

# Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

## CONNECTICUT

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

<http://www.ct.gov/opapd/site/default.asp>

### **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**

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

### **CT P&A's Grant History**

Since 2003, Connecticut has received eight Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of \$50,000 each for a total of \$400,000.

### **Grant Objectives**

1. Increase access to information and referral, advocacy, and legal services for individuals with brain injury in Connecticut.
2. Finalize and disseminate copies of PATBI's newly developed, comprehensive "Putting the Pieces Together, A Guide to Brain Injury Services in CT".
3. Translate "Putting the Pieces Together, A Guide to Brain Injury Services in Connecticut" into Spanish.
4. Increase access to quality brain injury services through education and outreach about PATBI and ABI/TBI services to residents and staff of Connecticut's domestic violence shelters.
5. Increase access to Connecticut's Acquired Brain Injury Waiver by working with Connecticut's Department of Social Services to include PATBI program information on all Acquired Brain Injury Waiver materials for applicants and recipients.
6. Advocate for appropriate treatment and rehabilitation for persons with TBI.

### **Progress**

- Developed of a comprehensive guide to brain injury services in Connecticut.

- Began to research and network with community domestic violence service leaders, and build connections to shelter staff, with the goal of developing an outreach and training program about domestic violence and brain injury.
- Continued quarterly meetings with the BIAC to discuss unmet advocacy needs of persons with brain injury, share advocacy strategies, and establish an interagency referral process between the PATBI program and the BIAC.
- Maintained a working relationship with staff at the Connecticut Department of Social Services who administers the state's brain injury waiver program, promoting PATBI's ability to advocate for better plans under the waiver and make policy suggestions to improve its overall administration.
- P&A has utilized the Internet as an outreach tool to individuals with disabilities, including individuals with brain injury. On the P&A website individuals can view information specific to individuals with brain injury, request information and assistance, link to useful resources, and e-mail staff about issues affecting people with disabilities.
- Actively represented individuals with TBI.

### **Continuing Effort**

P&A for Persons with Disabilities will continue to implement its grant objectives and provide advocacy for individuals with TBI and their families in accessing services and supports to meet their needs.

### **For Further Information**

#### *P&A TBI Program*

Bruce Garrison  
Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
(860) 297-4326  
[bruce.garrison@po.state.ct.us](mailto:bruce.garrison@po.state.ct.us)

#### *Federal TBI Program*

LCDR Donelle McKenna  
Director, Federal TBI Program  
(301) 443-9280  
[dmckenna@hrsa.gov](mailto:dmckenna@hrsa.gov)  
<http://www.hrsa.gov/getthehealthcare/conditions/traumaticbraininjury/>

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