Milestones in NASHIA’s History

1990
The first State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, one day prior to the National Head Injury Foundation’s (now known as the Brain Injury Association of America) annual symposium. Barry Willer, Ph.D., Director of the Research and Training Center for Community Reintegration of Individuals with TBI, SUNY, co-sponsored the event and Susan Vaughn (MO) chaired the meeting.

A mailing list comprised of State head injury programs, vocational rehabilitation commissioners, State disability programs, and prevention programs was compiled by a few State government employees and maintained by the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council.

1991
The 2nd State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, with assistance from the University of Missouri-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP), which handled registrations and hotel contracts, and the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council, which developed the brochure and meeting arrangements.

1992
The 3rd State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, with assistance from the University of Missouri-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) and the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council.

1993
The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) produced, *What Legislators Need to Know About Traumatic Brain Injury* with support from the Milbank Memorial Fund. William (Bill) Reynolds (NY), Susan Vaughn (MO), and other State Agency staff contributed to this publication.

Susan Vaughn and William (Bill) Reynolds were invited by NCSL to present a session on State TBI services and service delivery during the NCSL Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

The 4th State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, with assistance from the University of Missouri-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) and the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council.
An organizational meeting was held on September 11, 1993, in Kansas City, Missouri. Participants elected the first slate of officers: Susan Vaughn (MO), President; Bill Reynolds (NY), President-Elect; and Debra Kamen (MA), Secretary-Treasurer.

The participants of that first organizational meeting voted to develop a newsletter and a survey to determine further interest in forming a national association as well as to gather specific program information for inclusion in a national directory.

States in Region I & II developed a New England Regional Collaboration and held a regional forum with consumers, families, and States.

1994

The first newsletter was developed, in part, through a contract with Pat Digre, former director of the Florida Head and Spinal Cord Injury Program, and produced by Missouri State Printing with funds generated by previous State of the States in Head Injury Meetings.

The January issue of The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, co-edited by William (Bill) Reynolds (NY) and Bruce Rosen (NY), featured public policy issues and articles written by State employees administering head injury and vocational rehabilitation programs.

The 5th State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, with assistance from the University of Missouri-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) and the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council.

Officers were elected during the annual Meeting and Bill Reynolds assumed duties as president thereby becoming the second president of the association. Other officers were Debra Kamen, President-Elect, and Augusta Cash, Secretary-Treasurer.

Organizational bylaws were adopted on October 15, 1994, calling for the Board of Directors to propose membership categories to the members during its annual meeting.

1995

The officers met during the summer in Boston, MA, to develop a plan to expand membership, financial resources and activities of the new organization.

The 6th State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, with assistance from the University of Missouri-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) and the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council.

Organizational bylaws were amended during the Annual Meeting of Members on October 8, 1995, to extend the term of officers from one year to two years, to create the office of Treasurer, to establish an executive committee, establish membership categories effective January 1, 1996, and to designate the calendar year as the fiscal year for the association. Lyle Van Deventer (IL) was elected as Treasurer.

Articles of Incorporation were filed in the State of Missouri on September 20, 1995.

1996

A membership drive was conducted resulting in 75 members representing 33 States. A logo was developed for NASHIA and for founding members to use on their agency stationery.
A membership database was developed and maintained by Augusta Cash, Secretary, a bank account was opened by Lyle VanDeventer, Treasurer, and an official mailing address was established in Arlington, Massachusetts, by Debra Kamen, President-Elect.

The NASHIA President and President-elect met with the President of the Brain Injury Association of America to discuss collaboration between the two organizations. BIA provided a complimentary exhibit booth to NASHIA for the annual symposium held in Dallas, Texas.

Nationally, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996 passed.

The 7th State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, with assistance from the University of Missouri-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP). Debra Kamen (MA) assumed duties as president. Other officers were Augusta Cash (AL), President-Elect; Chrystal Snyder (AZ), Secretary; and Lyle VanDeventer (IL), Treasurer.

1997

As a result of the TBI Act, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Technical Assistance Center was established to support the Federal TBI State Grant Program administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. NASHIA was represented on the TBI Grant Program Task Force and the Federal Interagency Task Force.

NASHIA officers presented at the Brain Injury Association of America’s Annual Meeting of Members in Charlotte, North Carolina, and exhibited at the BIA National Symposium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The first *National Directory of State Government Head Injury Contacts* was published by the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council, as was NASHIA’s first *Annual Report*.

A web page and listserv for government employees was established with assistance and support of the Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation. Susan Vaughn (MO) served as the liaison with Ohio Valley to post information and to help moderate the listserv.

NASHIA members (MO and MA) provided input on the article featuring traumatic brain injury published by *USA Today* and to the General Accounting Office of the US Congress, which prepared a report on State responses to TBI.

The 8th State of the States in Head Injury Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting were held in Kansas City, Missouri.

NASHIA members were surveyed regarding using brain injury in lieu of head injury in the organizational name. Members voted to retain its name using the term head injury.

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau awarded grants to States to establish or enhance capacity in service delivery as the result of the TBI Act.

The NASHIA New England Forum (Region I & II) was held July 11 in Concord, New Hampshire.
1998

The Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council updated the National Directory of State Head Injury Government Contacts.

NASHIA leaders provided input on the TBI Demonstration Grant Task Force and subcommittees: Education and Resources, Service Delivery System, Collaboration and Linkages, Common Definitions, and Evaluation Strategy and assisted in the development of the MCHB TBI Grant Program 5-Year Long Range Plan.

The 9th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri. Elected new officers: Augusta Cash, (AL), President; Marilyn Edward, (IN), President-Elect; Sharyl Helgeson, (MN), Secretary; and Cindy Murdock-Elliot, (TN), Treasurer.

The Board held a strategic planning meeting, “NASHIA, the Next Millennium” to develop goals and plans for expanding the capacity of NASHIA. The President appointed a subcommittee to study the possibility of changing the name of NASHIA.

The NASHIA Region I & II New England Forum was held in Marlborough, MA, and has held a subsequent forums.

NASHIA Region IV held a regional meeting July 23-24, which was held in Nashville, TN.

1999

NASHIA was awarded a one-year contract from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, to develop three facts sheets, expand the web page, create a PowerPoint Presentation and establish a Speakers’ Bureau.

NASHIA contracted with the University of Missouri-Columbia, RCEP, for staff assistance and to establish an office in Columbia, Missouri. Nancy Dystra Kaywood served in that capacity.

NASHIA leaders participated in the Brain Injury Association of America’s Stakeholders Meeting to draft legislation to extend and reauthorize the TBI Act of 1996. At the request of the U.S. Congress, the NASHIA president testified before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Public Health.

NASHIA updated the National Directory of State Head Injury Government Contacts. NASHIA disseminated research articles prepared by the Research and Training Center on Community Integration of TBI, Mt. Sinai, New York, in accordance with a collaborative agreement between NASHIA and the RRTC and the weekly Policy Corner produced by the Brain Injury Association of America.

NASHIA exhibited at the Brain Injury Association of America Annual Symposium held in New Orleans; the 23rd Annual Williamsburg Conference; the TBI Grantee’s meeting held in Bethesda, Maryland; and the TBI in the 21st Century Conference.

NASHIA representatives served on the TBI Technical Assistance Center Steering Committee, the Federal Interagency Task Force, MCHB Resource Guide Committee and the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of America (Augusta Cash, AL).
NASHIA pursued collaborative relationships with related organizations as part of the MCHB contract, including the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, National Association of State Medicaid Directors, and the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors.

NASHIA participated as a co-sponsor with the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services and others in the 1st Federal Interagency Conference in Bethesda, Maryland. Participated in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention summit, The Role of Public Health in Addressing Traumatic Brain Injury.

The 10th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri. Members considered a bylaws amendment that would change the name of the association; the bylaws amendment failed.

NASHIA was granted tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; acquired liability insurance for Board of Directors and staff; and entered into agreements with an attorney, certified public accountant, and bookkeeper for professional services.

2000

Membership increased by 63 percent, growing from 88 members to 145 with 43 States and Territories represented by the end of the year, 31 of which included State Agency members.

The 11th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri. Cindy Murdock Elliott (TN) was elected President. Other officers: Augusta Cash (AL) Past President; Lorraine Wargo (VT) President-Elect; Judy Johnston (NJ) Secretary; and John Capuco (NH) Treasurer.

NASHIA was represented on the TBI Technical Assistance Center Steering Committee, the Federal Interagency Task Force, and the Brain Injury Association of America’s Board of Directors and Special Task Force for Children and Adolescents with Traumatic Brain Injury.

NASHIA produced three fact sheets on TBI and emergency medical services (EMS), Medicaid, and employment in collaboration with the national organizations representing State directors of EMS, Medicaid, and vocational rehabilitation (CSAVR).

NASHIA representative Susan Vaughn (MO) attended the National State Directors of Emergency Medical Services annual meeting to introduce the new fact sheet on TBI and its potential use by EMS personnel and by staff in emergency departments.

NASHIA Region IV held its second regional meeting June 15-16, which was held in Nashville, TN.

NASHIA was awarded a five-year Partnership for Information and Communication (PIC) Cooperative Agreement from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau to develop products and resources. The PIC was through the efforts and writing by NASHIA volunteers: Augusta Cash, (AL); Sharyl Hegelson (MN); Debra Kamen (MA); Cindy Murdock-Elliott (TN); Bill Reynolds (NY); Susan Vaughn (MO); Lorraine Wargo (VT). Nancy Kaywood (MO) served as staff.

2001

NASHIA hired its first Executive Director, Susan H. Connors, and established a presence in Washington, DC.
A strategic planning meeting was held in July in Atlanta, GA, and the Board of Directors adopted a formal mission statement and strategic plan for the Association. Mike McCarthy (UM-KC) facilitated the session.

The first independent audit of the Association’s books was performed and formal policies, practices and procedures were adopted by the Board of Directors. Membership grew to 184 people representing 46 States and territories.

NASHIA signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR).

NASHIA was represented at the Office of Civil Rights Olmstead Decision Meeting and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force meetings; participated in the Federal Interagency Task Force; served on the Brain Injury Association of America’s Board of Directors (Augusta Cash, AL); and participated in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for Children’s Partnership for Children Consortium.

NASHIA attended and/or presented at the Brain Injury Association of America’s Public Policy Conference, National Symposium, and State Leadership Conference, as well as the annual meetings of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVF), National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Annual Medicaid Waiver Conference, and the HRSA/MCHB Grantees Meeting.

The January edition of *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation* featured four articles authored by NASHIA members.

A bi-monthly news bulletin, *Annual Report, National Directory of State Government Brain Injury Contacts*, fact sheets and position papers were published. NASHIA’s website was revised and updated significantly increasing the number and scope of downloadable resources. Promotional posters and logo products were distributed to members.

NASHIA finalized the development of the NASHIA PowerPoint® Presentation, along with a speaker’s guide containing instructions, script, CD ROM, overhead transparencies, and an evaluation form.

The 12th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held December 2-5, in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme of the conference: “Connect, Communicate and Collaborate.” NASHIA introduced its new Katie Cash annual award in recognition of vision and leadership in establishing NASHIA and services within a member’s State. The first award was presented to Susan Vaughn (MO) from Augusta Cash (AL).

**2002**

The 13th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference title was, “Balancing Budgets, Advancing Outcomes.” NASHIA presented the second Katie Cash Award to Debra Kamen (MA). Lorraine Wargo (VT) assumed duties as President; Cindy Murdock Elliott (TN), Past President; John Capuco (NH), President-Elect, Tom Brown (IA), Secretary and Dianne Kayala (RI).

**2003**

NASHIA produced its first web cast with assistance from the US Health Resources and Services Administration (PIC contract). The subject of the web cast was housing and it was held in January.

NASHIA published the “Guide to State Government Brain Injury Policies, Funding and Services”, which was distributed to members, advocates, professionals, and policymakers.
The 14th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas. The Katie Cash Award was presented to Augusta Cash (AL).

NASHIA was awarded a five-year TBI Technical Assistance Contract from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau to provide technical assistance and support to States and Protection and Advocacy Systems and the Federal TBI Program.

In June, NASHIA produced its second web cast on TBI and substance abuse issues.

2004

The 15th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee. The Katie Cash Award was presented to William A.B. Ditto (NJ). John Capuco (NH), assumed duties as President. William A.B. Ditto was elected as President-Elect; Colleen Ryall (KY), Secretary; and Tom Brown (IA), Treasurer.

During the annual business meeting held September 11, 2004, NASHIA adopted its public policy platform as recommended by the Public Policy Committee chaired by William Ditto.

NASHIA established a behavioral health task force chaired by Tom Brown (IA) to develop a guide on behavioral issues and TBI.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) invited NASHIA to participate in a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver redesign along with representatives from the national organization representing State directors of Medicaid, Aging, and Developmental Disabilities.

NASHIA sponsored its third web cast on TBI and domestic violence issues.

NASHIA became a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), which is a coalition of approximately 100 national disability organizations that work together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

NASHIA produced a fact sheet on “TBI and Older Adults” with assistance from the PIC contract.

NASHIA and Council of State Administrators on Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) convened a Task Force on TBI and Employment and NASHIA representatives (Susan Vaughn and Augusta Cash) attended two annual CSAVR conferences to report on the purpose and progress of the Task Force. CSAVR and NASHIA updated its MOU.

2005

NASHIA assigned part-time staff in the role of Director of Public Policy, Susan Vaughn, responsible for monitoring legislation and to work with other partners, particularly the Brain Injury Association of America, to further funding and other legislative efforts that may benefit individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.

NASHIA’s Public Policy staff produced the “108th Congress NASHIA Final Report” providing a status of legislation NASHIA monitored and supported during the 108th Congress.
NASHIA Public Policy Committee produced a Public Policy Brochure outlining NASHIA’s positions on proposed legislation and appropriations pertaining to the 109th Congress.

NASHIA employed its second executive director, Kenneth H. Currier.

NASHIA assisted with the drafting of the TBI Act Reauthorization legislation and incorporated priorities of NASHIA, including reducing the State match requirements necessary for receiving Federal funding and expanding the TBI Act programs to include authority for appropriations for a new category called grants of national significance.

NASHIA partnered with the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), National Brain Injury Research Treatment & Training Foundation (NBIRTT), and the National Disabilities Rights Network (formerly the National Association of Protection & Advocacy Systems) to develop a series of advocacy fact sheets on the TBI Act Reauthorization and FY 2006 Appropriations for TBI Act Programs; Medicaid; Social Security; TBI Model Systems, and Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury. These materials were made available to participants attending an advocacy leadership training session in March 2005, and who also visited their Congressional representatives and senators. NASHIA Public Policy Chairman William A.B. Ditto assisted with the in-service training. NASHIA also updated its “How to Advocate as a State Employee” and made it available at the training session.

Co-sponsored with brain injury stakeholders (listed above) a legislative reception hosted by the Congressional TBI Task Force that was held March 2005 in Washington, D.C.

NASHIA Public Policy Chair William A.B. Ditto (NJ) presented testimony on State service delivery system issues during a Congressional Briefing for members of congress and staff entitled “Living with Brain Injury,” hosted by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, March 17, 2005.

During the months of April and May, NASHIA hosted a series of three radio casts on neurobehavioral issues. Also, during May, NASHIA hosted its fourth web cast on trust funds, start up and administration, and in August held its fifth web cast on special education. A sixth web cast on employment was held in September.

The 16th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Denver, Colorado. The Katie Cash Award was presented to Cindy Murdock Elliott (TN).

NASHIA published the second edition of the “Guide to State Government Brain Injury Policies, Funding and Services,” which was distributed to members, advocates, professionals, and policymakers.

In January, NASHIA sponsored a Region IV meeting for States in that region, held in Atlanta. States focused the meeting on data and planning.

NASHIA added a “store” component to its web site so individuals may purchase materials.

2006

NASHIA Public Policy Committee developed a position paper on eliminating State match requirements for participation in the HRSA Federal TBI Program.

NASHIA participated in the Institutes of Medicine (IOM) study and evaluation of the HRSA Federal TBI Program.
NASHIA re-designed its web site providing more information and online features in addition to improving the delivery of member services.

NASHIA co-sponsored with the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services and others in the 2nd Federal TBI Interagency Conference in Bethesda, Maryland.

The NASHIA Behavioral Health Task Force released a handbook titled Neurobehavioral Issues of Traumatic Brain Injury: An Introduction. The task force completed this work with support from NASHIA's Partnership for Information and Communication Cooperative Agreement (#4-U93MC00158-05-02) from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

A CSAVR/NASHIA Memorandum of Understanding was revised and signed by CSAVR and NASHIA to establish a cooperative working environment. The NASHIA Employment Committee and the CSAVR/NASHIA Employment Task Force on TBI assisted with the development of the webcast on employment issues held in September 2005, by surveying counselors, and offering ideas for topics and speakers.

In 2006 NASHIA made a concerted effort to further outreach to other organizations with similar interests. A listserv of other organizations was developed. NASHIA successfully solicited support from these various organizations to support FY 2006 and FY 2007 appropriations for the HRSA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TBI Act programs. NASHIA worked with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities to include NASHIA’s recommendations for funding programs established by the TBI Act in its budget recommendations for all disability programs. The CCD did include the TBI Act programs in their recommendations and the information was posted on the CCD website and was also given to members of Congress.

NASHIA participated in the Brain Injury Awareness Fair sponsored by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force in March 2006. NASHIA members Augusta Cash, Lorraine Wargo, Susan Vaughn, and William A.B. Ditto participated in the fair and made congressional office visits. NASHIA co-sponsored with the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), National Brain Injury Research Treatment & Training Foundation (NBIRTT), National Disabilities Rights Network (NDRN), International Brain Injury Association (IBIA) and the North American Brain Injury Society (NABIS) a legislative reception hosted by the Congressional TBI Task Force that was held in March 2006 in Washington, D.C.

NASHIA continued participation on the committee established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to redesign the Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid waiver process and application.

NASHIA members and staff presented information on TBI and State service delivery to the Institute of Medicine Committee on Traumatic Brain Injury that was charged with evaluating the HRSA TBI Program.

The 17th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in Baltimore, Maryland. The Katie Cash Award was presented to Sharyl Helgeson (MN). NASHIA elected the following officers and Board of Directors: William (Bill) A.B. Ditto (NJ), President; Dianne Kayala (RI), President-Elect; Maria Crowley (AL), Secretary; Carolyn Cass (PA), Treasurer; Augusta Cash (AL), Emeritus Board Members; Toni Wall (ME), Region I; Bruce Rossen (NY), Region II; Patti Goodall (VA), Region III; Kristine Shields (FL), Region IV; Sharyl Hegelson (MN), Region V; Elizabeth Peterson (NM), Region VI; Michael Deegan (KS), Region VII; Jack Gift (UT), Region VIII; Aaron Arakaki (HI), Region IX; Susan McDonough (WA), Region X.

NASHIA members adopted its public policy priorities for the 110th Congress during the annual meeting held in Baltimore.
NASHIA Public Policy staff produced the “109th Congress NASHIA Final Report” providing a status of legislation NASHIA monitored and supported during the 109th Congress.

2007

NASHIA continued to contract with Jean E. Bérubé of Bérubé, Zitnay & Associates, LLC, to assist with the passage of the reauthorization of the TBI Act, appropriations for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI Program for FY 2007 and ‘08, and to promote collaboration with Departments of Defense (DoD)/Veterans Affairs (VA), States and NASHIA on community outreach and public resources for servicemembers with TBI and related conditions and their families. As the result of her work, Jean has increased NASHIA’s visibility significantly with members of Congress and other potential partners.

NASHIA Public Policy staff developed the policy paper, “Role of State Government in Meeting the Needs of Returning Soldiers with TBI,” which Jean E. Bérubé circulated to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. With Jean’s assistance NASHIA has provided input into key legislation to improve veterans’ health care and access to state service delivery systems.

Kenneth H. Currier, Executive Director, also distributed the policy paper on returning soldiers to the IOM Committee and provided testimony on state service delivery in August during a hearing held by the IOM Committee. He has also provided the paper to veterans’ organizations. On behalf of NASHIA Ken provided input into the GAO report that is being prepared on the needs of the injured military involved in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Public Policy Committee and staff produced the public policy paper, “Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 Public Update,” outlining changes to Medicaid, Social Security and TANF. The document also notes trends in States as the result of the Medicaid changes; the potential impact on individuals with traumatic brain injury and TBI programs; and tips for TBI advisory councils, lead agencies and advocates for monitoring proposed changes within the States.

NASHIA prepared fact sheets supporting increases for the TBI Act programs for FY 2007 and for FY 2008, which were distributed to congressmen/women and made available for NASHIA members to use.

NASHIA prepared educational packets for members of Congress and provided input into the “dear colleague” letter prepared by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-Chairs Reps. Bill Pascrell and Todd Platts calling for $15 million for the HRSA TBI State Grant Program, $6 million for the Protection and Advocacy Services Program and $9 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention TBI Program, that was sent to the House Appropriations Committee.

NASHIA participated in the Brain Injury Awareness Fair and events sponsored by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force in March 2007. NASHIA Vice-Chair Dianne Kayala represented NASHIA at the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force briefing and addressed the role of State government in delivering services to returning servicemembers. The theme of the briefing was “TBI: The Signature Wound of the War on Terrorism.”

NASHIA produced its Public Policy Platform for the 110th Congress.

NASHIA co-sponsored with the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), National Brain Injury Research Treatment & Training Foundation (NBIRTTT), National Disabilities Rights Network (NDRN), International Brain Injury Association(IBIA), and the North American Brain Injury Society a legislative reception hosted by the Congressional TBI Task Force that was held that same evening on Capitol Hill.
NASHIA was a member of the CCD and the American Brain Coalition and was represented by Kenneth H. Currier, Executive Director. NASHIA also was a supporting member of the Campaign for Children’s Health Care Initiative.

NASHIA continued to participate on the committee established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to redesign the Home and Community-Based Medicaid Services waiver and application process to improve quality of community services. NASHIA members Bruce Rosen (NY), Russ Spearman (ID) and Debra Kamen (MA) represented NASHIA at these meetings. In addition, William A.B. Ditto (NJ) participated on the work committee representing Cash and Counseling Grants. Others that participated represented the national organizations of State directors administering aging, Medicaid, and developmental disabilities programs.

The 18th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting was held in St. Louis, Missouri. The Katie Cash Award was presented to Lorraine Wargo (VT). The first-ever Special Friend of NASHIA award was presented to John Corrigan, Ph.D., (Ohio Valley Center) for outstanding contributions and support of NASHIA and State service delivery systems.

Augusta Cash (AL) replaced Dianne Kayala (RI) as President-elect; Judith Johnson (NJ) assumed the position of Emeritus Board Member; and new regional representatives replaced individuals who had retired or changed employment -- Amy Taklif (NJ), Region II; and Steve Wrigley (UT), Region VIII.

NASHIA sent a letter to CMS opposing the elimination of reimbursement under Medicaid for school-based administration expenditures and certain transportation costs for students with disabilities.


2008

NASHIA continued to contract with Jean E. Bérubé, LLC, to assist with the passage of the reauthorization of the TBI Act, which was signed on April 28, 2008, as well as appropriations for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI Program for FY 2007 and FY 2008, and to promote collaboration with the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA).

NASHIA provided input into the “dear colleague” letter prepared by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-Chairs, Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Todd Platts (R-PA), calling for additional funding for TBI Act Programs that was sent to the House Appropriations Committee.

NASHIA produced the Public Policy Priorities brochure for the 110th Congress, 2nd session.

NASHIA participated in the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day activities held in March, and co-sponsored the reception.

NASHIA continued to provide technical assistance to States and other entities as requested.

NASHIA continued to participate on the committee and its subcommittees established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to advise and assist in ensuring quality and appropriateness of the Home and Community-Based Medicaid Services (HCBS) Waiver programs.

NASHIA continued to be a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and the American Brain Coalition (ABC); and joined the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC). As a member of CDC, NASHIA participated on the task forces/committees relating to fiscal policy, housing, and long-term services and supports.

William A.B. Ditto, President of NASHIA, testified before the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies in support of increased funding for the US Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Traumatic Brain Injury Grant Program on April 25.


William A.B. Ditto, Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, was a participant at the International Conference on Behavioral Health and TBI held in New Jersey in October 2008. Doctors, researchers and neuroscientists from around the world discussed issues facing returning troops, identified barriers to treatment and developed strategies for improving care. Bill assured that the inclusion of respite care was included in the final recommendations.

The 19th Annual State of the States Conference was held in Williamsburg, Virginia. Debra Kamen (MA) received the Katie Cash Award. NASHIA presented a Friend of NASHIA Award to Franchesca LaVechhia, Ph.D., Chief Neuropsychologist (MA); and a Partnership Award to Wayne A. Gordon, Ph.D., Project Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Interventions and the New York TBI Model System. NASHIA members adopted its public policy priorities for the 111th Congress. Officers elected: Maria Crowley (AL), President; Janice White (NC), Acting President-Elect; Erin Weaver (VT), Treasurer; and Augusta Cash (AL), Emeritus Board Member. Regional Representatives elected to the Board: Patti Goodall (VA), Region III; Kristine Shields (FL), Region IV; Sharyl Hegelson (MN), Region V; Elizabeth Peterson (NM), Region VI, Steve Wrigley (UT), Region VIII; and Aaron Arakaki (HI), Region IX.

2009

NASHIA continued to contract with Jean E. Bérubé, LLC, to assist with the passage of the reauthorization of the TBI Act, which was signed on April 28, 2008, as well as appropriations for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI Program for FY 2008 and FY 2009, and to promote collaboration with Departments of Defense (DoD)/Veterans Affairs (VA). Jean met with key members of Congress and staffers to promote NASHIA’s priorities, and worked closely with the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.

NASHIA Public Policy staff produced the “110th Congress: NASHIA Final Report” providing a status of legislation that NASHIA monitored and supported during the 110th Congress.

NASHIA produced its Public Policy Platform for the 111th Congress and a corresponding brochure for the 1st session.

NASHIA provided input into the “dear colleague” letter prepared by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-Chairs, Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Todd Platts (R-PA), calling for increased TBI Act and Model Systems funding, which was sent to the House Appropriations Committee.

NASHIA was a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, the American Brain Coalition, and the Disability and Rehabilitation and Research Coalition.
NASHIA joined the Real Warriors Campaign as a partnering organization. The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) initiated the Campaign to promote public awareness to combating the stigma associated with seeking care and treatment for psychological health concerns.

On March 12, NASHIA participated in the International Conference on Behavioral Health and TBI press briefing with the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force to report on recommendations to improve the care of wounded warriors. Jean Bérubé was instrumental in organizing the conference, final report and the briefing.

On March 26th, 2009, NASHIA held its First Annual Public Policy Seminar in Washington, DC, on health care reform and the impact on disability services, including veterans and returning servicemembers. Sixty-one people registered for the meeting. The meeting also provided an opportunity for participants to collaborate with other national organizations, federal programs, key advocacy organization and interest groups, in addition to Hill staff.

NASHIA participated in the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day Fair, briefing and co-sponsored the reception. President Maria Crowley emceed the reception.

NASHIA produced Washington Update featuring the public policy seminar and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day events.

NASHIA's HRSA TBI Technical Assistance Center (TAC) five year contract and resulting extensions ended.

NASHIA worked with Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA), co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, to insert language in to the Department of Defense appropriations bill recognizing the blast tracking system developed by the Army National Guard and encouraging other branches to do the same in order for those exposed to blast injuries to have documentation in their personnel records should they demonstrate symptoms of brain injury, as well to capture names for future follow up.

NASHIA developed the fact sheet on “Children & Youth with TBI: Federal & State Resources” that was shared with the co-chairs of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force and posted on the website.


NASHIA produced NASHIA News and State News, replacing State Watch, and continued to publish Capitol News and Action Alerts.

NASHIA held its 20th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting which was held October 27-30, 2009, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Kristine Shields (FL) received the Katie Cash Award.

NASHIA sent a letter with recommendations for setting a national agenda to improve service delivery for both civilians and veterans with TBI to President-elect Obama’s transition staff.

2010

NASHIA closed down its Bethesda office, and hired Lorraine Wargo, RN, as Executive Directors. The office was relocated to Vermont.
NASHIA continued to contract with Jean E. Bérubé, LLC, to assist appropriations for the TBI Act programs, and to promote collaboration with Departments of Defense (DoD)/Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as to maintain a NASHIA presence in Washington DC. She met with House/Senate Appropriations, Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs Committees’ staff to promote NASHIA’s interests. She also represented NASHIA at numerous events and meetings on the Hill, including meetings organized by Rep. Patrick Kennedy to plan for a conference or summit on brain research.

NASHIA contracted with Susan L. Vaughn, LLC, as the Director of Public Policy, and with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation (Donna Huckestein) for financial services.

NASHIA provided input into the “dear colleague” letter prepared by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-Chairs, Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Todd Platts (R-PA), calling for increased TBI Act and Model Systems funding, which was sent to the House Appropriations Committee. NASHIA also assisted in developing sign on letters to improve care for military and veterans with TBI and other issues that come before the Task Force.

NASHIA, in collaboration with TBI stakeholders, circulated a sign on letter to disability and health care organizations, of which a record number of organizations signed on in support of increased appropriations for brain injury.

NASHIA developed the position paper, “Characteristics of Medicaid HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services) Waivers for Individuals with Brain Injury: A Policy Brief and Recommendations,” July 11, 2010, and transmitted the paper to CMS.

NASHIA developed its Public Policy brochure outlining priorities for the 2nd session of the 111th Congress. NASHIA submitted testimony to the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Hearing on Traumatic Brain Injury, May 5, 2010, recommending collaboration between the US Department of Veterans Affairs and state/civilian brain injury programs.

NASHIA prepared and submitted an unsolicited proposal to the US Department of Veterans Affairs to improve coordination of state and local community resources for veterans in need of long-term community supports.

NASHIA participated on the planning committee for the Third Federal Interagency Conference on Traumatic Brain Injury to be held in Washington, DC, June, 2011.

NASHIA designed a new logo for the organization and redesigned the website.

NASHIA surveyed its members with regard to education and training needs.

NASHIA surveyed members on State issues and priorities to help formulate its public policy priorities.

NASHIA co-sponsored with the North American Brain Injury Society (NABIS) a joint meeting, Brain Injury Partnerships 2010, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in October. The meeting also included NASHIA’s annual membership meeting. The Katie Cash Award was presented to Maria Crowley (AL). NASHIA also presented Special Friend of NASHIA Awards to Marty McMorrow, Ph.D. and to NABIS, which was accepted by Ron Savage, Ed.D., Chairman. Members adopted its public policy priorities for the 112th Congress during the Membership meeting and officers for 2010: Janice White (NC), President; Carolyn Cass (PA), President-elect; Amy Flaherty (Secretary); Erin Weaver (Treasurer); Augusta Cash (AL), Emeritus Member; Sylvia Gafford-Alexander (CT), Region I Representative; Joseph Amoroso (NJ), Region II Representative; Patricia Goodall (VA), Region III Representative; Kristine Shields (FL), Region IV.
Representative; Lori Brenneke (MO), Region VII Representative; and Susan Wagner (ND), Region VIII Representative.

NASHIA and TBI stakeholders met with the director of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Mary Wakefield, and other key officials to discuss elevating TBI issues, including formation of an interagency workgroup and developing a national TBI plan.

NASHIA authored and edited the NABIS publication, *Brain Injury Professional*, featuring articles written by NASHIA members on State initiatives addressing the needs of individuals with brain injury.

NASHIA participated in the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day Fair, briefing and co-sponsored the reception. William A.B. Ditto, Chair of the Public Policy Committee emceed the reception.

NASHIA provided recommendations to the US Department of Health and Human Services for its *Healthy People* 2020 plan.

NASHIA signed on to Roll Call ads calling for the CLASS Act and other long-term care provisions to be included in the health care reform legislation; as well as offered organizational support to an array of other issues relating to health care reform, Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation, prevention and research.

NASHIA created a Facebook page.

NASHIA continued to provide technical assistance to States and other entities on a variety of issues including state legislation, state policies, resources and brain injury in general.

NASHIA continued participation on the CMS Working Groups on HCBS Waivers, collaboration with the National HCBS Quality Center Enterprise (TAC), and other subcommittees relating to CMS, and various advisory committees relating to HHS initiatives to implement health care reform provisions.

NASHIA continued to be a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, the American Brain Coalition, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition and the Real Warriors Campaign. As a member of CDC, NASHIA participates on the task forces/committees relating to employment and training, fiscal policy, housing, long-term services and supports, and veterans.

2011

NASHIA Public Policy staff produced the “111th Congress: NASHIA Final Report” providing a status of legislation which NASHIA monitored and supported during the 111th Congress.

NASHIA contracted for the services of Rebeccah Wolfkiel as the Governmental Relations Consultant, Ridge Policy Group LLC, Washington, DC.

NASHIA surveyed members regarding recommendations for TBI Act reauthorization.

NASHIA developed its Public Policy Platform document for the 112th Congress and a Public Policy Brochure for the 1st Session.

NASHIA provided input into the “dear colleague” letter prepared by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-Chairs, Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Todd Platts (R-PA), Congress to maintain at least level funding for TBI Act and Model Systems programs.
NASHIA continued to be a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CDC), the American Brain Coalition, the Disability and Rehabilitation, and the Real Warriors Campaign. NASHIA participated on the CCD task forces/committees relating to employment and training, fiscal policy, housing, long-term services and supports, and veterans.

NASHIA continued to participate on the CMS Working Group on HCBS waiver programs, collaborates with the National HCBS Quality Center Enterprise (TAC), and other subcommittees relating to CMS.

NASHIA developed and submitted a proposal to Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation for developing and replicating innovative vocational strategies to improve job placement and retention for individuals with brain injury. The proposal was not approved.

NASHIA participated in the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day, held March 16th, Fair and Briefing; and co-sponsored the reception held in the Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC. William A.B. Ditto, Chair of the Public Policy Committee emceed the reception. NASHIA developed a new display board and exhibited information during the Fair, as well as at the HRSA Grantees meeting held the following day in Bethesda, MD.

NASHIA Governmental Relations Consultant, Rebeccah Wolfkiel, developed a cover letter and distributed the NABIS Brain Injury Professional issue authored and edited by NASHIA to members of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.

The NASHIA Board of Directors conducted a strategic planning meeting held in Bethesda, MD, in March 2011.

NASHIA assisted Mediaplanet Publishing in Chicago in producing a special section of Chicago Tribune entitled “The Brain”, to raise awareness for those living with neurological issues and provide solutions for those in need of help. The edition recognized NASHIA’s contributions in TBI and the special section.

NASHIA public policy staff developed the publication, Washington Weekly, which is a weekly update of Administration announcements, grants, proposed rules and other information.

NASHIA continued to provide technical assistance to States, other entities, as well as to the general public.

NASHIA sponsored its 22nd Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting, “Changing Perspectives, New Approaches” held in Kansas City, Missouri. Erin Weaver, formerly the TBI Program Coordinator for the Vermont Division of Disability and Aging, received the Katie Cash Award. Carolyn Hansen was elected as Treasurer to replace Erin Weaver.

NASHIA continued to publish Capitol News, Action Alert, and added a new weekly publication on Administration news called Washington Weekly.

2012

NASHIA continued to be a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CDC), the American Brain Coalition, the Disability and Rehabilitation, and the Real Warriors Campaign. NASHIA participated on the CCD task forces/committees relating to employment and training, fiscal policy, housing, long-term services and supports, and veterans. NASHIA joined the Injury and Violence Prevention Network and participated on monthly calls with national organizations involved in injury and violence prevention and CDC.
NASHIA surveyed TBI lead agencies on their State’s activities with regard to implementing the HCBS provisions of the ACA and the impact on individuals with TBI and TBI HCBS waiver programs. Information obtained was reported during a workshop presentation by William A.B. Ditto at the HRSA Leadership Meeting.

William A.B. Ditto, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, was invited to testify before the House Subcommittee on Health in support of the TBI Act Reauthorization on March 19th, 2011.

NASHIA participated in the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day activities, held March 21st consisting of an awareness Fair and Briefing; and co-sponsored the reception held in the Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC. William A.B. Ditto, Chair of the Public Policy Committee moderated the Briefing. NASHIA public policy staff published a special edition of Washington Update providing an overview of the day’s activities.

NASHIA developed its Public Policy Platform document for the 112th Congress and a Public Policy Brochure for the 2nd Session.

NASHIA provided input into the “dear colleague” letter prepared by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-Chairs, Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Todd Platts (R-PA), Congress to maintain at least level funding for TBI Act and Model Systems programs.

NASHIA partnered with the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) to hold its 23rd Annual State of the States Meeting in conjunction with the HCBS Waiver Conference. Lori Brenneke (MO) was presented the Katie Cash Award. Dave Johnson (IA) was presented with the Friend of NASHIA award. During the Annual Meeting, NASHIA elected officers for 2012-2013: Amy Flaherty (PA), President; Stefani O’Dea (MD), President-elect; Carolyn Hansen (MI), Secretary; Nicole Adams (PA), Treasurer; and Augusta Cash (AL) Emeritus Member.

During its Annual Meeting, NASHIA members voted to amend the Bylaws to eliminate the Regional Representative role and subsequently, the elimination of the Regional Representative Board Member position. Instead, members recommended that NASHIA divide the country into four (4) quadrants and add four (4) at large board positions with the intent that each quadrant be represented.

NASHIA advocated successfully to include Congressional budget language in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill 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 provided comments to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on rules and regulations implementing home and community-based services (HCBS) and other ACA provisions.

NASHIA purchased an ad on TBI and NASHIA in USA Today, featuring professional football teams and predictions for the upcoming season and also focused on concussions.

NASHIA collaborated with TBI stakeholders and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force co-chairs to have legislation introduced in the House (H.R. 4238) to reauthorize TBI Act programs.

NASHIA was a co-sponsor of the DRRC rehabilitation briefing for members of Congress and was also a co-sponsor of the National Presidential Forum on Disability Issues scheduled for September 28, 2012.

NASHIA updated and revised its Policies, Practices and Procedures Manual to reflect current operations and to meet requirements established by IRS with regard to nonprofits and board governance.

NASHIA purchased an ad on TBI and NASHIA in USA Today, featuring professional football teams and predictions for the upcoming season and also focused on concussions.
NASHIA produced the 112th Congress: Final Report, summarizing federal laws and policies affecting TBI.

NASHIA produced its Public Policy Platform with detailing its legislative priorities for the 113th Congress, as approved by the members, and a Public Policy Brochure for the First Session.

NASHIA assisted with the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Awareness Day Fair and other Awareness Day activities held on March 13, 2013. William Ditto, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, moderated the CBITF Briefing, “Promoting Brain Injury Awareness Through Public/Private Partnerships”, also held that day. Bill also spoke during the Press Conference held by the CBITF co-chairs,Congressmen Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Tom Rooney (R-FL).

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NASHIA worked with TBI stakeholders and the CBITF co-chairs to introduce legislation (H.R. 1098) to reauthorize TBI Act programs.

NASHIA co-sponsored the Congressional Briefing on “Violence Prevention Throughout the Lifespan”, held June 25th, 2013.

NASHIA, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) assisted with the CDC webinar, “Addressing Youth Sports-related Concussion: Using CDC Resources and State/Local Approaches”, broadcast on September 13th.


NASHIA sponsored the 24th Annual State of the States, From Model T’s to Modern Times: Emerging Trends in Brain Injury, held October 7 – 10, 2013, in Dearborn, Michigan. Janice White (NC) received the Katie Cash Award. NASHIA members voted to amend the Bylaws to add a definition for “State government agency” to include any entity designated by the governor or legislature as the state lead agency on brain injury, thereby eligible for state agency or full individual membership.

NASHIA published the President’s Message updating members of NASHIA’s activities, including a link to the Annual Report.

NASHIA surveyed its members with regard to the need for a webinar series focused on the administration of State programs and resources.

NASHIA provided technical assistance services through contractual arrangements with the State of Maryland and the State of Alabama.

NASHIA produced the Public Policy Brochure for the 2nd Session of the 113th Congress.

NASHIA published *NASHIA News* and distributed to members and potential members.

NASHIA participated in the annual Congressional Brain Injury Task Force’s Awareness Day activities held March 12, 2014. The Briefing focused on “Returning to Work: Making Headway after Brain Injury”. NASHIA arranged for a Roll Call ad, which ran for three days, featuring an invitation to the Awareness Day events and the ad included sponsors of the reception, including NASHIA.

NASHIA spoke during the CBITF Press Conference held on March 12th to announce the introduction of a new bill, “National Traumatic Brain Injury Research and Treatment Improvement Act of 2014”, which would direct the CDC to establish a national system to track the occurrence of TBI and to collect data to assist research, prevention, and treatment development efforts.

NASHIA published a special edition of *Capitol News*, called *Washington Update* highlighting activities and events of the CBITF Awareness Day.

NASHIA continues to be a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CDC), the American Brain Coalition, the Disability and Rehabilitation, Real Warriors Campaign and the Injury and Violence Prevention Network.

NASHIA continues to report on the Association’s activities in the NABIS *Brain Injury Professional* quarterly magazine, which provides an update on nonprofit organizations.

NASHIA scheduled its first webinar on “Trends in TBI Funding: TBI Trust Fund Programs” for May 21, 2014.

The *Milestone’s in NASHIA’s History* document was created and is maintained by Susan L. Vaughn, founder of NASHIA and Director of Public Policy.

_Last Update: April 21, 2014_