

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

ARKANSAS

Protection and Advocacy Grant: 10/1/09 – 9/30/13

<http://www.arkdisabilityrights.org>

Federal TBI Program

More than 3.17 million Americans live with a disability as a result of a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Many of these individuals and their families are confronted with inadequate or unavailable TBI services and supports. Passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996 (PL 104-166) signaled a national recognition of the need to improve state TBI service systems. The Act authorized the Health Resources and Services Administration to award grants to State Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems for the purpose of planning and assessing the States' P&A responsiveness to TBI issues to ensure that P&A services will be delivered appropriately to individuals with TBI and their families.

P&A System

Disability Rights Center of Arkansas, Inc. (DRC)

AR P&A's Grant History

Since 2003, Arkansas has received nine Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of \$50,000 each, for a total of \$450,000.

Grant Objectives

1. Monitor community settings and facilities to advocate for and protect the rights of individuals with TBI from abuse, neglect, or rights violations.
2. Provide technical assistance or representation to individuals with TBI to receive services, supports or assistive technology to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.
3. Represent or provide technical assistance to individuals with TBI regarding problems with subsidized housing.
4. Represent Vocational Rehabilitation clients to ensure that they receive information and advice regarding obtaining vocational rehabilitation services.
5. Investigate claims denying access to a continuum of educational placement options, including suspension, expulsion and manifestation determination due to disability related behaviors.

6. Co-sponsor the 3rd Annual Partners in Brain Injury Conference with the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas BIA, November, 2010.
7. Continue operation of the P&A TBI Advisory Council consisting of over 50% individuals with TBI and family members.

Progress

- Received 22 calls between 10/1/09 and 9/30/10 for assistance with rehabilitation services, employment discrimination and preparation, government benefits/services, healthcare, neglect and architectural accessibility.
- Co-sponsored the 3rd Annual Partners in Brain Injury Conference with the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas BIA on 11/18-19/2010. 100 people came.

Continuing Effort

Provide advocacy services for individuals with TBI and helpful information to families and service providers. Work collaboratively on systems improvement, referrals, and TBI awareness with Arkansas BIA, the Arkansas Department of Health, other agencies and support groups and the legislature.

For Further Information

P&A TBI Program

Nan Ellen East

Disability Rights Center of Arkansas

(501) 296-1775

nanelleneast@arkdisabilityrights.org

Federal TBI Program

LCDR Donelle McKenna

Director, Federal TBI Program

(301) 443-9280

dmckenna@hrsa.gov

<http://www.hrsa.gov/getthehealthcare/conditions/traumaticbraininjury/>

Go to <https://tbitac.norc.org> for information on additional P&A TBI activities.