



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

KATHRYN A. HAYFIELD
Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

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

The Honorable Luke E. Torian
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

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

RE: DARS Brain Injury Services 2021 Annual Report

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 2021 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

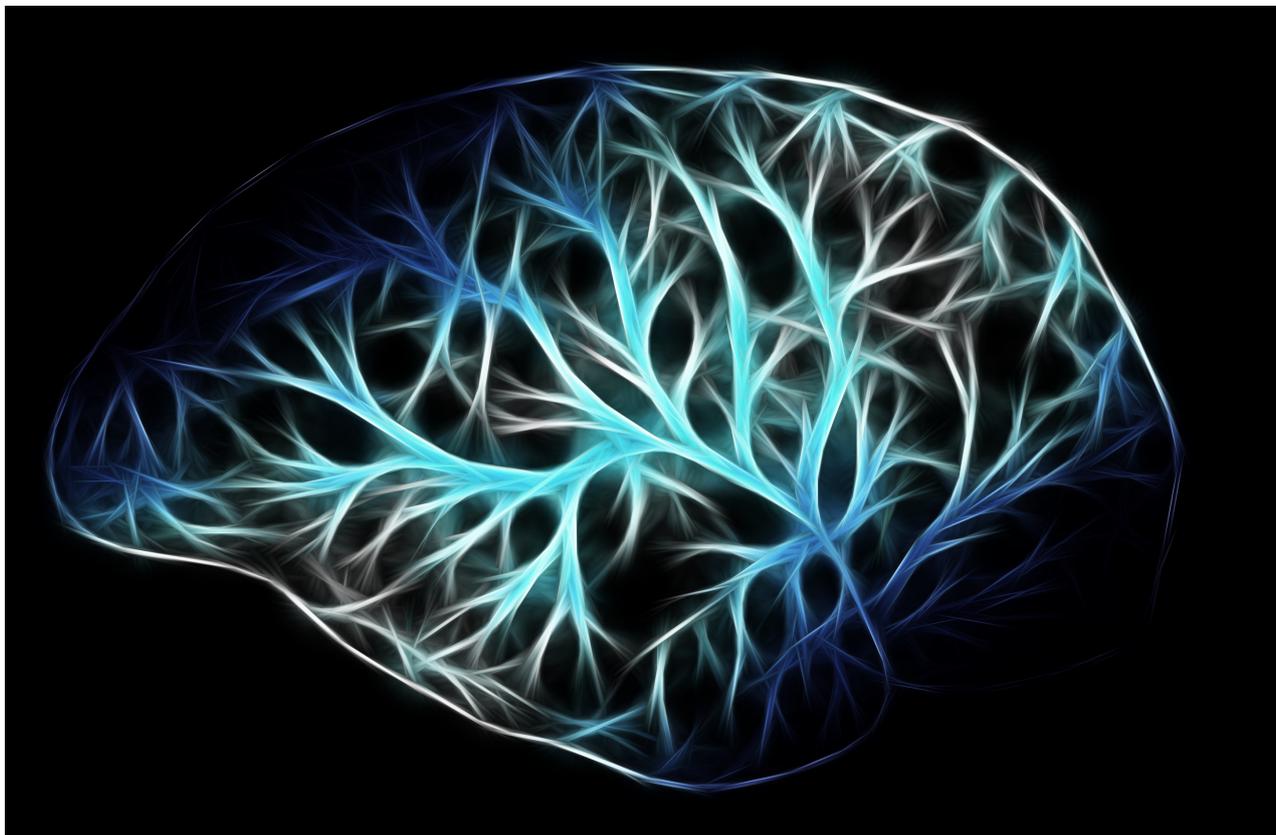
*“...the Department of Rehabilitative Services shall submit an annual report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees documenting the **number of individuals served, services provided, and success in attracting non-state resources.**”*

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

CM/KAH

Virginia Brain Injury Services

2021 Annual Report



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Welcome



Cara Meixner, Chair Virginia Brain Injury Council

As a former caregiver, a person with lived experience with brain injury, and a TBI researcher, I am honored to serve DARS and the Commonwealth of Virginia as chairperson of the Virginia Brain Injury Council (VBIC). The VBIC is comprised of individuals living with brain injury, family members and caregivers, brain injury service providers, and champions and advocates across state agencies. Together, we advise DARS in developing and promoting initiatives designed to: increase housing access and supports; bolster services, particularly within rural and underserved areas; and ensure input from persons with brain injury is centered and amplified in planning and decision-making. I am pleased to see these efforts so prominently showcased in the 2021 Annual Report.

The Commonwealth continues to pave essential support pathways for survivors, caregivers, and providers. Within the VBIC, we continue to make substantive contributions that enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. Please join me in expressing gratitude to the DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit and in celebrating the innumerable contributions of the nine state funded providers that offer services across Virginia.



Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner, DARS

In this past year over three thousand individuals received one or more brain injury services provided by nine state funded community organizations. As COVID rates changed and new variants emerged, these providers flexed their services from in person to virtual to hybrid models of support. New individuals living with brain injury came forward to receive services and former individuals, wanting the connections available through these communities, returned.

Caregivers of individuals living with brain injury also asked for support, in increasing numbers, as they tried to support their family members at home over the past year. Brain injury service providers responded with new and increased support groups connecting caregivers locally and across the state.

I am proud to share with you this report highlighting the work that is going on across the Commonwealth to support individuals living with brain injury and their families.

Virginia maximizes funding from state and federal sources to provide services, expand capacity, and fund research and new practices in brain injury. The results benefit the lives of individuals living with brain injury and their families.

Overview

Acquired brain injury is the umbrella term for all brain injuries. Whatever the cause, it affects the functional ability of the brain. The CDC estimates that about 2% of the population has a disability due to a brain injury. So the numbers may not seem huge, but the impact can be.

Traumatic brain injury is caused by an external force. TBI's are caused by falls, car & sports accidents, assault (shaken, abuse) gunshot, stabbing, or military actions.

Non traumatic brain injuries are caused by internal factors like stroke/aneurysm, infection, seizure disorder, opioids and brain tumors.



Data from the Virginia Trauma Registry shows that between 2018 and 2020, 16,657 people were admitted to the ER with a traumatic brain injury. The good news is that during this time there was a 10% decrease in TBI admissions. But the complications related to brain injury are serious.

- People 65 years and older die or are hospitalized for traumatic brain injuries more often than younger people in Virginia each year.
- Homeless individuals are more likely to have a brain injury than the general population.
- The rate of brain injury among incarcerated individuals is greater than the general population.
- Survivors of domestic violence often are undiagnosed for brain injuries incurred during their abuse.
- Ten percent of individuals in Virginia's trauma registry with a TBI had a co-occurring mental health issue at the time of discharge

The number of people served by Virginia's state funded brain injury programs increased 68% in the past year as more and more people sought support. Overwhelmed caregivers reached out in every community. The state's brain injury providers were there to respond.

Brain Injury Services SFY2021

3263

**# of Persons With Brain
Injury Served
(Unduplicated Count)**

1380

**# Received Case
Management Services**

294

**# Received Clubhouse or
Day Support Services**

857

**# Received Resource
Coordination**

954

**# Received Information &
Referral Services**

Virginia Brain Injury Council

A statewide advisory council comprised of individuals living with brain injury, family members and caretakers of people with brain injury, brain injury service providers, champions in state agencies, and advocates for people living with brain injury. The mission of the Council is to advise the lead state agency for brain injury, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). The priorities they have identified for the coming year include:



Housing

Housing access and supports are a primary issue in the brain injury community. There are increasingly emerging needs for appropriate housing and supports for people living with brain injury to live more independently.



Services

In the last year, the number of individuals with brain injury served in state funded services increased by 68%. At the same time, 19% of the Commonwealth (25 counties/cities) does not have any community based brain injury services at all.



Input From Brain Injury Survivors

Currently only 18% of Council members are people with brain injury. The Council will increase the membership of people with brain injury on Council to 50%.

ACCESS

A Comprehensive Coordinated Entry to
Services & Supports

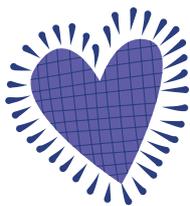
Virginia's Federal TBI Grant 2022 - 2027

The goals of Virginia's grant from the Administration on Community Living are listed below. They focus on increasing access to services and supports for individuals with brain injury and their families through innovative practices and collaborations with new and existing partners.



Increase access to behavioral health services for individuals with brain injury

Partner with the Dept. for Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS) to implement screening for brain injury at intake; provide training for CSB clinicians on services for individuals with brain injury and mental illness.



Build supports for caregivers of people with brain injury

Collaborate with the Brain Injury Association of Virginia to expand resources for caregivers including support groups and peer mentors.



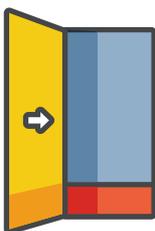
Amplify the voices of individuals living with brain injury

Increase membership of individuals living with brain injury to 50% on the Virginia Brain Injury Council.



Use data to drive services

Conduct a multi year needs and resources assessment led by James Madison University to identify improvement in brain injury services in the last decade and identify needs for the future.



Increased access to and awareness of brain injury services

Partner with No Wrong Door to make it easier to access brain injury services and resources and allow individuals with brain injury and their caregivers to self-refer to services.

Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI)

The Governor appointed CNI Advisory Board disburses funds for research proposals and innovative community-based rehabilitation programs. Funding for CNI grants comes from a portion of Dept. of Motor Vehicle (DMV) fees for reinstatement of a driver's license after it has been suspended, revoked, or disqualified. Grants are awarded to eligible Virginia based entities for up to three years and a maximum award of \$150,000 per year. Currently two state funded brain injury providers have been researching and/or piloting best practices in service delivery with support from CNI funds. By spring of 2022, four new programs will be implementing new services with CNI funding.

COMMUNITY BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

Evaluating Brain Injury Clubhouses and their effects on Neurobehavioral Functioning and Participation

This project evaluated the effectiveness of Brain Injury Clubhouses in meeting Virginia's citizens' needs.

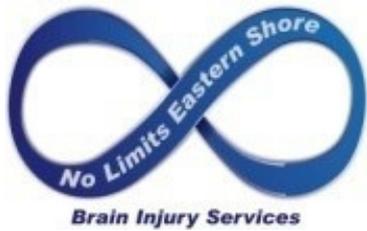
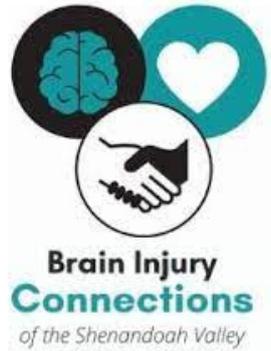


Looking Out for Little Brains

Piloted a comprehensive pediatric case management to increase the capacity of the local community to better respond to children (and their families and caregivers) who have sustained a brain injury.

Virginia's Brain Injury Providers

The Virginia General Assembly provides funding to nine organizations offering a range of services across most of the Commonwealth. These state funded providers include:



Contact

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