ACL Announces New TBI Technical Assistance & Resource Center: HSRI to Partner with NASHIA

New National Center to Support Timely, Coordinated Services

WASHINGTON, DC - The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has announced the launch of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TARC), which the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) will administer, along with its partners from the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) and a group of subject matter experts, including people with lived experience of TBI.

The aim of the center is to help states promote access to integrated, coordinated services and supports for people who have sustained a TBI, their families, and caregivers. These services and supports will encourage both community inclusion and the personal independence of people with TBI. In addition to providing program support to ACL and technical assistance to ACL’s TBI State Partnership program grantees, the Center will also develop and compile resources that will be publicly available.

"NASHIA has a long history of assisting states to develop, improve and expand service delivery for individuals with TBI," said Rebeccah Wolfkiel, NASHIA Executive Director, "and recognizes that states are often challenged to meet the complex issues relating to TBI, often requiring assistance and resources from multiple sources. Yet, without highly coordinated systems of services and supports, people may be placed in inappropriately restrictive settings, or families may be left to identify and navigate multiple systems, such as insurance, rehabilitation and health care, Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation, education, mental health, substance use, and long-term care. We look forward to bringing our expertise and experiences to assist HSRI with this new endeavor."

To assist with technical assistance, NASHIA staff will include Maria Crowley, who is retiring as the Alabama Head Injury Coordinator within the Department of Rehabilitation Services where she worked at total of 30 years with the state of which 19 were with people with TBI; Judy Dettmer, who has worked 30 years in the field of brain injury, most recently as the Director of the Colorado MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network within the Department of Human Services; and Susan Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, who has a long history in developing TBI service delivery, having worked 29 years for the state of Missouri of which 17 years as the Director of the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council and the past 17 years...
providing technical assistance and consultation with other states and national organizations. All three have been involved in the TBI state grant program over the years within their states, as well as with NASHIA.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 authorizes funding for the ACL TBI State Partnership program, which was transferred from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to ACL in 2016. Meanwhile, more details regarding the TBI TARC will be forthcoming.

About NASHIA

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is the only national voluntary membership organization established by state government employees to assist state government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.