

This week, NASHIA's March 2022 Brain Injury Awareness Month Campaign features Minnesota.



Working Together Promoting Awareness Month *Spotlight on Minnesota*

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

March 30, 2022

Dear NASHIA Member and Partners,

Today's *Spotlight* winds up our month of featuring State brain injury resources and services as part of our Brain Injury Awareness Month Campaign. This week, NASHIA features **Minnesota** which is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Minnesota Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee and the Minnesota Brain Injury Medicaid HCBS Waiver program, both housed in the Department of Human Services. In addition, this issue provides information about the Minnesota Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund housed in the Department of Health.

Missed one of the week's *Spotlights*? All of the *Spotlights* are posted on the NASHIA [website](#). Many thanks for the States, brain injury advocates and state alliances/associations who shared information during March to promote Brain Injury Awareness.

Minnesota Advisory Committee Celebrates 30 Years of Service

About the Minnesota Brain Injury Advisory Committee

This year, the Minnesota Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Advisory Committee is celebrating its 30th anniversary and its contributions to the people of Minnesotans living with brain injury. Established in 1992, the TBI Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) on program development and issues concerning the health and human services needs of people with TBI ([Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.093](#)). Over the years, the committee has included many individuals living with brain injury, family members, and professionals - and wishes to thank everyone who has been involved.



The Advisory Committee also assisted in the process of bringing forward training materials for the whole State and access to a video on brain injury basics featured above or which can be viewed using [this link](#).

45% of the membership is now made up of those with lived experience. The Advisory Committee has finished a study of its members to better understand demographic and linguistic make up in order to target recruitment to meet its cultural competency goals. Other work has resulted in an interagency leadership council that meets monthly to bring forth the work and collaboration across State agencies for people with brain injuries.

The Advisory Committee meets one of the requirements for the U.S. Administration for Community Living TBI State Partnership Program grant, which the department received for 2021-2026. The State has the distinction of being one of the first seven States to receive an Implementation Grant in 1997.

For further information, contact Jill Tilbury at jill.tilbury@state.mn.us.



Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver: 30 Years of Home and Community-based Services

The Minnesota Department of Human Services also celebrates 30 years of administering the Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver to fund home and community-based services for children and adults who have an acquired or traumatic brain injury. The initial application was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on April 1, 1992.

In lieu of receiving services in a nursing facility or neurobehavioral hospital for care, people may receive Medicaid Brain Injury Waiver services in their home, in a biological or adoptive family's home, a relative's home (e.g. sibling, aunt, grandparent etc.), a family foster care home, a corporate foster care home, a board and lodging facility or in an assisted living facility. If married, a person may receive waiver services while living at home with his or her spouse. Services include a wide range of services for individuals with brain injury ages 0-64. Individuals apply for waiver services at their local county or tribal social service agency. To learn more about the waiver program, read the [brochure](#).

Minnesota Health Department Administers the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund



Established in 1991, just one year prior to the Medicaid waiver program, the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund was created by the [license reinstatement fee](#). As in many States, separate State agencies administer the trust fund program and the Medicaid Brain Injury HCBS waiver. The Minnesota Department of Health (DOH) administers the fund of which 83 percent is to be used for contracts with a qualified community-based organization to provide information, resources, and support to assist persons with TBI and their families to access services, and 17 percent to maintain the TBI and spinal injury registry created in [section 144.662](#).

The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance meets the qualifications for the community-based organization, and as such, provides resource facilitation services, which is a free, two-year telephone support program that provides education and connects people to supports and services. Participants receive scheduled calls over a two-year period to help problem-solve issues and identify resources to help transition back to family life, work, and the community. Thus, the Alliance is the starting point for receiving services and

supports after brain injury. The Metropolitan Center for Independent Living is a starting point for receiving services and support for people affected by spinal cord injury and those who support them.

Minnesota statutes require the Department of Health to maintain a database of all hospitalized cases of TBI and SCI. These data can be used to better understand the prevalence of TBI and SCI to determine appropriate community-specific intervention strategies and to identify service needs and gaps. For more information, visit the department's [website](#).



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

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.

Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.

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