

# **Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Program**

## **Report to the General Assembly**

**February 1, 2005**

### **Program Overview**

The Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program was created by Title 26, Article 1, Part 3 of the Colorado Revised Statutes to improve the lives of Colorado residents who have survived traumatic brain injuries. This statute created the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund to finance program activities, and the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Board to oversee the operations of the trust fund.

The TBI trust fund is comprised of moneys collected from surcharges assessed for convictions of certain traffic offenses. The trust fund receives \$15 for each conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) or driving while ability is impaired (DWA). The trust fund receives \$10 for each conviction of speeding. Moneys in the trust fund pay for all program services and program administration.

By statute, approximately 65 percent of the moneys collected for the trust fund are used to provide services to persons with traumatic brain injuries; 30 percent are used to support research related to the treatment and understanding of traumatic brain injuries; and 5 percent are used to provide education for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and to assist educators, parents, and non-medical professionals in the identification of traumatic brain injuries so as to assist such persons in seeking proper medical intervention or treatment.

The TBI Board is located within the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). Three members are designated in statute and ten members are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Attachment A is a list of current Board members. The Board has established three ongoing committees: services and case management, research, and education.

The Board is required to submit a report on February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to the Joint Budget Committee and to the Health, Environment, Welfare and Institutions Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate. This report must address the operations of the trust fund, the moneys expended, the number of individuals with traumatic brain injuries offered services, the research grants awarded and the progress on such grants, and the educational information provided pursuant to the statute.

## **Revenue and Expenditures**

The trust fund began collecting revenue in January 2004. During calendar year 2004, the trust fund received \$1,261,318. This total includes \$518,211 collected during the second half of state fiscal year 2004, and \$743,107 collected during the first half of state fiscal year 2005.

The trust fund expended \$106,198 during calendar year 2004. This total includes \$18,328 expended during the second half of state fiscal year 2004, and \$87,870 expended during the first half of state fiscal year 2005. An additional \$426,069 was encumbered but not yet expended as of December 31, 2004. Since 2004 was the initial year of the trust fund program, revenues during the year significantly exceeded expenditures. This is because revenues began in January, while program services began in stages throughout the year. The TBI Board plans to expend most of the current funding reserve during state fiscal year 2006, and to maintain a modest fund balance in order to responsibly manage the monthly fluctuation that occurs in both revenue and expenditures.

## **Services**

Client services were implemented in stages during 2004.

In May 2004, the State Board of Human Services adopted rules for the traumatic brain injury program, which became effective July 1, 2004. These rules address client eligibility, services, and appeals and grievances. The rules are available on the program web site at [www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/tbi/newtbi.html](http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/tbi/newtbi.html).

The State statute (26-1-304, C.R.S.) specifies that all individuals receiving assistance from the trust fund must receive case management services. In addition, the trust fund may be used to provide a variety of other services including but not limited to:

- community residential services;
- structured day program services;
- psychological and mental health services for the individual with the traumatic brain injury and the individual's family;
- prevocational services;
- supported employment;
- companion services;
- respite care;
- occupational therapy;
- speech and language therapy;
- cognitive rehabilitation;
- physical rehabilitation; and
- one-time home modifications.

The trust fund may not be used to pay for institutionalization, hospitalization, or medications.

In December 2003, the TBI Board made a policy decision to initially provide only case management services, and to add additional services once the Board was sure that trust fund revenues were sufficient to provide additional services. This decision was made because revenues were expected to build slowly at first, and the amount of funding that would be available during the initial year of the trust fund was unknown.

### Intake, Eligibility and Referral Services

The TBI Board decided to contract with the Brain Injury Association of Colorado (BIAC) for client intake, eligibility and referral services. BIAC is a statewide non-profit organization that provides information and referral services to the brain injury community, and is known to many brain injury survivors, family members, and service providers throughout the state. Individuals seeking services through the trust fund apply to the Brain Injury Association for program services. BIAC assists individuals with the application process, determines program eligibility, and refers eligible individuals to the appropriate care coordination agency for services. BIAC began providing intake, eligibility and referral services June 1, 2004. In the last seven months of 2004, BIAC reviewed 40 applications for children's services and 116 applications for adult services. Seventy-five percent of applicants under age 21 were determined eligible for trust fund services, and 96 percent of adults were determined eligible for trust fund services.

### Children's Services

The TBI Board decided to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to provide services to children under age 21. The Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs within CDPHE contracts with 14 regional health departments to provide case management services to children with special needs throughout the state. This program is well known to schools, parents of children with special needs, and other community resources, and was a logical choice for providing case management services for children with traumatic brain injuries.

Children's case management services began July 1, 2004. In the last six months of 2004, CDHPE began working with 20 children with traumatic brain injuries who were eligible for trust fund services and their families. All of these children/families were either receiving case management services or were in the process of developing case management plans as of December 31, 2004.

## Adult Services

The TBI Board decided to select an organization through a competitive bid process to provide services to adults with traumatic brain injuries. CDHS released a Request for Proposals (RFP) in March 2004, received two proposals in response to the RFP, and selected Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs to provide services to adults. Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs utilizes case managers from all three Goodwill Industries in Colorado (Denver, Pueblo and Colorado Springs) and contracts with other organizations and individuals to provide case management services throughout the state.

Adult case management services began October 1, 2004. In the last three months of 2004, Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs began working with 102 adults with traumatic brain injuries who were eligible for trust fund services. All of these individuals were either receiving case management services or were in the process of developing case management plans as of December 31, 2004.

## **Research**

The TBI Board established the following three research priorities for the initial year of the research program:

1. Basic Science: Mechanisms of neuroplasticity following TBI; mechanisms of cell death and rescue following TBI; and neurogenetics of TBI.
2. Clinical Science: Pharmacologic and/or non-pharmacologic interventions for the purpose of neuroprotection or the treatment of cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or neurological problems following TBI. These projects may involve either novel or existing therapeutic approaches.
3. Health Services and Outcome Research: The effects of TBI on developmental transitions across the lifespan; identification of gaps in the types and availability of healthcare services for persons with TBI; and the effects of cognitive rehabilitation on long-term outcome following TBI.

The Board issued a Program Announcement and Solicitation of Letters of Intent on September 1, 2004. This announcement and solicitation notified the TBI research community that the Board intends to initially fund up to five research grants, with funding of up to \$50,000 for each grant. Letters of intent were due November 1, 2004.

The Board received 11 letters of intent from prospective researchers. After review, the Board invited ten researchers to submit full research proposals. Those proposals are due February 1, 2005. Experts from across the country will evaluate the research proposals that are submitted and recommend proposals

for grant awards. Notification of research grant awards will be completed by June 1, 2005.

## **Education**

The TBI Board began its educational efforts in April 2004. The Board's initial priority is to inform the community about the existence of the trust fund program, the services that are available to individuals with traumatic brain injuries, and how to access these services. Educational efforts in 2004 include:

1. Development and distribution of a program brochure. The brochure is available in English and Spanish. Approximately 8,000 English and 2,000 Spanish brochures were distributed to hospitals, service providers, school nurses and special education coordinators, local health departments, community mental health centers, single entry point agencies, county departments of human services, public libraries, individuals with traumatic brain injuries and their families, and many other organizations and individuals.
2. Development of a TBI program web site within the Department of Human Services web site. This web site is located at [www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/tbi/newtbi.html](http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/tbi/newtbi.html) and includes the Board's mission and vision statements, information on accessing services, the program brochure, the state statute creating the trust fund program, state rules for the program, Board meeting minutes, information on the research grants program, and links to other web sites.
3. Development of a trust fund web site within the Brain Injury Association of Colorado's web site. This web site is located at [www.biaincolorado.org/trustfund.htm](http://www.biaincolorado.org/trustfund.htm) and includes the program brochure, Board meeting minutes, information on the research grants program, and information on the application process, including an application form.
4. A press release issued jointly by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health and Environment announcing the start of program services.
5. Discussions with a Denver television station news program about opportunities to publicize the trust fund program and issues regarding traumatic brain injury.
6. Meetings with State and local government agencies (e.g. youth corrections, child welfare, mental health) to share information about the trust fund program.

7. Sponsoring a booth and holding an informational session and open forum at the annual conference of the Brain Injury Association of Colorado in September 2004.

### **Expectations for 2005**

The Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Program was implemented in 2004. During the past year, the trust fund began collecting revenue, State rules for the program were adopted, educational efforts were initiated, children and adults with traumatic brain injuries began receiving case management services, and proposals for research grants were solicited. The efforts that began in 2004 will continue and be expanded in 2005.

The Department of Human Services projects that trust fund revenues for the current state fiscal year (2005) will surpass \$1.5 million. The Department has submitted a supplemental budget request to increase spending authority in state fiscal year 2006 to just over \$2 million.

Beginning in February 2005, the trust fund will provide a wide variety of services to adults, in addition to case management services. These services will be managed by Goodwill Industries of Colorado Springs and provided by a variety of service providers throughout the state.

The TBI Board is working with the Department of Public Health and Environment to provide additional services to children, and anticipates beginning additional children's services no later than July 1, 2005.

The trust fund program will provide services to an increasing number of children and adults throughout 2005. As information about the program reaches more and more people, the number of inquiries and requests for applications continues to increase. The number of applications is expected to increase significantly once additional client services are available.

The TBI Board expects to award at least five research grants in June 2005. Work on those grants will begin approximately July 2005. The Board will solicit proposals for the next funding cycle in the fall of 2005.

The Department of Human Services will continue to develop the TBI program web site. Current plans are to include educational materials for brain injury survivors and family members, additional information on children's and adult services, information on the research grants that are funded, annual reports, and links to additional web sites.

The TBI Board will continue its efforts to provide education on traumatic brain injuries and the trust fund program. Special efforts will be directed at outreaching

children and families, and funds will be used to support regional educational conferences.

## **Program Administration**

The TBI program is administered by the Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health and Housing. CDHS staff work closely with the TBI Board and perform the following functions for the program:

- financial management – staff monitor trust fund revenues, project future revenues, pay invoices, track expenditures, prepare and update the program budget, and report revenues and expenditures to the Board monthly.
- policy development – staff research policy options and develop draft policies for Board consideration.
- program development and implementation – staff design, implement and modify the trust fund program based on Board policies and decisions.
- contract management – staff write requests for proposals, conduct competitive bid processes, and develop and manage contracts with vendors.
- program monitoring – staff perform monitoring activities to determine program performance and contractor compliance with contract requirements.
- administrative support – staff provide support to the Board and its committees including scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, taking and transcribing minutes, photocopying, records maintenance, and other administrative functions.
- web site maintenance – staff develop and maintain the TBI program web site.
- public assistance and information – staff assist clients and their families, health care professionals and service providers, State and local agencies, and other stakeholders by answering questions, providing information, resolving problems, and distributing materials about program activities.
- reporting – staff report to the Board on program activities, accomplishments, challenges and opportunities for improvement, and develop an annual report for the General Assembly.

- public relations – staff represent the TBI program at public and professional meetings, conferences, trainings, and other forums.

### **Additional Information**

For additional information on the Traumatic Brain Injury Program, please contact Bill Bush, TBI Program Director, at 303-866-7477, or by email at [bill.bush@state.co.us](mailto:bill.bush@state.co.us).



## **Attachment A**

### **Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Board Members**

David Arciniegas, MD  
UCHSC, Department of Psychiatry  
4200 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Campus Box C268-68  
Denver, CO 80262

Judy Dettmer  
Center for Community Participation/CSU  
300 OT Building  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Jeanne Dise-Lewis, Ph.D  
Children's Hospital  
1056 East 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, B285  
Denver, CO 80218

Melissa Francis  
Director, Public Affairs & Marketing  
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital  
900 Potomac Street  
Aurora, CO 80011

Joy Henika  
341 Fox Lane  
Superior, CO 80027

Theresa Hernández, Ph.D, Board President  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology  
345 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309

Christine Highnam  
Director, Supportive Housing  
and Homeless Programs  
Department of Human Services  
4020 South Newton  
Denver, CO 80236

Helen Kellogg  
Executive Director  
Brain Injury Association of Colorado  
4200 West Conejos Place, #524  
Denver, CO 80204

Pam Law  
P.O. Box 350415  
Westminster, CO 80031

Stewart Levy, M.D.  
Intermountain Neurosurgery  
4101 West Conejos Place, Suite 225  
Denver, CO 80204

Scott Manley  
Senior Vice President  
Craig Hospital  
3425 South Clarkson Street  
Englewood, CO 80110

Kathy Rohan-Hague  
3650 Utica Street, #7  
Denver, CO 80212

Kathy Watters  
Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Section  
Department of Public Health & Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246