, partnering with your peers and learning about the latest brain injury updates.

The Public Policy Committee continues working on issues key to state programs, especially TBI Act Reauthorization and funding for TBI Act programs. This groundbreaking piece of legislation is the *only* federal program addressing needs specific to TBI and continues to be the foundation for TBI service development in the states. NASHIA supports legislation and funding addressing an array of issues, including prevention, rehabilitation, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and long-term services and supports. NASHIA works closely with national partners and organizations to help improve services and access to delivery systems.

We are excited and proud to combine forces this year with the National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD) for our conference. We work closely with state Associations or Alliances for ongoing work in individual states. NASHIA partners with many other federal agencies and groups such as Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to further the cause of brain injury and develop more effective systems of care. We believe these partnerships with other like-minded organizations are the backbone of strong organizations.

NASHIA is proud of its 23 strong years of service to states and to the brain injury community in general. We will continue our endeavors for you and with you! The federal and state financial climate is still uncertain, but NASHIA can assist your state and the consumers within your state. Please speak to anyone from the board or support team to learn more about our organization. We are here for you!

As I pass the baton to Amy Flaherty, I know NASHIA's proud tradition of leadership is safe with our new President. She is ready to lead this great organization into the future. I look forward to helping her and the board to carry on our rich history of assisting states to further the cause of brain injury. Please consider helping too as many hands make light work.

NASHIA Board of Directors

Officers

President
Janice White
Raleigh, NC

Secretary
Carolyn Hansen
Lansing, MI

Past President
Maria Crowley
Homewood, AL

President-Elect
Amy Flaherty
Harrisburg, PA

Treasurer
Nicole Adams
Harrisburg, PA

Emeritus
Augusta Cash
Birmingham, AL

Standing Committees

CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Judy Dettmer
Denver, CO

CHAIR, SOS COMMITTEE

Amy Flaherty
Harrisburg, PA

CHAIR, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Maria Crowley & Keri Bennett
AL & NE

CHAIR, PUBLIC POLICY

William A. B. Ditto
Howell, NJ

CHAIR, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacant

At Large Members

Lori Brenneke
Jefferson City, MO

Stefani O'Dea
Baltimore, MD

NASHIA Support Team

Lorraine Wargo
Executive Director

Susan Vaughn
Director of Public Policy

Paul Walsh
Webmaster

Donna Huckestein
Finance Administrator

Rebecca Wolfkiel
Government Relations

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Members: Judy Dettmer (CO) Chair, Steven Wrigley (UT), Patti Goodall (VA), Sylvia Gafford-Alexander (CT), Carol Hansen (MI), Joseph Amoroso (NJ), Janice White (NC).

The NASHIA Membership Committee has been working this past year to more clearly define the benefits of membership, closely examine membership categories, to better understand how the Committee can more effectively ensure national participation and consider the benefits of membership specifically for the growing number of Associate members. NASHIA recognizes that while the organization is the voice for state agencies, there is significant benefit to partner members as well. Therefore NASHIA is working to promote partnerships across public and private entities. The Membership Committee has brought forth a variety of proposals to the Board of Directors aimed at enhancing and increasing memberships. Among the recommendations that will go to the full membership for a vote in September is a proposal to grant Associate Members weighted voting rights within NASHIA. Additionally, the Committee is proposing to address the concept of regional representation by adding 4 at-large regional board positions. Each of these proposals will be addressed at the Membership Meeting in September 2012.

Current membership by category:

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Full Member	31	20	18	25	23	14	16	18
State Agency Member	36	88*	79*	83*	73*	49*	44*	41*
Retiree (State) Member	-	2	3	4	4	4	5	4
Associate Member	97	93	85	95	90	65	55	47
Student	-	-	1	2	2	1	0	11
Supporting Member	5	5	6	7	5	4	6	6
Total	169	208	192	216	197	137	126	117
States & Territories Represented	45	48	42	47	42	42	36	40
		* 30 States	*27 States	*31 States	*25 States	*18 States	*15 States	*15 States

Training and Education Committee

Members: Co-chairs: Maria Crowley (AL) and Keri Bennett (NE); and members: Anastasia Edmonston (MD); Stefani O'Dea (MD); Nikki Adams (PA); Pam Bryan (TN); Mary Enge (MN); Sylvia Gafford-Alexander (CT); Nicole Godaire (MA); Janet Gwiazda (NJ); Carolyn Hansen (MI); Stephanie Lotti (GA); Janet Morris (TN); Rebecca Quinn (ND); Jennifer Rayman (TN); Sherry Stock (OR); Susan Wagner (ND); Linda Hallock (WY); and Nicky Osborne (MA)

The Education and Training Committee grew significantly in 2011-2012. Committee members formed smaller, focused workgroups to research and develop products for NASHIA:

The Quarterly Newsletter: The newsletter is sent in January, April, July and October to NASHIA membership, TBI Model System representatives and others. Each edition includes a President's report, an Executive Director's report, committee reports, a membership update, Spotlight on a Partnership and a State Spotlight.

Online Training: This workgroup is researching webcast and webinar costs, delivery methods and procedures for offering continuing education credits for participants.

Fact Sheets: This workgroup began reviewing and updating the popular NASHIA factsheets on topics such as vocational rehabilitation and employment, brain injury in children and youth, emergency medical services, TBI and older adults, and neurobehavioral health. The traditional target audiences for the fact sheets are state agency and community based service provider staff, but they may also be used to educate legislators.

State of the States Conference Planning Committee

Conference Planning Committee for the 22nd Annual State of the States Meeting:

Members: Lori Brenneke (MO), Chair, Pam Bryan, John Capuco (NH), Maria Crowley (AL), Michael Deegan (KS), Amy Flaherty (PA), Carolyn Hanson (MI), Kristin Custer (OR), Lisa McGuire (CDC), Peggy Reisher (NE), Sherry Stock (OR), Marlena Wald (CDC), Lorraine Wargo (NASHIA), and Janice White (NC).



The 22nd Annual State of the States Meeting and Pre-Conference was held October 3-6, 2011 in Kansas City, MO. A Pre-Conference entitled “Concussions in Sports: Nothing Mild About It” explored the epidemiology of concussions, the latest research on concussion impact, legislative advocacy, and the resources and tools to educate all who need to be concerned, from the athlete to the school board to health care professionals. The pre-conference was attended by 37 registrants. The State of the States meeting explored a variety of brain injury issues

relative to helping those who serve individuals with brain injury improve service delivery systems. The meeting was attended by 72 registrants. A variety of organizations supported the meeting as an exhibitor or sponsor. Although participant registration was lower than experienced in previous years, largely due to state budgets, the event resulted in a positive fiscal impact for NASHIA.

Association Award

The Katie Cash 2011 Award: Erin Weaver

Congratulations to Erin Weaver, formerly the TBI Program Coordinator, Vermont Division of Disability and Aging! Erin was honored during the 22nd Annual State of the States Meeting held in Kansas City in October. The Katie Cash Award recognizes the contributions of an individual whose tireless efforts directly and significantly contribute to the Association’s achievements and growth. Presenting the Award (far right) is Augusta Cash (AL).



Conference Planning Committee for the 23rd Annual State of the States Meeting:

Members: Amy Flaherty (Chair), Janice White (NC), Lorraine Wargo (NASHIA), Susan Vaughn (NASHIA), Carolyn Hansen (MI), Patricia Goodall (VA), Brenda Eagan Brown (PA), Vicki Eicher (PA) Judy Avner (NY), Carole Surratt-Bradley (IN), Susan Wagner (ND), and Nicole Adams (PA).

The Board of Directors approved collaboration with the National Association of States United on Aging and Disability (NASUAD) in planning the 23rd Annual State of the States Meeting to be held in conjunction with NASUAD’s Home and Community Based Services conference. The conference will be held September 10 –

13, 2012, in Arlington, Virginia. The conference planning committee, chaired by Amy Flaherty, began work in February 2012 to identify topics and speakers. Given the unique location of the Washington, DC metro area, the planning committee sought to capitalize on the many Federal partners located in the region and facilitate panel discussions on TBI from a variety of Federal perspectives. Speakers include representatives from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NIC0E) and the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Additionally, session topics will include an overview of TBI and substance abuse, a public health perspective on TBI research and the confluence of TBI and Aging.

SOS Participant totals for the Past Ten Years		
Year	Number of Participants	Location
2011	78	Kansas City, Missouri
2010	385	Minneapolis, Minnesota in conjunction with NABIS
2009	158	Santa Fe, New Mexico
2008	186	Williamsburg, Virginia
2007	187	St. Louis, Missouri
2006	187	Baltimore, Maryland, in conjunction with BIAA Leadership Conference
2005	163	Denver, Colorado in conjunction with BIAA Leadership Conference
2004	198	Nashville, Tennessee in conjunction with HRSA TBI Annual Grantee meeting
2003	142	San Antonio, Texas in conjunction with BIAA Leadership Conference
2002	95	Kansas City, Missouri
2001	93	Kansas city, Missouri

Finance Committee

Members: Nicole Adams (PA), Treasurer, Janice White (NC), President; Donna Huckestein, NASHIA Finance Administrator; and Lorraine Wargo, NASHIA Executive Director.

The Finance Committee meets as needed and routinely as part of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings. With assistance from the Executive Director an annual budget is prepared for Board approval. Monthly reports of expenses and income are also provided to the Board for review and approval.

NASHIA is supported through the dues of its members and supporters, private donations, conference fees and publications sales. Maintenance of financial records is contracted out to the Alabama Head Injury Foundation represented by NASHIA's Finance Administrator. All banking transactions are facilitated by Bancorp South in Alabama. NASHIA and its members continue to look toward the development of revenue mechanisms. Reports and records are maintained by staff.

Policy and Procedures Committee

Members: Augusta Cash (Chair), Susan Vaughn and Lorraine Wargo

The Committee reviewed NASHIA's *Policies and Procedures Manual* created initially in 2001, and updated over the years. The Committee reviewed all policies and made recommendations to the Board of Directors so as to be in compliance with federal law, reflect best practices for nonprofit boards, and reflect current administrative structure for the organization. The Board approved policies revisions in July and August, and subsequently updated its *Policies and Procedures Manual regarding* policies for the Board operations, administration of the organization, and policies governing employees.

NASHIA Public Policy Committee

Members: William A.B. Ditto, MSW, (NJ), Chair, Lori Brenneke (MO), Augusta Cash (AL), Maria Crowley (AL), Judy Dettmer (CO), Darin Gavin (CO), Kate Kulesher Jarecke (NE), Roy Lippin (NJ), Stephanie Lotti (GA), William Reynolds (NY), Kris Shields (FL), Russ Spearman (ID), Linda Valdeer (SC), Janice White (NC), Steve Wrigley (UT).

Staff: Rebecch (Becky) Wolfkiel, Governmental Relations Consultant, Ridge Policy Group, LLC, Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy.



In keeping with the Public Policy Platform outlining public policy priorities, NASHIA worked on a number of issues this year, including: TBI Act Reauthorization, funding for TBI Act programs; budget language supporting Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) convening a federal TBI interagency work group; and budget language in the defense authorization bill calling for collaboration with State TBI programs to access local and community resources. NASHIA also provided comments to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on rules and regulations implementing home and community-based services and other ACA provisions.

NASHIA was front and center with regard to the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Awareness Day Activities, and the Press Conference announcing the TBI Act Reauthorization. William (Bill) Ditto, chair, testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health on states' role in providing TBI service delivery.

Stefanie O'Dea and Bill continue to represent NASHIA at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) meetings comprised of national associations representing state Medicaid home and community-based (HCBS) waiver programs. And, NASHIA continues to outreach to other federal agencies and national partners.



NASHIA contracts for the services of Rebecch (Becky) Wolfkiel, Sr. Government Relations Staff, Ridge Policy Group, LLC, to assist with education, influence, and collaboration with national organizations, federal agencies and members of Congress. Becky works closely with the CBITF to promote policies and awareness through the CBITF Awareness Day activities; distribution of sign on support letters for TBI funding and legislation to members of the Task Force and national organizations; and securing budget language and funding. She also serves as liaison to HRSA TBI program staff,

Department of Defense, and the new Administration for Community Living, arranging conference calls and meetings accordingly.

The Association also contracts with Susan L. Vaughn as the Director of Public Policy, who works with the Public Policy Committee on NASHIA's policy positions; develops NASHIA's materials and handouts, prepares letters and testimony, and drafts responses to federal rules and regulations in keeping with the Committee's recommendations. Susan posts these and other pertinent information regularly to the NASHIA website.

Both Susan and Becky provide a monthly public policy report for the Board, which Bill presents during Board meetings. During the annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting, the public policy session, "Meet the Press, has become a regular feature to keep members updated and engaged.

TBI Act Reauthorization

The primary focus of the Public Policy staff this year has been to develop legislation reauthorizing programs created by the TBI Act of 1996, as amended. Through its public policy staff, NASHIA collaborated with the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), and federal agencies and partners in developing TBI Act reauthorization language. Public Policy staff set up meetings and calls accordingly with TBI stakeholders, injury prevention stakeholders and Congressional staff to gain support. NASHIA and TBI stakeholders also solicited support from national organizations via a sign on letter which was sent to the sponsors of the reauthorization bill; and Becky assisted the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force co-chairs in soliciting co-sponsors.

Legislation was subsequently introduced in the House (H.R. 4238) by Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA). The bill extends reauthorization, and amends Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and HRSA sections in keeping with recommendations from NASHIA members obtained through the NASHIA Survey; Safe States Alliance and other injury prevention stakeholders; TBI stakeholders; and information derived from federal agencies. A Press Conference was held on March 21th announcing the introduction of H.R. 4238; and Bill Ditto spoke during the Press Conference on behalf of NASHIA. Becky also assisted the co-sponsors with the arrangements for the Press Conference.

Bill Ditto testified on behalf of NASHIA during the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health's hearing on TBI March 19, 2012. The Subcommittee has indicated that it will hold another hearing on the TBI Act reauthorization in September, 2012. In the Senate, Becky and other TBI stakeholders met with staff with Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), who is also chair of the Senate HELP Committee, and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UR) to secure their support.

TBI Act Appropriations

For FY 2012, the current year, the HRSA Federal TBI Grant Program received level funding, and the CDC TBI Program received a small increase. Becky was successful in obtaining budget language to support HRSA in its efforts to collaborate and coordinate resources across federal agencies and to develop a national plan for TBI. The HRSA Federal TBI Act Program currently receives approximately \$9.91 for the two grant programs. HRSA allocates approximately two thirds of the funds for the State Grant Program and the Technical Assistance Center, with the remaining one third allocated for Protection and Advocacy Systems grants.

Becky arranged meetings and follow-up phone calls with House/Senate Appropriations staff to promote funding for the TBI Act Programs. NASHIA and TBI stakeholders support:

- \$8 million for State Grant Program;
- \$10 million for CDC TBI program; and
- \$4 million for P&A program.

At the time this report was written, House and Senate leaders had started negotiating a continuing resolution (CR) to provide funding for government programs after the new fiscal year begins on October 1, since none of

the twelve FY 2013 funding bills had yet passed. One option discussed is a six-month CR using the overall spending level of \$1.043 trillion that was agreed to in the Budget Control Act passed last year, which would fund all programs at current levels and would not include new funding proposals or program cuts.

In July 2012, the Senate Appropriations Committee recommended level funding for the HRSA Federal TBI program for FY 2013. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, however, recommended cuts of approximately 19 percent to programs under its jurisdiction. The bill's spending cap, which was set well below the agreed upon cap from last year's Budget Control Act, was the impetus for the deep spending cuts. In addition, the bill provides no funding to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and eliminates funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The Budget Control Act requires a cut for most non-defense discretionary (NDD) federal programs across-the-board of approximately 9 percent in January 2013, if Congress does not enact a plan before then, to reduce the national debt by \$1.2 trillion. These cuts would impact most employment, health and human services, research, training and education programs, including the TBI Act programs. NASHIA joined a coalition of coalitions, called the NDD Summit, to raise the visibility of the impact of sequestration on NDD programs. Nearly 3,000 national, State and local groups signed on to a letter to Congress about the impact of cuts on these programs.

Other Legislation

Becky Wolfkiel advocated and obtained budget language in the FY 2013 defense authorization bill calling for collaboration among the Department of Defense and State TBI programs. She offered assistance to the Intrepid Center for TBI (NICoE) in obtaining legislation to establish a private foundation to support TBI programs. Becky met with NICoE staff and AMSUS staff and followed up with Senate Armed Services Committee staff accordingly. NICoE is looking to AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals, to run the foundation. (AMSUA was organized in 1891, and chartered by Congress in 1903, to advance the knowledge of healthcare within federal agencies.)

As requested, Becky met with the Students for Concussion promoting H.R. 469, introduced by Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY), requiring schools to implement concussion management and prevention plan in order to be eligible to receive federal education funds. NASHIA is on record supporting legislation promoting concussion management guidelines for public school sporting activities, however, H.R. 469 requires state education departments to set minimum requirements and guidelines for managing concussions related to sports activities in order to receive federal funding for elementary and secondary education – the primary source of federal funds for public schools.

NASHIA signed on in support of disability and health legislation, appropriations, and other issues, including the Disabilities Treaty, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; housing; transportation; vocational rehabilitation; veterans; disability rights; research; domestic violence, substance abuse and youth; and education programs. NASHIA opposed efforts to eliminate the CDC Prevention and Public Health fund.

Congressional Brain Injury Task Force

Becky Wolfkiel served as the NASHIA liaison with the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force and assisted the CBITF in developing sign on letters for TBI Act appropriations, legislation to improve care for military personnel and veterans with TBI, legislation to improve helmets used for sporting activities, and other TBI issues that come before the Task Force and stakeholders.

NASHIA supported and assisted with the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day activities March 21, 2012. Becky secured reception sponsors and assisted the CBITF in setting up the Fair, Briefing and Reception, of which NASHIA was a co-sponsor. Bill Ditto moderated the briefing panel. NASHIA President, Jan White, and Public Policy Committee Chair, Bill, presented a clock to retiring Congressman Todd Platts for his work on behalf of TBI during the briefing session; and presented a NASHIA resolution to Rep. Bill Pascrell

for his efforts on behalf of TBI during the reception. NASHIA also arranged a birthday cake in honor of the 20th anniversary of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which was acknowledged during the reception.



Lorraine Wargo (left), Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. and Carolyn Hansen visit during the CBITF Awareness Day Fair.



Bill Ditto and Janice White present a clock to Congressman Todd Platts.

Networking, Outreach and Collaboration:

Federal Agencies and Programs

NASHIA Public Policy staff participates on conference calls arranged by CDC for injury prevention partners, as well as other conference calls organized by HHS to update stakeholders on healthcare reform initiatives. Becky arranged meetings and conference calls, and participated in such, with regard to HRSA TBI Program activities, goals and updates. Becky also facilitated a meeting with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and TBI stakeholders to discuss collaboration and cross-cutting issues. Bill and Becky are representing NASHIA during these discussions.

Becky also requested Rep. Pascrell's office and the staff for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to inquire to about the status of the NASHIA proposal to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to coordinate State and locate HCBS and respite services. NASHIA revised its proposal in keeping with VA's suggestions, but has yet to receive any notice about a contract.

National Organizations

Susan Vaughn, as the Director of Public Policy, maintains a list of national disability and health related organizations to expand the base of support beyond the TBI stakeholders for TBI funding and reauthorization. This year, Susan joined in the monthly calls of the Injury and Domestic Violence Stakeholders supporting federal efforts promoting injury prevention. NASHIA continues to be a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and five of its committees; the American Brain Coalition (ABC); Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC); and the Real Warriors Campaign.

Susan is also representing NASHIA on the "Galveston 5", a public policy work group convened during the 2012 meeting sponsored by the Moody Foundation, to address TBI as a disease or chronic condition. The work group is meeting bi-weekly, and is chaired by Susan H. Connors, BIAA. The work group is comprised of representatives from research, federal agencies and other experts.

NASHIA was a co-sponsor of the DRRC rehabilitation briefing for members of Congress and is also a co-sponsor of the National Presidential Forum on Disability Issues scheduled for September 28, 2012. As NASHIA's Government Relations Consultant, Becky:

- Represented NASHIA at the annual Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Annual Meeting, a requirement of member organizations.
- Attended the meeting on rehabilitation and Medicare, sponsored by member groups of the DRRC, which listed NASHIA as a co-sponsor.
- Represented NASHIA at the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus briefing.
- Arranged for representation through her office for the ABC annual spring conference on behalf of NASHIA.

Through her office, NASHIA also received an update and information on the meeting of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA) as part of their work for the Coalition for Preserving Rehabilitation (CPR).

Communications

Susan Vaughn publishes materials, including the Public Policy Platform, brochures for the 1st Session and the 2nd Session of Congress, the *Washington Weekly*, *Washington Update* on the CBITF Awareness Day activities, *Action Alerts*, and *Capitol News*. In February, 2012, she also published the report, “111th Congress: Final Report”, summarizing legislation and funding pertaining to NASHIA’s priorities with regard to the prior Congress. Susan posts these materials and other pertinent information regularly to the NASHIA website.

NASHIA surveyed State lead agencies to gather information on State initiatives to expand home and community-based services through the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, such as the State Plan HCBS (i), Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program, and Community First Choice Option. These results were presented by Bill Ditto during the HRSA Leadership Meeting. A NASHIA Medicaid Working Group distribution list has been maintained to solicit input for such purposes, as well as a way to distribute Medicaid information to NASHIA members who wish to receive it.

NASHIA, through personal contributions, secured an ad for the New York Giants special sports edition, produced by the USA Today publication, featuring sports-related concussions.

