



Utah Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund FY2013 Report (11/1/12 to 10/30/13)

TBI Fund: A successful public-private partnership

Accomplishments made with the FY13 \$100,000 one-time legislative allocation to the TBI Fund

For every **\$1** spent of the TBI Fund, clients were able to obtain **\$2.87** in needed services (Figure 1).

With the funding being one-time funding and a strong desire to stretch the dollars to help as many people as possible, the TBI Fund Advisory Committee determined to focus efforts on resource facilitation.

Resource facilitation is a process that helps individuals and families by providing short term support to assist with problem solving, linking people in need with available and appropriate resources to meet their goals, and assist with a successful return to school, work, or community reintegration.

Figure 1: TBI Resource Facilitation Dollars Spent on Needed Services in FY2013



The following services were provided as of October 30, 2013:

- **88 clients with TBI received one-to-one resource facilitation services** at an average cost to the TBI fund of **\$525 per person**. The contracting agencies provided matching funds, so the actual cost of the services was higher.
- **26 clients were referred for a neuro-psych evaluation** to assist with an accurate diagnosis and to clarify the needed services that will be most beneficial.

“ We are so happy with the neuropsych evaluation our son received through the TBI Fund. The results are helping our family know what things need to be done to better help our son. The resource facilitator helped us learn about resources we never knew existed. The whole experience was positive. Thank you. ”

- **35 of the 88 participants** who received resource facilitation services are in need of and have been connected to ongoing services.
- **31 additional people received an intake interview** and did not qualify for services because they did not have a ‘traumatic’ brain injury but an ‘acquired’ brain injury (e.g., as a result of West Nile virus, encephalitis, or anoxia, etc.). There is also a great need for services for acquired brain injured individuals.

Overview

The TBI Fund was established in 2008 by the Utah Legislature as a restricted special revenue to:

- Educate the general public and professionals on treatment and prevention of TBI;
- Provide access to evaluations and coordinate short-term care to assist an individual in identifying services or support needs, resources, and benefits for which the individual may be eligible; and
- Develop and support an information referral system for persons with a TBI and their families.

The fund is administered under the direction of the Utah Department of Health Executive Director, Dr. David Patton, through the Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP).

Needs and Concerns Documented by Contractors

- Intact and supportive families help services to work best.
- Publicizing of the resources available and funding to cover outreach costs are needed.
- Most assistance applications are too complicated for a TBI survivor to be able to complete without extensive help.
- TBI survivors are overwhelmed with needs and underserved with resources
- Insurance and Medicaid barriers include: limited benefits, high co-pays, uninsured, unaffordable; and providers who are not willing to serve individuals with TBI, due to low reimbursement levels from Medicaid.
- Isolation and lack of support among TBI survivors, combined with impulsivity, increases the risk of suicide.
- Reluctance to ask for help due to fear of being told “no again.”

TBI Fund Advisory Committee

TBI Fund Advisory Committee members were appointed by the UDOH Executive Director annually and represent individuals who are familiar with TBI, its causes, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and support services, including individuals who have sustained a TBI and family representatives.

Outreach Efforts

A web page (<http://www.health.utah.gov/vipp/traumaticBrainInjury/tbi-fund.html>) refers individuals to service agencies and answers inquiries from families on how the fund might help them. Meeting times and past meeting minutes are available on the web page.

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Our Mission...

VIPP is a trusted and comprehensive resource for data and technical assistance related to violence and injury. This information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.

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