



State News

September 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 1

Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to **State News**, produced by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators, for purposes of sharing information on State legislation, policies, programs, initiatives and resources. If you have information on legislation or other activities in your State that you wish to share, please feel free to send to Susan Vaughn at slvaughn@nashia.org.

States Budget Cuts Affect Services

At least 41 States plus the District of Columbia are imposing budget cuts in all major areas of State services, including health care (27 States), services to seniors and individuals with disabilities (24 States and the District of Columbia), K-12 education (25 States), higher education (34 States), and other areas. At least 24 States plus the District of Columbia are cutting medical, rehabilitative, home care, or other services needed by low-income people who are elderly or with disabilities, or significantly increasing the cost of these services. Ohio has made deep cuts to community mental health services. Rhode Island is requiring low-income elderly people to pay more for adult daycare, and Arizona eliminated temporary health insurance for people with serious medical problems. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities).

How are these cuts impacting individuals with TBI in your State? If you have information you care to share with NASHIA, we would like to capture that information for public policy purposes. Specifically, has your source of revenue been reduced for TBI specific services (e.g. trust fund, state general revenue) or has reduced funding affected your

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The **Massachusetts** Brain Injury & Statewide Specialized Community Services Program, formerly known as State Head Injury Program (SHIP), is to hold the first New England Collaborative meeting on veterans with TBI and their families on October 16, 2009. The Massachusetts program has also hired a new Veterans Coordinator to participate in an integrated case management pilot with the National Guard's Total Warrior Program.

The **California** Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the State Independent Living Council (SILC) have announced the availability of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding in the amount of \$486,923, to increase independent living services capacity to serve persons with TBI, including veterans.

On August 1st, the **New Mexico** Brain Injury Advisory Council and the Brain Injury Association of New Mexico kicked off its 5th Annual Empowerment Project sessions, providing

ability to match other federal funds (e.g. Medicaid, VR, federal grants). Is your State experiencing staff reductions and/or furloughs? You may send this information to slvaughn@nashia.org.

Legislative Roundup

Editor's Note: *This update reflects the status of legislation initially reported in the April 23rd issue of State Watch. For future updates it would be helpful if you could send information on bills introduced, passed, enacted or vetoed to Susan Vaughn.*

On September 8, **California** legislature sent to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his signature A.B. 398 that transfers the brain injury programs, including programs funded by the TBI Trust Fund, from the Department of Mental Health to the Department of Rehabilitation.

North Carolina Governor Mike Easley signed H.B. 1309 July 27, providing for the licensure and accreditation of residential facilities for persons with TBI.

On July 16th, **New Hampshire** Governor John Lynch signed H.B. 1012, establishing a commission to develop a legislative plan to meet the needs of certain adults with developmental disabilities or acquired brain disorders who present a moderate to high degree of risk to community safety.

On July 1, 2009, **North Dakota** Governor John Hoeven signed S.B. 2198, establishing TBI services to be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, including outreach services and public awareness efforts regarding the prevention and identification of traumatic brain injury.

On June 18, **Oregon** Governor Ted Kulongoski signed S.B. 381, which requires health benefit plans to provide coverage of medically necessary therapies and services for the treatment of TBI.

Also on June 18, **Oregon** Governor Kulongoski signed S.B. 348 that directs school districts to ensure that football helmets be annually inspected and to replace all helmets within 10 years. The bill requires coaches of interscholastic

opportunities for individuals with brain injury and their families to learn how to self advocate. For further information contact Elizabeth Peterson at elizabeth.peterson@state.nm.us.

The **Alaska** Senior and Disabilities Services is in the process of hiring a brain injury care coordinator, expanding its services to include care coordination services specific to brain injury. The program was developed in collaboration with the Alaska Brain Injury Network (ABIN) and the Mental Health Trust Authority. The ABIN is also hiring a TBI coordinator. A FY 2009 Federal earmark to ABIN is supporting scholarships for the newly developed distance delivered "Intro to Brain Injury", a 3-credit academic course for rural providers. Another project the ABIN is undergoing is a TBI study for Alaska Natives vs. non-natives. For further information contact Jill Hodges at jill@alaskabraininjury.net.

Web Resources

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) released an updated version of its content rich website, <http://www.ncwdyouth.info/>. Since the original launch of the NCWD/Youth website, it has been the go-to place for information relating to youth with disabilities and the workforce development and transition systems supporting them in their transition to the world of work.

Individuals wishing to participate on a discussion list on co-occurring disorders that is administered by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment within SAMHSA may subscribe by sending an e-mail to dualdx@treatment.org and say please subscribe.

The U.S. Department of Labor launched a redesigned federal website, <http://www.disability.gov/> that connects the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities to thousands of trusted resources on disability related issues, programs and services. The site has been completely redesigned and updated with new social media tools, such as a blog and a Twitter feed, to encourage feedback and interaction among visitors. Disability.gov is also for parents of children with disabilities, employers, workforce and human resource professionals, veterans, educators, caregivers and many others.

football teams receive annual training on symptoms of concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for person suspected of having a concussion.

New Hampshire Governor John Lynch signed H.B. 483, on June 15, 2009, establishing the Developmental Services Quality Council to provide leadership for consistent, systemic review and improvement of the quality of the developmental disability and acquired brain disorder services provided within New Hampshire's developmental services system.

On June 9, **Maine** Governor John Baldacci signed H.B. 597, that requires the Department of Education to review the discrepancy in information available in data from MaineCare and the Office of Special Services regarding the number of children in the State identified with brain injuries.

On June 2, 2009, **Colorado** Governor Bill Ritter signed S.B. 133, increasing surcharges for traffic violations that apply to the Colorado Brain Injury Trust Fund.

On May 19, **North Dakota** Governor John Hoeven signed H.B. 1012, which directs the legislative council, during the 2009-11 interim, to consider studying the impact of individuals with traumatic brain injury, including veterans who are returning from wars, on the State's human services system.

On April 20, 2009, **Colorado** Governor Bill Ritter signed S.B. 5, which includes blast injuries in the definition for TBI; expands eligibility for the TBI Trust Fund Board to include military or members of the military; and changed the percentage of the funds allocated for direct services, educational activities and research.

NASHIA Produces Summary of State Legislation

NASHIA has produced a summary of State legislation enacted (or vetoed) during 2007-08, and is available on the website: www.nashia.org. This document is similar to the one published two years ago featuring 2005-2006.



Have you registered yet for the 20th Annual State of the States Meeting?

Join us in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Oct. 27- 30, 2009, at the Eldorado Hotel. Go to www.nashia.org to register. For hotel reservations, call 1-800-955-445 and ask for the NASHIA conference room block.

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About NASHIA

What began as a national meeting in 1990 for States to network, has grown into an organization that assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families through a variety of ways.

NASHIA sponsors an annual State of the States Meeting, newsletters, website, materials and publications. In addition, NASHIA serves as the collective voice of State TBI programs with regard to public policy.

Know someone who can benefit from NASHIA's services?

Feel free to invite them to become a member.

Federal Grant Awards

The US Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau Federal TBI Program announced the award of a Targeted Issues Implementation Partnership Grant effective September 1, 2009, to the **Texas** Health and Human Services Commission. The Targeted Issues in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Grant Program is to address the special obstacles faced by incarcerated youth who are at high risk of having an undiagnosed and untreated TBI that interferes with both physical and mental health.

In May, the HRSA Federal TBI State Grant Program awarded 16 States four year grants to improve services in accordance with the TBI Act the authorizes funding for the program. The states are: **AL, AZ, ID, IN, IA, MA, MI, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OR, TN, VA, and WV.**

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