

Dual Diagnosis/Co-Occurring Conditions

- Coordinated resources between HRSA and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address persons with TBI and substance abuse and/or mental health issues
- Reauthorization of SAMHSA to include funding for TBI & co-occurring conditions; screening and treatment

Family Supports

- Lifespan Respite Act Reauthorization
- Funding to accommodate needs of aging caregivers of adults with lifelong TBI-related disabilities

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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The NASHIA Public Policy Platform is available on the website: www.nashia.org



Legislative Priorities



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About NASHIA

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) incorporated in 1994, and was organized by State government employees to help States plan, implement and administer an array of public programs and services for individuals with brain injury and their families.

Members represent a range of State agencies, including health, Vocational Rehabilitation, mental health, Medicaid, social services, developmental disabilities, and education; as well as by rehabilitation professionals, private agencies, advocates and others interested in brain injury. NASHIA is a member of the American Brain Coalition, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition.

Mission

NASHIA's mission is to assist State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.

About Traumatic Brain Injury

At least 1.7 million Americans seek treatment for a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year as the result of a car crash, fall, sporting injury or other contributing factor. A TBI may result in problems with thinking, memory, emotions, language, physical, mobility and sensory that affects how a person is able to return to school; and to live and work independently.

Without coordinated systems of care, individuals are at risk of being placed into nursing homes or correctional facilities or becoming homeless, or left to the families to care for without much support or assistance.

TBI Act Programs

The TBI Act of 1996, as amended in 2008, authorizes funding to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for (1) State grants to improve service delivery and for Protection & Advocacy (P&A) grants to provide client advocacy; and (2) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for public education, prevention and injury data. Currently, the HRSA Federal State Grant Program funds 21 States.

The TBI Act is due for reauthorization this year. NASHIA supports:

- The federal interagency work group to coordinate resources across agencies and to develop a national plan with public input
- **Increased funding** for FY 2013:
 - \$8 million for the HRSA Federal TBI State Grant Program to increase the number of grant awards
 - \$10 million for CDC TBI programs
 - \$4 million for the HRSA Federal P&A Program
- **Reauthorization of the TBI Act**

Returning Servicemembers and Veterans

- Increased funding to the Department of Defense (DoD) for TBI care, services and outreach programs
- Coordinated community resources among DoD, the Veterans Administration and local and State TBI programs

- VA funding to support home and community-based services options for veterans with TBI

Employment

- Funding for the Supported Employment and Projects with Industry (PIC) programs authorized by the Rehabilitation Act
- Workforce Investment and the Rehabilitation Act Reauthorization
- Funding for research in best practices in vocational training and job retention for individuals with TBI

Health/ Disability/Entitlement Programs

- Reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act
- Protection of entitlement programs, i.e. Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, TANF and food stamps

Children & Youth

- Reauthorization and fully funded IDEA
- Recognize the needs of children and youth with TBI in the Title V, Maternal Child Health Block Grant, Children with Special Health Care Needs Program
- Better identification of students with TBI in public school settings
- Keeping All Students Safe Act, which would establish protections for the use of restraint and seclusion in our nation's schools

EMS/ Trauma Care

- Funding for and legislation to promote a coordinated system of EMS and trauma care; and state/regional trauma systems

Health Care – Medicaid – Medicare

- Ensure that the definition for rehabilitation, which is part of the essential health care benefits package that some insurance companies must cover after 2014, reflect TBI rehabilitation needs
- Extending Medicare therapy caps

Disability & Rehabilitation Research

- Expand NIDRR TBI Model Systems/ Research and Training Centers
- Expand NIH research on effects of TBI on children and youth

Aging and TBI

- Coordination of resources among federal programs to support individuals with TBI who are aging

Prevention

- Passage of the Children's Sports Athletic Equipment Safety Act, relating to standards for youth football helmets.
- Traffic safety program/incentives for: (1) motorcycle helmet usage for all riders, (2) primary safety belt usage, (3) prohibition of open containers of alcohol in vehicles, and (4) strong DUI/ DWI laws
- Prohibit texting and driving in all States
- Funding to provide injury surveillance and prevention programs in all States
- Funding for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Community Living Services & Supports

- Implementing the CLASS Act provisions of the health care reform law
- Passage of the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act