

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

DELAWARE

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

<http://www.declasi.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

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

DE P&A's Grant History

Since 2002, Delaware has received ten Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of approximately \$50,000 each, for a total of \$500,000.

Grant Objectives

1. Collaborate with the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) Brain Injury and Policy & Law Committees in analyzing State legislation, regulations, Medicaid waivers and selected policies with significant effect on TBI prevention and recourse options as well as access to "safety-net" health and financial benefits.
2. Collaborate with SCPD and Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) to promote the timely and valid identification of students with TBI in implementation of S.B. 105.
3. Provide advocacy services to individuals with TBI facing program eligibility or significant service denials/terminations in "safety-net" health and financial public benefits contexts (e.g., SSI, Medicaid, and Food Stamps).
4. Provide technical assistance to persons with TBI, families, and professionals in response to inquiries concerning service needs.

Progress

- Facilitated adoption of consolidated Medicaid waiver with enriched services menu to replace ABI waiver with austere services menu.
- Prompted many revisions to special education funding legislation, including preservation of 12-month programs for students with TBI.

Continuing Effort

Promote enactment of P&A-authored bill which would amend enabling statute of state council to confirm its status as State's primary brain injury council, clarify the role and membership of its brain injury committee, and enhance its planning and advocacy role.

For Further Information

P&A TBI Program

Brian Hartman

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

(302) 575-0660, ext. 220

bhartman@declasi.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.