
Virginia Brain Injury Services

JOINT COMMISSION ON HEALTHCARE

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Authority

The Code of Virginia (§51.5-119) designates the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) “as the state agency for coordinating rehabilitative services to persons with significant physical or sensory disabilities.”

The definition of “physical or sensory disability” in §51.5-116 includes brain injury.

Virginia Leadership in Brain Injury Services

Virginia has been a leader in supporting the needs of people living with brain injury and their families.

- The first state to establish a brain injury state registry in legislation (1984).
- One of the first states to establish a state brain injury advisory board (1986).
- One of the first states to designate a “lead agency” (DARS) to coordinate services for people with traumatic brain injury (1989).
- Home to one of the longest standing Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems program in the country which is based at Virginia Commonwealth University.
- Identified as one of the "Core 16" state traumatic brain injury grantees by the Federal Administration for Community Living (2016).

Virginia's Network of Brain Injury Programs

DARS provides funding and oversight to a network of nine Brain Injury Services Programs across Virginia.

The map reflects the areas of Virginia currently served by DARS' state-funded Brain Injury Services Programs, as well as regions of the state which remain unserved.

Currently twelve Virginia counties do not have any brain injury services at all.

State Funded Brain Injury Services

2279
Unduplicated
Individuals Served

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.

1258 People Served

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.

305 People Served

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.

980 People Served

Consultation/Information & Referral: Short term assistance provided to individuals with brain injury and/or their families seeking services and assistance without admission to one of Virginia's core services above.

951 People Served

Funding & Resources

State funded providers contributed 30% of total funding for community based brain injury services.

In SFY 2022 state general funds totaled \$7,176,719 and providers secured an additional \$2,661,243 through fundraising, donations and other sources.

The percentage of provider budgets coming from state funds ranges from 43% to 93% with larger organizations having more fundraising and other sources of revenue and therefore less reliance on state funds.

Brain injury service providers also used volunteers as a program resource.

In SFY 2022 the state funded brain injury providers used 2989 volunteer hours valued at \$226,816.

They also helped to develop the next generation of brain injury professionals by hosting 25 interns for a total of 4728 hours. Interns generally are pursuing advanced degrees in social work, physical therapy or occupational therapy.

Virginia Brain Injury Council

- The Virginia Brain Injury Council (VBIC) was established in 1986.
- Twenty-eight members are appointed by the DARS Commissioner and include individuals with brain injury, family caregivers, service providers, other professionals, and citizen advocates.
- The purpose of the Council is to promote accessible, affordable, and appropriate services for Virginians with brain injury and their families by advising DARS.

Virginia Brain Injury Council Membership

By 2025 - 50% of the membership will be individuals living with a brain injury.

15 People who have sustained a brain injury/are survivors of a brain injury

3 Family members/caregivers

**1 Licensed, registered, or certified healthcare professional and
1 individual currently affiliated with a hospital or healthcare system**

7 Other Representatives including:

- Individuals with a significant interest in the mission of the Council
- Individuals who work for State agencies and/or other disability/advocacy providers interested in the mission of the Brain Injury Council

3 Standing Member Positions (permanent members/no term limit)

- Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV)
- Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers (VABISP)
- DARS Brain Injury Services Coordination Unit Director

Virginia Brain Injury Council Priorities

Annually the Brain Injury Council provides the DARS Commissioner with a list of priorities. Common themes through the years include:

- Support a BI Council Housing Workgroup to focus on issues impacting Virginians living with a brain injury
- Address unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth
- Support the development of a BI Waiver
- Support access to neurobehavioral services and supports
- Improve BI data sharing, quality, and analysis to enhance program planning
- Invest in BI Council's professional development

QUESTIONS ?

