



Report to the Legislature

Traumatic Brain Injury Annual Report

RCW 74.31.030 (5)

December 2010

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Executive Summary

This report from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) meets the following requirements specified in [RCW 74.31.030 \(5\)](#)

By December 1, 2007, and by December 1st each year thereafter, the department shall issue a report to the governor and the legislature containing the following:

(a) A summary of action taken by the department to meet the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injuries; and

(b) Recommendations for improvements in services to address the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injuries.

Chapter 74.31 RCW, also known as the Tommy Manning Act, addresses issues related to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The intent of the statute is to bring together experts from the public and private sectors as members of the Traumatic Brain Injury Strategic Partnership Advisory Council (TBI Council) to address the needs and gaps in services for individuals affected by TBI. The statute also established the TBI Account (RCW 46.63.110 (7) (b)), giving authority to the Secretary of DSHS to administer funds from the account.

Consistent with Office of Financial Management estimates, the account accrues approximately \$1.5 million per year. The balance of the TBI Account at the beginning of FY 2011 was \$3.14 million. Appropriations from that account to the Department are made on an annual basis. The Department was appropriated \$908,000 for FY 2010 and \$1, 650,000 for FY 2011.

Since 2007, when the Tommy Manning Act took effect, the Department has worked in collaboration with the TBI Council to develop and implement strategies to best utilize these funds to improve supports and services for individuals with TBI. The strategies are outlined in the statewide TBI Comprehensive Plan provided to the Legislature in 2009. The activities supported by the TBI Account continue to reflect the Comprehensive Plan.

This report provides an overview of activities within the TBI Comprehensive Plan that DSHS and the TBI Council accomplished in FY 2010 and provides recommendations for continued support of the Comprehensive Plan for FY 2011 and beyond.

In collaboration with the TBI Council, DSHS supports the following activities through the current appropriation:

- Statewide toll free helpline (877-TBI-1766)
- Website www.TBIwashington.org
- Resource Coordination program
- Annual two-day TBI Conference to promote public awareness and educate caregivers, professionals, and survivors about supports and services available in Washington State
- Twenty-nine TBI support group grants statewide (including Veterans)
- TBI Clubhouse pilot in Seattle
- First Responder training curriculum for law enforcement & medical staff
- Three housing projects for individuals with TBI (including Veterans)
- Support Services for families of returning military
- Training and education on insurance resources for individuals with TBI
- Council meeting costs
- 1 FTE staff person per [RCW 74.31.030](#)

In collaboration with the TBI Council, the department recommends:

- Maintaining current supports available for individuals with TBI, including: supporting Washington’s first TBI Clubhouse; further developing the TBI Resource Center to provide ongoing information and referral services and short term case management for individuals affected by TBI; sustaining support groups for individuals with TBI and unpaid caregivers to ensure access to support groups across the state; continuing collaborations with veterans and military affiliated services to improve the coordination between civilian and military services; continuing Public Awareness efforts; and providing staff support to the TBI Strategic Partnership Advisory Council.
- Continuing to develop public and private partnerships to help “fill the gaps” in services for people with TBI in Washington State.

Summary of Action by the Department

In the past year, the Department continued to build upon the many activities outlined in Chapter 74.31 RCW. In addition, the Department coordinated activities funded through a federal TBI grant. While originally foundational in nature, these services have established a network of support that, with continued development, will become the infrastructure necessary to provide a more comprehensive system of supports for individuals and families affected by TBI.

Those activities include:

1. **Maintaining the statewide Information and Referral Service.** The statewide toll-free helpline provides information and referral services to callers looking for TBI services and resources in Washington State. Since March 2008, the helpline has answered 2,410 calls for resources, and assisted 691 people with referrals to services.
2. **Increasing number of TBI specific support groups.** Twenty-four TBI specific support groups from across the state received funding in FY 10. Twenty-nine TBI support groups received funding for FY 11.
3. **Establishing a TBI Support Group Infrastructure service.** The service, through a contract with a community-based agency, provides training and resources to TBI support group facilitators across the state. The contractor also coordinated a stakeholder process that provided feedback on the Washington State TBI Comprehensive Plan.
4. **Increasing Public Awareness of TBI.** The TBI Council and the Department have partnered to provide the following public awareness activities:
 - **Annual March TBI Public Awareness Campaign:** In March 2010, this included handouts, two media stories, a Governor's Proclamation, and events across the state by TBI support groups and advocacy centers.
 - **TBI Conference:** Organized the 2nd annual conference. More than 400 TBI survivors, caregivers, and professionals attended. The TBI Account provided 150 scholarships for individuals with TBI and their caregivers. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive with many participants specifically requesting an annual event. A two-day conference is scheduled for April 28-29, 2011.

- **Expanded the Washington TBI Website:** Website, www.TBIWashington.org, now includes recent news, TBI related legislation, on-line caregiver training and teen TBI prevention driving videos, Veterans resources, TBI Conference registration and presentation materials, and national links to TBI related services.
- **TBI Identification Cards:** Developed and printed TBI wallet cards for people with TBI to use in case of medical or law enforcement incident to readily identify their disability and assist first responders during interactions with individuals with TBI.

5. Resource Coordination program. The Resource Coordination program includes assessment and person-centered planning with eligible TBI survivors to help them develop and achieve their goals for reintegrating into their communities after sustaining a TBI. In addition to advocacy, the Resource Coordinators provide outreach and public awareness to community hospitals and rehab staff about TBI services and resources in Washington State. Since January 2009:

- Received and screened 158 referrals of people with TBI;
- Of these, 111 people with TBI and their caregivers are enrolled in the project.

The program has been extended through June 30, 2011, with a goal of serving 130 additional clients.

6. TBI Clubhouse pilot project. The Department has contracted with PROVAIL of Seattle to pilot the first Washington State TBI Clubhouse. The Clubhouse opened in March 2010 and currently has more than 20 members. The clubhouse is fundraising to sustain the program after the fiscal year (FY) 12 DSHS contract ends.

7. TBI Fact Sheets. The Department and the TBI Council supported the Department of Health in the development of TBI Fact Sheets regarding the hospitalization and death rates from TBIs in Washington State. The fact sheets are posted on the TBI Website:
http://www.tbiwashington.org/tbi_wa/facts.shtml

- 8. TBI Grant Activity.** DSHS' Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) is the lead agency for Washington's TBI Grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (TBI Program Grant H21MC06765). In the past year, grant funding has allowed ADSA to partner with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to distribute a highly rated curriculum on students with TBI and offer a two-day training on the "Brain Stars" for Special Education teachers across the state.
- 9. TBI Specific Housing.** As an integral part of the TBI Comprehensive plan, the Department has initiated three TBI-specific housing projects, with phases that will continue over the next several years. These include:
- The Department collaborated with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs to fund a housing study to assess the feasibility of creating a TBI transitional housing project at the Orting Soldiers Home.
 - Two projects with Department of Commerce Housing Division:
 - i. a needs assessment of current housing for individuals with TBI in Washington State; and
 - ii. a collaboration leveraging TBI Account funds with private and local sector housing funds to develop new TBI-specific housing supports.
- 10. Support Services for Returning Military with TBI.** The Department has collaborated with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Conservation Corps, on two projects:
- providing TBI specific support services at 33 sites on college campuses across the state; and
 - partnering with the National Guard to offer two conferences and multiple outreach events for returning soldiers and their families to enhance understanding of TBI and community support services.
- 11. Training and Outreach to First Responders.** The Department is currently working with two different agencies to develop three unique curricula on TBI.

- The Washington Criminal Justice Training Center is developing two curricula:
 - i. one to educate law enforcement officers in dealing with individuals with TBI during law enforcement activity; and
 - ii. one to educate jail staff interacting with inmates who have TBI.
- The University of Washington Harborview Injury Prevention Center is developing curricula for emergency personnel.

12. Healthcare Insurance Education for Caregivers and Individuals with TBI. The Department is collaborating with the Office of Insurance Commissioner, State Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), to complete seven trainings across the state for individuals with TBI, caregivers, and professionals to improve awareness about health insurance options.

Recommendations for Improvements

Individuals with TBI have unique needs that may not be addressed through the personal care services provided through state or other funding sources. The legislature recognized the unique nature of TBI when it established The Tommy Manning Act. In order to maintain the improvements in services the state has experienced since its enactment, the Department and the TBI Council recommend continued implementation of the Statewide TBI Comprehensive Plan. For the upcoming year, this would include the following:

- Maintaining current supports available for individuals with TBI, including:
 - a. assisting Washington’s first TBI Clubhouse in its efforts to become self-sustaining
 - b. supporting the TBI Resource Center to provide ongoing information and referral services and short term case management for individuals affected by TBI
 - c. sustaining current support groups for individuals with TBI and unpaid caregivers and developing new groups to ensure access to returning service members with TBI across the state

- d. continuing collaborations with veterans and military affiliated services to improve the coordination between civilian and military services
- e. maintaining the annual Washington State TBI Conference, along with the annual public awareness campaign to develop better understanding of TBI
- f. leverage public and private funding to support housing initiatives directed to individuals with TBI
- g. use developed curriculum to train first-responders on issues related to TBI
- h. continue education related to insurance coverage for individuals with TBI-related health needs
- i. continue support services to military families affected by TBI
- j. maintaining staff support to the TBI Strategic Partnership Advisory Council in order that it may continue to collaborate with DSHS on the statewide TBI Comprehensive Plan

These recommendations will allow the department and the TBI Council to continue to support current efforts to address the needs of individuals with Traumatic Brain Injuries.