

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

## NEW MEXICO

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

<http://www.drn.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 New Mexico (DRNM)

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

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

### **Grant Objectives**

1. Provide information and referral to individuals with TBI and their families.
2. Provide assistance in self-advocacy or direct advocacy to individuals with TBI and their families.
3. Provide legal representation to individuals with TBI and their families.
4. Conduct public policy advocacy to expand and improve service systems.

### **Progress**

- DRNM advocated for 76 individuals to be reinstated after Medicaid waiver services were cut. These individual now receive community based services - 67 receiving services from Mi Via Waiver and 9 from Colts C Waiver.
- DRNM received many calls about Affiliated Computer Services Inc. (ACS), Mi Via's new Financial Management Agent. Two major issues :ACS failure to pay participant's caregiver(s)/vendors which caused a major loss

of services for Mi Via participants , compounded by the problem of participants not being able to contact ACS due to long phone waits and no return calls. DRNM is currently involved in negotiations with Human Services Department /Medical Assistance Division, Affiliated Computer Services and Department of Health -Mi Via Medicaid Waiver program to resolve problems and create systemic change, thus restoring services to Mi Via participants. We have assisted other individuals and families to resolve problems with eligibility or services in this program.

- DRNM continues to play a lead role in the disability community in identifying strengths and concerns with the implementation of a managed care approach to the Mi Via and the Disabled and Elderly Medicaid waiver programs.
- We continue with our public policy advocacy and working with our State TBI partners in supporting any policies and expansion of services for the benefit of persons with TBI and their families.

### **Continuing Effort**

Disability Rights New Mexico is heavily engaged in efforts to prevent significant cuts to Medicaid and waiver services that would impact persons with TBI and others with disabilities.

### **For Further Information**

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#### *Federal TBI Program*

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

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