



NASHIA Tip of the Month!

Working with Injury & Violence Prevention Professionals

by:

Janice K. White M.Ed., Program Coordinator
North Carolina TBI Program

February 2014

Each State's Brain Injury Program is so different that it is often difficult to make comparisons with other States. TBI Lead Agencies differ as do funding sources and program priorities, but there are some resources that are similar from State to State and we might need to do some looking to find them and foster partnerships.

In North Carolina the TBI Program sits within the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities /Substance Abuse Services and my position is on the Prevention & Early Intervention Team. This started my partnership with Substance Abuse Prevention Professionals, which has been very fruitful. With that as my ground work in prevention, I branched out looking for more prevention opportunities.

I have successfully partnered with the Injury & Violence Prevention Branch within the NC Division of Public Health. This Division and Branch have a seat on our TBI Advisory Council, which is mandated by State legislation. If they do not have a seat on your Board/Council, you may want to consider trying to add the seat or at least inviting them to participate in your meetings. After working with them, I was then offered a seat on the State Injury & Violence Prevention State Advisory Council, which I gladly accepted. Public Health professionals break their work down into categories such as: Falls, Motor Vehicle Crashes, Poisoning and Suicide; as we all know any of these events may cause a brain injury (ABI). I feel that those working in injury & violence here in North Carolina now have a much better understanding of how brain injury crosses all of the categories in which they work.

Public Health works closely with organizations such as the Governor's Highway Safety Council, NC Safe Kids, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, NC Falls Prevention Coalition, NC Child Fatality Task Force, the Carolinas Poison Center and the Injury Research Prevention Center at the University of NC. As you can see, my connection with Public Health has broadened my opportunities for prevention and additional partnerships across the State of NC.

Please use this tip to reach out to prevention professionals in your State and determine how TBI can fit into what they are doing. I think you will be pleasantly surprised about how interested everyone is in TBI. Good luck with prevention efforts in your State!

For further information contact NASHIA at info@nashia.org.