



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

KATHRYN A. HAYFIELD  
Commissioner

8004 Franklin Farms Drive  
Henrico, VA 23229

Office (804) 662-7000  
Toll free (800) 552-5019  
TTY users dial 711  
Fax (804) 662-7644

December 23, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Janet D. Howell  
Chair, Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Luke Torian  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Kathryn A. Hayfield *Kathryn A. Hayfield*  
Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

**RE:** DARS Brain Injury Services 2019 Annual Report

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As the lead state agency for brain injury in the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is pleased to submit this 2019 annual report. When the 2004 General Assembly appropriated new funding for brain injury services for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2005-06 in Item 327.4 of the Appropriations Act, it also directed that

*"...the Department of Rehabilitative Services shall submit an annual report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees documenting the **number of individuals served, services provided, and success in attracting non-state resources.**"*

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the report.

CT/KAH

dars@dars.virginia.gov · www.dars.virginia.gov



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**2019 Annual Report of Virginia's State-Funded  
Brain Injury Services Programs**

**REPORT TO:**

**Chair, Finance and Appropriations Committee  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee**



**Virginia Department for Aging  
and Rehabilitative Services**

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## **Introduction**

In 1989, the Code of Virginia (§51.5-9.1) designated the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) “as the **lead state agency** for coordinating rehabilitative services to persons with functional and central nervous system disabilities [to include]... traumatic brain injury...” The Code further states that DARS shall provide for the assessment of the need for rehabilitative and support services for such persons, identify gaps in services, promote interagency coordination, develop models for case management, and advise the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Governor, and the General Assembly on programmatic, fiscal, and service delivery policies.

In 1989, the General Assembly made the first appropriation of \$235,000 in dedicated funding for brain injury services to Fairfax County. In 2004, when the General Assembly appropriated new funds for brain injury services (BIS) for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2005-06 (Item 327.4 of the Appropriations Act), it directed DARS to

*“... submit an annual report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees documenting the number of individuals served, types of services provided, and success in attracting non-state resources.”*

This document constitutes DARS’ **2019 Annual Report of Virginia’s State-Funded Brain Injury Services Programs.**

**Brain Injury Services and Statistics**

The Brain Injury Services system (BI First) automated reporting system utilizes data to track case management and information and referral and other unique services provided by the BI networks.

The primary services or activities performed include but are not limited to:

- Case Management
- Clubhouse/Day Support Programs
- Information and Referral (I& R)
- Outreach
- Advocacy
- Education

Tables 1 and 2 provide statewide caseload information by each case type.

**Table 1-Statewide BI Services for SFY 2019: Primary Services/Activities**

SFY'19 Total Services/Activities <sup>1</sup>							
SFY	Case Management	Club House/Day Support Program	I &R	Outreach	Education	Advocacy	Total
2019	1382	283	1511	53,838	17,645	1635	76,415

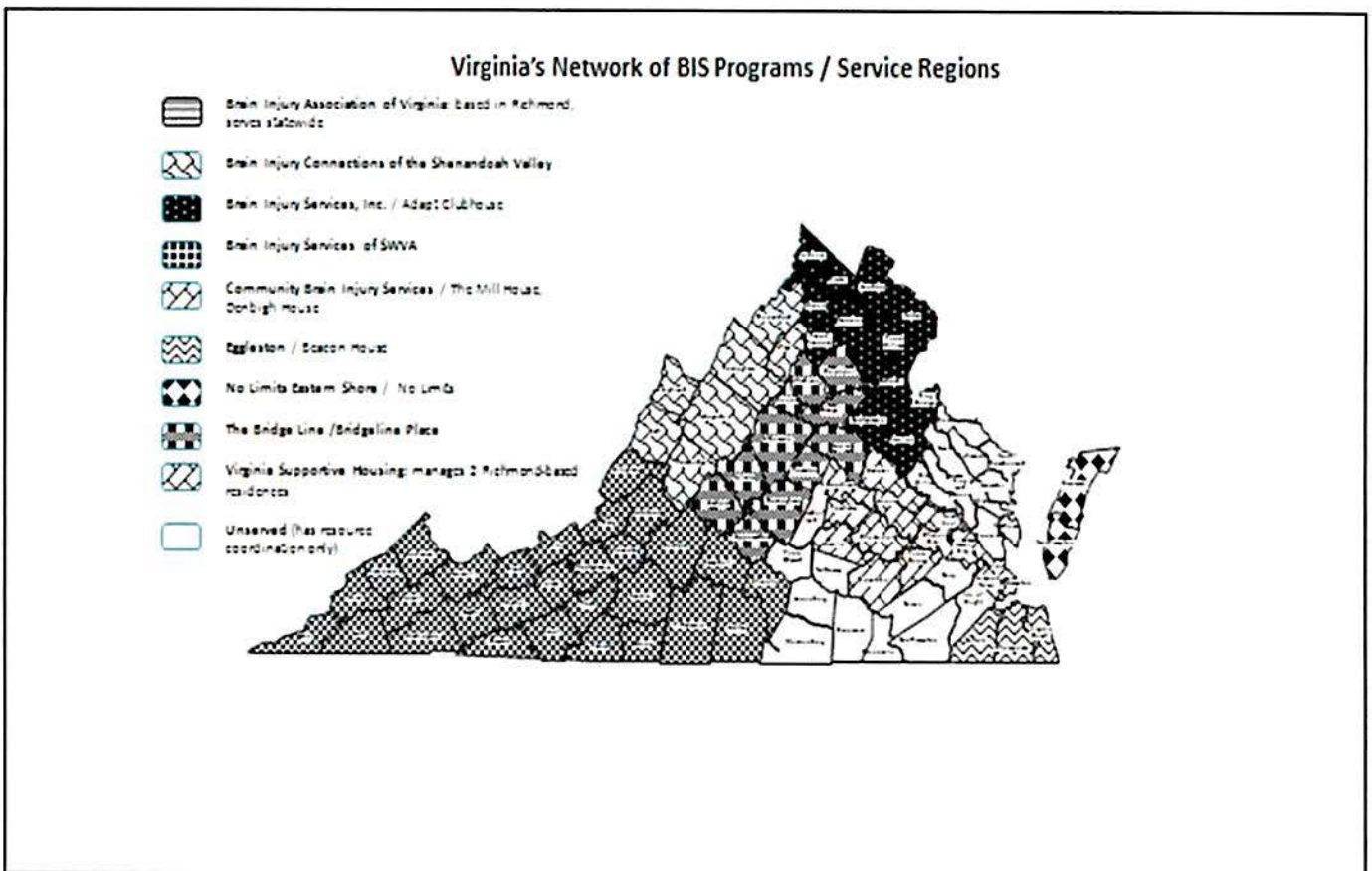
**STATE FISCAL YEAR 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019)**

Nine (9) BIS Organizations Operate 14 Community-Based Programs

- **TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED: 3,513**
  - Direct “hands on” services to individuals: 3,513; Indirect services (outreach/public awareness, education/training, information & referral, newsletters/social media): estimated over 10,000
- **TOTAL AMOUNT OF BRAIN INJURY SERVICES FUNDING: \$5,709,852**
  - Brain Injury Services State-Funded Contractors: \$ 5,508,278

- Brain Injury Direct Services Fund: \$186,224
- Personal Assistance for People with Brain Injury: \$132,639
- **NONSTATE RESOURCES** (service fees, donations, fundraisers, grants, in-kind contributions): **\$2,639,190**

**Table 2- Brain Injury Service Areas**



## **TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY VIRGINIA'S NETWORK OF BRAIN INJURY PROGRAMS**

During SFY 2019, DARS managed nearly \$6 million for brain injury services statewide; approximately \$5.15M of that was contracted to nine community partner organizations operating 14 programs. This Network of BIS Programs provides direct (“hands on”) services to 5,000 Virginians annually, as well as indirect services such as education, outreach, and public awareness to an estimated 10-20,000.

In addition, DARS works with stakeholders and providers to identify core and ancillary services, which include:

- ***Resource Coordination:*** outreach to Virginians hospitalized due to brain injury; information and referral; education / training; public awareness; and consultation and technical assistance for survivors, family members / caregivers, and professionals. DARS contracts with the Brain Injury Association of Virginia to provide this service statewide.
  
- ***Case Management (adults and children):*** determine individual / family needs, develop individualized service plans with personal goals, and identify supports and resources. Services may include in-home consultation and intervention, education planning, life skills training, and oversight of outsourced services.
  
- ***Clubhouse/Day Program:*** work-related and socialization activities in a supportive, therapeutic environment. Members / participants may receive limited case management with an individualized service plan that identifies personal goals and resources. These programs provide a venue for survivors to participate meaningfully while benefiting from an educational, vocational, and therapeutic social environment.

**VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL (VBIC) <https://vadars.org/vbic.htm>**

*"The vision of the Virginia Brain Injury Council is that Virginians with brain injury and their families will build a quality of life of their choosing."*

The **VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL (VBIC)** is the "crossroads for brain injury" in Virginia. The Council, established in 1986, is a statewide, interagency advisory group comprised of consumers (i.e., survivors of brain injury and family members / caregivers); licensed, registered, certified healthcare professionals; service providers; state agency representatives; and other advisory members. The DARS Commissioner appoints individuals to the Council. The purpose of the Council is to promote accessible, affordable, and appropriate services for Virginians with brain injury and their families by advising DARS, the lead state agency for brain injury in Virginia:

*"The Council facilitates the development, coordination, and promotion of a comprehensive delivery system that provides a continuum of services for persons with traumatic brain injury. The Council identifies needs, and presents recommendations for the continued improvement of the delivery system."*

A **state brain injury advisory council** (VBIC established in 1989) has been a requirement for states receiving federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) since 1998, and from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) beginning in 2015.

Other criteria for recipients of federal TBI funding include:

- **Designate a lead state agency for brain injury** (DARS);
- Develop a **comprehensive needs assessment** (DARS conducted one in 1998-2000 and in 2014, both using federal funds);
- **Develop a state action plan for brain injury** (VBIC developed an initial action plan in 2000 using federal funds, updated it in 2017/2018, and will be updating it annually over the next three years of DARS' current federal TBI grant).

Quarterly meetings are open to the public and usually held at DARS Central Office.

In 2005, the General Assembly approved a budget amendment, which requires that, effective July 1, 2006, *"... the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to consider recommendations of the Virginia Brain Injury Council when allocating new funds for brain injury services."*

The Brain Injury Council serves as the advisory body to Virginia's federal TBI grant and advises DARS and the Commonwealth on the needs of Virginians with brain injury. The council makes recommendations to the DARS Commissioner regarding the development / delivery of brain injury services in Virginia, and carries out other duties and activities related to brain injury as requested or approved by the DARS Commissioner.

***For more information about the Virginia Brain Injury Council and its activities and to access reports referenced in this document, visit [vadars.org/vbic.htm](https://vadars.org/vbic.htm).***



# VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

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The Brain Injury Council annually submits a letter to the Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. The Priorities Committee identified three priority areas for the upcoming year:

- **Enhance access to accessible, affordable appropriate crisis intervention / neurobehavioral treatment programs and services in the Commonwealth, along with expanded access to community-based behavior support services.**

The Council endorses the need to develop specialized behavioral health services for those with challenging or aggressive behaviors due to brain injury. Individuals with extreme behaviors, for any reason, inevitably experience negative consequences in their home, work, and other community settings.

- **Develop a continuum of residential services for persons with brain injury.**

The larger brain injury community endorses the need for a variety of residential support options and state funded brain injury programs. They recognize the increase in aging caregivers and support the need to facilitate independence and community living to the greatest extent possible. Service options that foster independence and that include group homes, 24-hour supervised living settings, and supported living programs that promote the development of independent living skills are needed throughout the Commonwealth.

- **Expand access to state level brain injury data, including collection, analysis, and cross-agency exchange, to assist in monitoring brain injury and developing appropriate responses in the Commonwealth.**

Through Virginia's current ACL TBI State Grant Program, data sources within the Commonwealth are being examined to determine what information exists that would assist DARS and the VBIC in long term planning for the needs of the brain injury community.

## 2018-2022 STATE ACTION PLAN FOR BRAIN INJURY IN VIRGINIA

The Virginia Brain Injury Council, in collaboration with DARS, is responsible for monitoring the development and implementation of a state action plan for brain injury. The state plan is a broad guidance document for stakeholders that identifies service needs and gaps and promotes initiatives that improve brain injury services.

During 2017-18, DARS contracted with James Madison University (JMU) researchers to revise the Council's existing state action plan for brain injury. As part of the revision process, JMU staff reviewed previous action plans and analyzed current brain injury services in Virginia, with a special emphasis on neurobehavioral needs and resources. The current 2018 plan has four broad goals:

- Create appropriate **crisis intervention and neurobehavioral treatment program and services**;
- Develop a **funding model** to support adequate and appropriate access to brain injury services;
- Improve **interagency coordination, including state level data exchange**; and
- Provide brain injury **outreach, education, and information and referral services** to improve the quality of life of persons with brain injury and their family members.

As part of its oversight role, Council receives regular feedback on the plan revision process, and members are invited to submit feedback via multiple formats (including during a regular Council meeting). JMU reviewed its draft document at the January 2018 quarterly meeting and the document was endorsed by the Council with minor changes.

→ As part of DARS' current federal TBI Grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), the Council will update the state action plan annually, per federal grant guidelines and recommendations. This will be a joint Council and TBI Grant staff activity during the next three years and will involve input from a diverse group of stakeholders.

**DARS' FEDERAL TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY GRANT (2018-2021)**

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) received initial federal funding under the national Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act when the State Grant Program was established in 1998. DARS has since received four subsequent federal grants, most recently for the period June 2018 through May 2021. The overall goal of Virginia's *Project REACT (Realizing Enhanced Access and Community Ties)* is to strengthen and expand a system of services and supports that maximize the health, wellness, and independence of people with traumatic brain injury (TBI), family members, and support networks.

Grant activities seek to increase access to comprehensive and coordinated services / supports, with a particular emphasis on access for those with co-occurring TBI and behavioral health (BH) disorders; expand data collection and analysis efforts to support funding and program decisions; and increase the engagement and empowerment of Virginians with TBI and their families. Specifically, activities will focus on strengthening the state TBI advisory council, improving community outreach and involvement, providing survivor and family education and support, enhancing brain injury workforce capacity, and maximizing access to and exchange of state level brain injury data.

DARS currently receives annual funding of \$450,000, which includes \$300,000 per year in federal funding, matched by \$150,000 per year in required state matching funds. Since 1998, DARS has received a total of \$4,357,485 in federal funds, with the Commonwealth providing an additional \$2,235.260 in state cash matching funds. Grant activities will be implemented by DARS (the state grantee), the Brain injury Association of Virginia (primary subcontractor), and Virginia Commonwealth University (subcontractor).

*For more information about this annual report or to learn more about the agency's services to Virginians with brain injury, contact:*

Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit  
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services  
8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico, VA 23229  
Phone: (804) 662-7600

**<https://www.vadars.org/cbs/biscis.htm>**

