



TBI SPP
Traumatic Brain Injury
State Partnership Program

Grantee Profile 2018-2021: Maryland

The **Maryland Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)** within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is the lead agency for brain injury and is [responsible for coordinating and expanding services for individuals with brain injury](#). BHA operates Maryland's Brain Injury Waiver, staffs Maryland's TBI Advisory Board, and is the recipient of federal TBI Grant funding administered by the Administration for Community Living.

Main Grant Aim: To improve treatment and outcomes of individuals with brain injury and co-occurring conditions; involve stakeholders in the delivery of care.

Additional Aims

- Create systems and processes to ensure that people receiving behavioral healthcare (BH) are screened for a history of brain injury
- Train BH professionals, paraprofessionals and Certified Peer Specialists to provide cognitively accessible services and interventions using person-centered practices
- Activate stakeholders at all levels and enhance infrastructure to ensure the highest competencies in the delivery of care to people with brain injury
- Reduce the risk of accidental overdose by people with brain injuries

Accomplishments

- BHA collaborated with the Iowa Department of Health and OSU to adapt the OSU TBI-ID screening tool and created a guide for administering it.
- Provided [4-part training series for Peer Specialists](#) in the public BH system on the screening tool and BI/BH.
- Offered 56 training/learning opportunities in 2019 (full-day in-person sessions, virtual webinars, and at state and national conferences).
- More than 2,200 people attended training conducted by grant staff and consultants as of February 2021.
- Developed resources, fact sheets, and statewide conference presentations to increase awareness among people with lived experience, their families and professionals of the importance of screening all people served by the public BH system and those served by partners in aging, intellectual and developmental disabilities and long-term services and supports.
- Provided training and technical assistance to Maryland's overdose fatality review teams and law enforcement. Maryland's Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) brain injury training materials were approved by the Department of Justice and provided to CIT Coordinators throughout the state.
- Between the award of the Federal TBI Partner Grant in 2019 through calendar year 2021, the Maryland Partner Grant delivered 110 trainings, primarily virtually, to at least 3,670 professionals throughout the state as well as to fellow grantees and stakeholders around the country.

Maryland Primary Contact

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Registry & Data



BHA's Brain Injury Program Health Services

obtains data from the Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). A TBI Registry and Surveillance System was established in statute—MD Health – General § 20-108 (2013)— but is not in operation.



Advisory Council



The Advisory Board was established in 1998. The Maryland State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (TBIAB), authorized in law in 2005, has 33 members representing consumers, families and caregivers, advocates, government officials, healthcare professionals, and elected officials. Half the board is appointed by the Governor and the other half is designated by the agency as listed in the state statute.

The Board meets at least every other month and is engaged in advocacy, partner and stakeholder collaborations, and advising state government on the needs of Marylanders living with brain injury and use of state and federal funds. The Board produces an annual report for the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House and heads of three state agencies (the Departments of Health, Education and Disabilities).

Service Delivery

BHA's Office of Older Adults and Long Term Services and Supports is responsible for directing the state plan, initiatives, and services for people with brain injury. The state offers services through Medicaid waiver programs and initiatives, including the Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Adults with Brain Injury Medicaid Home, Money Follows the Person program, and through state appropriations. Trust fund legislation has been enacted, but funding is voluntary rather than via a specified source. The Brain Injury Association of Maryland is the primary brain injury information and referral source of the Maryland Access Point, Maryland's No Wrong Door System, for accessing long-term services and supports.

Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

Fiscal Year	General Revenue Allocation	BI Waiver Number Served
2018	\$400,000	N/A
2019	\$400,000	N/A
2020	\$400,000	118

Leadership of People With Brain Injury and Families/Caregivers

People with TBI and other disabilities have the right to be engaged in and lead the decision-making processes related to their services and supports. Maryland is a nationally recognized leader in integrating people with lived experience and their families onto the TBI Advisory Board and providing leadership opportunities for these important stakeholders. On Maryland's TBI Advisory Board, 76% of members have personally experienced a brain injury or are caregivers or family members of a person with a brain injury, exceeding ACL's requirement for 50% board composition. Maryland's TBI Advisory Board also includes active members representing the Centers for Independent Living, Disability Rights Maryland (the state's P&A organization), and the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Maryland's TBI Advisory Board strives for full participation of all members and has created a nationally recognized standing committee called Survivors and Families Empowered; SAFE meets prior to every full advisory board meeting and reports out to the full advisory board at every meeting.

Legislative Accomplishments

Concussion Law. On May 19, 2011, the concussion bill was signed into Maryland law, mandating implementation of concussion awareness programs throughout the state and requiring student athletes who demonstrate signs of a concussion to be removed from practice or play.

Helmet Law. Board members have repeatedly and successfully advocated against the repeal of Maryland's motorcycle helmet law. Multiple states (e.g., LA, TK, AK) have repealed only to reinstate all rider helmet laws due to the significant increase in motorcycle deaths.

