

**Colorado Brain Injury Program  
Report to the Joint Budget Committee and  
Health and Human Services Committees  
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

**Program Overview**

The Colorado Brain Injury Program (CBIP) was created by Title 26, Article 1, Part 3 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, to improve the lives of Colorado residents who have survived traumatic brain injuries (TBI). This statute created the Colorado TBI Trust Fund (Trust Fund) to finance program activities and the Trust Fund Board to advise the program on Trust Fund operations. The board is administered within the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). Three board members are designated in statute and 10 members are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Please see below for a list of board members. The Board has established three ongoing committees to assist staff in policy-setting of program goals and strategic planning for the Trust Fund: Program Evaluation and Research, Revenue, and Vision and Outreach.

**Trust Fund Board of Directors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Employment/Affiliation</b>
Theresa Chase, PhD	Colorado Mesa University
Jeffery Cuthbert, PhD	Craig Hospital
Indira Gujral	Boulder County Public Health
Sena Harjo	Clayton Early Learning Center
Catharine Johnston-Brooks, PhD	Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Danny Mistry, MD	Western Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, P.C.
Helen Morgan	Denver District Court
Jennie Munthali	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Patrick Schniederjan, PhD	Mesa County Valley School District
Liza Tupa, PhD	Colorado Department of Human Services
Wendy Turman	Frontside Analytics
Melissa Winthers	Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
William Wosilius	Optiv Security

**Program Administration**

CDHS administers CBIP which was housed within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). During fiscal year (FY) 2015-16, the CO Legislature initiated a bill which resulted in DVR being moved to the CO Department of Labor and Employment. As a result, as of July 1, 2016, CBIP began reporting directly to the Office of Community Access and Independence. CBIP staff work closely with the Trust Fund Board to perform the following functions for the program: financial management, policy development, program development and implementation, contract management, program monitoring, administrative support, website maintenance, public assistance and information, reporting, marketing and public relations.

**Revenue and Expenditures**

Through the TBI Trust Fund, CBIP receives revenue from surcharges assessed for convictions of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (DUI), driving while ability is impaired (DWAI), speeding, and riding a motorcycle or motorized bicycle without a helmet (for youth under the age of 18). The surcharges are \$20.00 for DUI/DWAI convictions and \$15.00 for speeding and helmet convictions.

Funds are divided across program areas based on the following percentage minimums: 55 percent for services, 25 percent for research, and 5 percent for education. This leaves 15 percent of funds available and flexible so that the Program Director and Board of Directors can determine program areas in need of an increase in funds during the year.

During FY 2015-16, the Trust Fund received \$2,229,565 and expended \$2,022,658. CBIP had a spending authority of \$3,311,937. The program received \$29,066 above last year's total revenue of \$2,200,576. Unexpended revenue goes into a reserve fund which is critical to maintain in order to help cover expenses when program revenue is less than anticipated. The current reserve fund is \$1,624,098. During this reporting period, the Joint Budget Committee of the Legislature decreased the program's spending authority. The program's spending authority will be 2.8 million for FY 2016-17. This decrease in spending authority more accurately reflects the program's revenue and expenditures.

## **Services**

### **Services Provided During the FY 2015-16 Reporting Period**

#### **Colorado Adult Brain Injury Program**

During this reporting period, CBIP contracted with the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC) to conduct intake, eligibility and outreach for the program and Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS) to provide case management services, classes and workshops for adult program participants. During FY 2015-16, 235 adults applied for services, 229 new adult participants were referred for case management services, and 1000 adults received case management services. Due to capacity issues, RMHS had a waitlist for individualized case management. Individuals waited an average of six months for individualized case management supports. While waiting, individuals were assigned to an orientation Brain Injury Support Specialist (BISS) who provided information and resources and helped them access classes and workshops.

#### **Colorado Youth Brain Injury Connections (YBIC)**

The program contracted with BIAC to manage the referral process for youth being referred to YBIC. After applications were received and processed, BIAC sent referrals to the local Public Health Agency, Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP) for case management support. Additionally, the Brain Injury Education Liaison at BIAC worked with individuals, families and school personnel to provide consultation regarding supports within the education setting. A total of 72 new children/youth clients accessed services during FY 2015-16.

CBIP also has an interagency agreement with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The focus of the CDE interagency agreement is to build the capacity of school and community providers to better support and serve children/youth with brain injury. CDE has been involved in many activities this year including: hosting Concussion Action Team (CAT) monthly meetings and managing the CAT listserv with over 300 members (CAT is comprised of school district personnel with a purpose of connecting school districts who are working on concussion issues and providing guidance on best practices); consulting with Brain Injury Teams in the schools, developing concussion management and Return to Activity protocol for non-athletes via a Concussion Committee; and developing a new model to support students with brain injury across the continuum of mild to severe brain injuries. This model will include the development of school-based Concussion Management Teams and the enhancement of existing brain injury teams. This program is modeled after a successful program in Pennsylvania. Finally, CDE provided case consultation and training across the state of Colorado.

### **New Model**

During FY 2015-16, CBIP issued a request for proposals (RFP) for services provided under the Trust Fund. As noted above, historically, the CBIP contracted and partnered with several entities to deliver services. After careful review by the CBIP program staff and Board of Directors, it was determined that it would be much more efficient and less confusing for clients and stakeholders if all functions of the program were to be merged under one RFP. As a result, CBIP issued one RFP for the following functions: intake, eligibility, outreach, children and adult case management services and children/youth education consultation. The program received two applicants and, after an extensive review process involving five external reviewers, the contract was awarded to the BIAC. The new contract began July 1, 2016. In addition, CBIP will continue with the CDE interagency agreement.

### **Outreach:**

CBIP contracts with BIAC to provide 0.5 FTE for outreach. During FY 2015-16, BIAC coordinated 73 outreach activities across the state. Outreach typically consists of meeting with community providers to share information about services and encourage referrals to programs.

### **Research**

CBIP awards grants to support research in Colorado related to the treatment and understanding of traumatic brain injuries. The Research Program has established the following three research priorities: basic science, clinical science and health services and outcome research. Research is funded at two levels: Type I (up to \$50,000/year for two years) and Type II (up to \$150,000/year for two years).

During FY 2015-16, one research grant was slated to end June 30, 2016. However, the researcher requested and was awarded a no-cost extension. This grant will now end June 30, 2017. In addition, four new grants were funded. Expenditure for research grants totaled \$514,162 for FY 2015-16. The research grants funded are summarized below.

**Title:** *"Identifying TBI in School Children: A Case Study of the Educational Identification of TBI Process in Colorado"*

**Principal Investigator:** Pat Sample, PhD

**Institution:** Colorado State University, Occupational Therapy Department

**Award:** \$281,250

**Status:** This grant was slated to end FY 2015-16 however was granted a no-cost extension and will now end June 30, 2017.

CBIP released a competitive request for proposals (RFP) in FY 2014-15. Eighteen researchers submitted a letter of intent and 16 were invited to submit a full application. One researcher declined to submit a full application, therefore 15 grants were reviewed and four grants were awarded. The following applicants were awarded:

**Title:** *"Outpatient Follow-up after ED Evaluation of Concussion in Children: Barriers, Facilitators and Benefits"*

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Joseph A. Grubenhoff

**Institution:** University of Colorado School of Medicine

**Award:** \$119,595

**Status:** Type I project began July 1, 2015 and will end June 30, 2017

**Title:** *"Fast MRI for Young Children with TBI"*

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Daniel Lindberg  
**Institution:** University of Colorado  
**Award:** \$375,000  
**Status:** Type II project began July 1, 2015 and will end June 30, 2017

**Title:** *"Optimized Sleep after Brain Injury: a Pilot Study"*  
**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Michael Makley  
**Institution:** Craig Hospital  
**Award:** \$300,000  
**Status:** Type II project began January 1, 2016 and will end June 30, 2017

**Title:** *"Prevalence of Poor Outcome after TBI in Colorado"*  
**Principal Investigator:** Gale Whiteneck, Ph.D  
**Institution:** Craig Hospital  
**Award:** \$42,057  
**Status:** Type I project began July 1, 2015 and ended June 30, 2016

### **Education**

During FY 2015-16, the program issued a request for proposals that resulted in three applications with all three being awarded for a combined total of \$39,000. The low grant application response prompted the program to conduct a survey of past grantees and general stakeholders. The take away points from the survey were that the CBIP program should:

1. Improve awareness about the purpose of the grants, who can apply, and the submission process
2. Diversify outreach to ensure more entities are aware of the grants
3. Increase announcement time and build in submission reminders
4. Increase length of time to administer the grants

Since the education grant competition was not well utilized, the program held a special education initiative in which Board members could partner with a community agency or outside entity to implement an educational initiative. Four board members partnered with community agencies and were awarded grants. In addition to education grants, the program continues to collaborate with the State Unit on Aging to partner with county agencies in the provision of *A Matter of Balance*, a fall prevention curriculum for older adults, across the State of Colorado. The program also helps to support conferences and trainings facilitated by community partners. Finally, the program partners with CDHS Offices, Divisions and Programs as well as other state agencies by providing training on identification of brain injury and guidance for supporting individuals with brain injury in their respective systems to help them achieve greater outcomes. Funds expended on education initiatives totaled \$94,000.