

STUDY OF THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BRAIN INJURY - BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

Section 16 of 2013 House Bill No. 1012 ([Appendix](#)) provides for a Legislative Management study of a comprehensive system of care for individuals with brain injury, including services available to veterans who are returning from wars, the impact of the inclusion of all acquired brain injury on traumatic brain injury programs, the need for a statewide registry for brain injury, the need for increased awareness of the impact of brain injury, the need for screening for brain injury in the education system, the availability of community support systems, the availability of specialized substance abuse services, the examination of the long-term care needs, the availability of home and community-based services, services available from independent living centers, the need for transitional supportive housing, and the suitability of the current level of care determination for brain injury. The committee should receive input from the Department of Human Services Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee and stakeholders from the private and public sectors, including individuals with brain injury, families impacted by brain injury, educators, treatment providers, and service providers.

BACKGROUND

North Dakota Century Code Section 50-06.4-01 defines traumatic brain injury as an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in total or partial disability or impairment, including open and closed head injuries that may result in mild, moderate, or severe impairments in one or more areas including cognition, language, memory, attention, reasoning, abstract thinking, judgment, problem-solving, sensory perceptual and motor abilities, psychosocial behavior, physical functioning, information processing, and speech. The term does not include brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or brain injuries induced by birth trauma but may include brain injuries caused by anoxia and other related causes.

The Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse manages traumatic brain injury (TBI) services. The division implemented a TBI screening tool--the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method - short form--at all regional human service centers in March 2011. The purpose of the screening is to identify individuals who have sustained a TBI and to assist staff and clients in determining appropriate treatment strategies.

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee

The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee was established in 2007 to advise the Department of Human Services on issues relating to traumatic brain injury. The committee consists of volunteers including individuals with traumatic brain injury, family members, care givers, community providers, and state agency representatives.

FUNDING

The Legislative Assembly in 2013 provided \$779,624 from the general fund to the Department of Human Services for services relating to traumatic brain injury. Services may also be provided through the department's home and community-based services Medicaid waiver.

PROPOSED STUDY PLAN

The following is a proposed study plan for the committee's consideration:

1. Receive information from the Department of Human Services, and other appropriate entities regarding care available for individuals with brain injury.
2. Receive comments by interested persons regarding the study of a comprehensive system of care for individuals with brain injury.
3. Develop recommendations and any bill drafts necessary to implement the recommendations.
4. Prepare a final report for submission to the Legislative Management.

ATTACH:1

SECTION 16. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY OF THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BRAIN INJURY.

During the 2013-14 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the need for a comprehensive system of care for individuals with brain injury, including services available to veterans who are returning from wars, the impact of the inclusion of all acquired brain injury on traumatic brain injury programs, the need for a statewide registry for brain injury, the need for increased awareness of the impact of brain injury, the need for screening for brain injury in the education system, the availability of community support systems, the availability of specialized substance abuse services, the examination of the long-term care needs, the availability of home and community-based services, services available from independent living centers, the need for transitional supportive housing, and the suitability of the current level of care determination for brain injury. Consideration should be given to input from the department of human services traumatic brain injury advisory committee and stakeholders from the private and public sectors, including individuals with brain injury, families impacted by brain injury, educators, treatment providers, and service providers. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-fourth legislative assembly.