



# Grantee Profile 2018-2021: North Carolina

The **Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services** is the lead state agency for the grant. The Division is responsible for administering TBI state-funded services and staffing the Advisory Council. The state's Division of Health Benefits was approved for a pilot TBI Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver in 2018.

**Main Grant Aim: Build partnerships between primary health & behavioral health in relation to TBI, continue TBI training across the state, expand community-based services and supports**

## Accomplishments/Outcomes

### Partnership Development

- Reached organizations in 53 of 100 counties
- Developed successful relationships with several state and non-state agencies
- Established consistent, ongoing meetings with state Medicaid agency and Vocational Rehabilitation agency with a TBI focus

### Planning and Infrastructure Development

- Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) focused on potential changes in Council membership composition
- TBI Waiver implementation and expansion
- Maintained funding for the TBI state-funded program
- Modernize the Brain Injury Association of NC (BIANC) website including online resource guide

### North Carolina Lead Agency Contact

Scott Pokorny, TBI Team Lead  
NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Phone: 984-236-5049  
Email: [scott.pokorny@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:scott.pokorny@dhhs.nc.gov)



### Other Contact

Michael Brown, TBI Consultant  
NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Phone: 984-236-5048  
Email: [michael.brown@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:michael.brown@dhhs.nc.gov)

### Planning and Infrastructure Development (cont.)

- Olmstead Plan update to include TBI
- Developed/implement statewide information and referral (I&R) system that tracks all contacts outreach and training events
- Establishment of online TBI support groups

### Information and Referral/Assistance

- Established a statewide electronic information and referral system database.
- Provided assistance through five regional BIANC offices
- I&R available statewide

### TBI Screening

- Conducted screening at six of the seven Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs) statewide
- The OSU TBI Identification method (tool) is used in all screening efforts

### Resource Facilitation

- Resource Facilitation is available statewide to professionals, families, and individuals with lived experience

### Training, Outreach and Awareness

- Developed four online training modules and updates on two existing modules
- Developed numerous handouts on a variety of TBI-related topics
- Conducted numerous webinars, conferences, and other educational opportunities

### National ACL TBI Grant Workgroups

- Member of ACL Transition and Employment Workgroup, Opioid and Mental Health Workgroup, and Using Data to Connect People to Services Workgroup
- Workgroup activity included development of core competencies, survey tools and educational initiatives

# Advisory Council



The Advisory Council was established in 1997 to write the first TBI State Action Plan. Legislation passed in 2003 to establish the North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council, and in 2009 the legislature changed the name to the North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council.

There are 33 members who serve on the Council, which meets quarterly and engages in advocacy, collaboration, education, funding decisions, information/referral, and planning.



# Registry and Data

The TBI program obtains data from the North Carolina Trauma Registry administered by the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS). The trauma registry, which has been operational since 1987, collects information on injured patients. NCOEMS also administers programs relating to emergency medical services (EMS) and manages the EMS data system. Other information is obtained from paid claims data reviews using the state's provider billing database, which includes both Medicaid and state-funded programs. The TBI program obtains information from a volunteer reporting system. TBI screening is also conducted using The Ohio State University TBI ID Method at six of seven Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs).

# Service Delivery

The Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) administers state funding specifically for individuals with TBI and offers information on resources on-site at hospitals, healthcare providers, and other sites to assist with locating services. People with TBI may be served with funds available to the broad developmental disability population, as the North Carolina definition of developmental disability includes TBI regardless of age of onset.

In 2018, the North Carolina Division of Health Benefits (DHB) implemented a 1915(c) Home and Community-Based TBI Medicaid waiver, a 3-year pilot currently available to eligible individuals living in Wake, Durham, Johnston, and Cumberland counties. The DHB also administers the Money Follows the Person program that helps Medicaid-eligible individuals who live in inpatient facilities move into their own homes and communities. Individuals with brain injury may also be eligible for the Innovations Waiver (I/DD Waiver), Community Alternatives Program/Disabled Adults Waiver, or Community Alternatives Program/Children Waiver.

## Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

Fiscal Year	General Revenue Allocation	BI Waiver Allocation
2018	\$2,373,086	38 (107 slots available)
2019	\$2,373,086	38 (107 slots available)
2020	\$2,373,086	38 (107 slots available)

## Promising Practices

- Money Follows the Person
- TBI Screening
- Return to Learn
- Olmstead Initiatives
- Vocational Rehabilitation Collaboration
- 1115 SUD Waiver to include TBI

