

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



Working Together Promoting Awareness Month *Spotlight on North Carolina*

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

March 25, 2022

During the month of March, the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is featuring articles about individuals living with brain injury; State resources and services and initiatives promoting awareness and improving service delivery. This week, NASHIA features **North Carolina** advocate, Jordan Slade.

Have a story to share? Send to Susan Vaughn at publicpolicy@nashia.org. Meanwhile, you may access NASHIA's Awareness Campaign materials [here](#).

North Carolina Survivor Advocates for Brain Injury Services

Meet Jordan Slade, a father of two beautiful daughters. As of October 28, 2017, he is living with a TBI that also caused two additional strokes. As a survivor, he was told he would never be able to walk or talk again. He said, "I had to fight every day, and since awakening from my coma, to become the man I am today -- a loving father and a relentless Brain Injury Advocate."

Along with his eternal dedication to succeed of his life's purpose, medical cannabis was there as an aid, while he also received 13 different daily medications. With all of that, he has recovered and is alive to change the world by helping any and all who live in constant agony.

He is now an active member of the North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council and he has established a non-profit, EmergencyLifeNet, of which he is President. He is dedicated to assisting survivors of brain injury who do not meet State or federal assistance programs by establishing short-term supports and allowing the long-term supports to be established without disrupting everyday life. To help with this endeavor, he has organized a golf tournament to be held April 22-24 in Silver City, NM. For more information, visit his [website](#).





NCDHHS

What's Happening in the Tar Heel State

The **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services** is the lead State agency for brain injury services and administers the State funded TBI program of approximately \$3.9 million dollars for purposes of services, supports, education and awareness. Out of this appropriation, each Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization (LME-MCO) is allocated funding for TBI specific services and supports to individuals living with TBI in their respective catchment area.

The State's Division of Health Benefits was approved for a pilot TBI Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver in 2018. More recently, North Carolina was approved for a 1115 Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) that also includes a component to address individuals with brain injury and SUD.

The **North Carolina 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.

North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services was awarded a five-year grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2021. The advisory council meets one of the grant requirements of having an advisory board that includes individuals living with brain injury.

For further information, contact **Scott Pokorny, MSW, CBIS, Traumatic Brain Injury Team Lead**, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services:
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**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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