



COLORADO
Department of Education

FY2022
Annual Report to the Colorado
Traumatic Brain Injury
Trust Fund Board

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OVERVIEW

Background

MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network within the Office of Community Access and Independence at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) contracted with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for brain injury support services for FY2022 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022). The scope of this work involves building the infrastructure of Colorado schools and the capacity of school personnel and health professionals; providing support to develop and maintain both district based BrainSTEPS CO brain injury consulting teams and school based Return to Learn Concussion Management Teams (CMTs). In addition, this contract involved providing the following: general training on brain injury, both in the schools, as well as in the community; developing guidelines/protocols, and monitoring and developing appropriate policies related to supporting students with brain injury in the education setting. Finally, this contract involves partnering with community agencies and others at CDE to build the capacity of families to better understand how to support their child with a brain injury. Funding for this work is through the MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network, provided by the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund revenue.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY2022

- Provided a virtual three-day New BrainSTEPS CO Team/Team Member Training, preparing two additional BrainSTEPS CO Brain Injury Consulting Team and 52 new team members to add to existing teams. There are now 29 District and five Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Level BrainSTEPS CO Teams with 210 team members serving 65 districts in Colorado (approximately 70-75% of the student population).
- Held a one-day virtual Up-Date Training for BrainSTEPS CO team members with 156 team members attending.
- Provided a virtual Team Leader Training for BrainSTEPS CO team leaders with 39 team leaders attending.
- Provided additional training opportunities for BrainSTEPS CO members including the Online Reporting for BrainSTEPS (ORBS) Database training and multiple pediatric brain injury learning virtual resources.
- Held monthly teleconference calls with BrainSTEPS CO Team Leaders.
- Supported BrainSTEPS CO team members through consultation and mentoring.
- Disseminated brain injury information virtually at conferences and professional meetings.
- Disseminated information explaining and promoting Return to Learn Concussion Management Teams to administrators and educators virtually at conferences and meetings.
- Provided monthly Return to Learn CMT Community of Practice (CoP) online webinars/meetings featuring nationally known concussion expert guest speakers, to keep the knowledge of individuals who have completed the CMT training up-to-date.



- Held bi-monthly Concussion Action Team (CAT) teleconference meetings to keep districts up-to-date on concussion information.
- Provided consultation to school personnel and parents who had questions or concerns regarding concussion.
- Maintained the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and CAT listservs, disseminating information on a regular basis.
- Maintained the Colorado Kids with Brain Injury (www.cokidswithbraininjury.com) and CDE brain injury (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/braininjury>) websites.

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR FY2022

1. Develop, implement, and maintain a network of BrainSTEPS CO Teams across the state through BrainSTEPS CO team trainings.
 - a. Held a three-day virtual BrainSTEPS CO New Team Member training fall 2021.

The following actions were taken to prepare for the BrainSTEPS CO New Team/Team Member training:

- Posted notices of the BrainSTEPS CO New Team/Team Member Training in the CDE's Weekly Newsletter, TBI listserv, School Nurse listserv, and in the Exceptional Student Services Online Newsletter.
- Recruited districts who were without BrainSTEPS CO teams through discussions with appropriate district personnel.
- During BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Monthly Meetings, team leaders were encouraged to evaluate their team's composition and send additional district personnel to the November training if they needed additional members to grow their team or replace team members who had retired or moved away.

BrainSTEPS CO New Team/Team Member Training

A BrainSTEPS CO New Team/Team Member Training was held virtually via Zoom, November 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2021 (see Appendix A for Agenda). A total of 52 Colorado school district personnel from 20 districts and BOCES, attended the virtual training to become BrainSTEPS CO team members (see BrainSTEPS CO New Team Training November 15-17, 2021, table below). Participants included district nurses, school nurses, behavioral specialists, instructional specialists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language therapists, school psychologists, school social workers, an



educational diagnostician, a Student Support Services Coordinator, and a Special Education Coordinator.

The table below shows a listing of the number of attendees from each of the BrainSTEPS districts and BOCES teams that were trained in November 2021. New teams are noted in bold and marked with an **asterisk***.

BrainSTEPS CO New Team Training - November 15-17, 2021

District	Number Attending
Adams 12	3
Aspen School District*	4
Aurora Public Schools	2
Boulder Valley SD	1
Cherry Creek School District	3
Colorado River BOCES	1
Denver Public Schools	5
Fort Morgan RE-3	2
Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8	4
Harrison 2 School District	6
Jefferson County	3
Roaring Fork School District*	5
Mesa County Valley SD 51	1
Poudre School District	1
San Juan BOCES	1
School District 49	2
School District 27J	3
St. Vrain Valley School District	6
Thompson R2-J	1
Weld RE-6/Greeley	8
TOTAL	62

The main content for the three-day training was delivered by the CDE brain injury consultants, Toni Grishman, Heather Hotchkiss, and Nicole Crawford. Additionally, Liz Gerdeman, provided an overview of THE MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network, and each of the community partners with whom the teams are likely to have frequent interactions presented a 10-minute overview of their programs and how they coordinate with the BrainSTEPS CO teams. The community partners included Kevin Taulman from BIAC, Jodi Krause from Colorado Children’s Hospital, and Laura Magnuson from Craig Hospital.

All persons who were registered for the November BrainSTEPS CO New Team Training were sent a link to complete an online *Knowledge about Children and Youth with Brain Injury Pretest* prior to the training.

A total of 62 persons completed the pre-test. Following the training, participants were asked to complete the *Knowledge about Children and Youth with Brain Injury Post-Test*. A total of 43 persons completed the post-test (66% completion rate for those attending the training).

Scores were compared with those who took both the pretest and the post-test. As a group, participants scored 70% on the pretest and 90% on the post-test, showing a 20% gain in knowledge.



Participants were also expected to complete the BrainSTEPS CO Brain Injury New Team Training Evaluation Survey. A total of 51 persons completed the evaluation survey (82% completion rate). The survey asked participants to respond to the following 10 statements for presentations covered in the two-day training, rating each: 1) Strongly Disagree, 2) Disagree, 3) Agree, or 4) Strongly Disagree. The table below shows the survey questions, the number of responses, and percentages in each category.

BrainSTEPS CO New Team/Team Member Training Evaluation

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The content of this training helped me understand the basics of brain injury.	36	15	0	0
The content of this training helped me understand my role as a BrainSTEPS Team member.	35	16	0	0
I know the sub-categories of acquired brain injury (ABI) and how to determine the mechanism of injury.	28	23	0	0
I understand that initial concussion management (up to 6 weeks) is not my role as a BrainSTEPS Team member.	38	12	1	0
I understand the special education eligibility process for traumatic brain injury.	25	26	0	0
I understand the special education process for non-traumatic brain injury.	22	27	2	0
I understand how to apply the Building Blocks of Brain Development framework.	24	27	0	0
I feel prepared in being an active BrainSTEPS Team member.	22	28	1	0
As a result of this training, my knowledge of student behavior with acquired brain injury has improved.	26	25	0	0
Team Leads only: I feel prepared for my role as Team Leader.	1	0	0	0

In a space for open ended comments at the end of the evaluation survey, examples of participants' responses included the following:



“This was one of the best education trainings I have attended in my many many years in education. I appreciate all of the hard work everyone put into this and am already thinking of ways all of these new and amazing resources can be used in my practice as a school psychologist.”

“I really learned so much from this training. I am not a new OT but new to school-based practice, so this was so informative to me.”

“This was very informative, and I appreciate you jump starting this new journey into Brain Injuries. I wish I would have done this years ago.”

Online Reporting for BrainSTEPS (ORBS) Database Training

With the New Team/Team Member training being moved to a virtual platform, the ORBS database training, which was usually a part of the in-person training, was changed to a stand-alone training. This training was mandatory for all persons who attended the November 2021 New Team/Team Member training and recommended for all team members who wanted a refresher course on using the BrainSTEPS database. Dr. Nicole Crawford delivered the content of this training.

The following table contains a listing of the BrainSTEPS CO teams and the number of individuals attending the BrainSTEPS CO ORBS Database Training from each district or BOCES team.



Districts/BOCES Attending January 20, 2022
BrainSTEPS CO ORBS Database Training

District	Number Attending
Adams 12	3
Aurora 28J	2
Aspen	4
Boulder Valley SD	1
Cherry Creek SD	3
Denver Public Schools	2
Fort Morgan RE-3	2
Fountain SD	4
Harrison 2 SD	5
Jefferson County	3
Roaring Fork SD	5
San Juan BOCES	1
School District 27J	1
School District 49	1
St. Vrain Valley SD	5
Thompson Schools	1
Weld Re-6	5
Total	48

- b. Develop and implement a BrainSTEPS CO Up-Date training spring 2022.
Topics for the 2022 BrainSTEPS CO Update Training were chosen based on feedback given by team members on the 2021 Update Training Evaluation.

A BrainSTEPS CO Update Training was held virtually for all BrainSTEPS CO team members on February 15, 2022. 159 BrainSTEPS CO team members from 29 districts/BOCES attended the training to increase their knowledge of brain injury and skills in serving as BrainSTEPS CO team members. In addition to updates provided by CDE BrainSTEPS CO staff Grishman and Hotchkiss and Crawford, Lyn Turkstra, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, presented a morning session entitled *Social Communication after Acquired Brain Injury: What it takes to succeed?* In the afternoon, CDE BrainSTEPS CO staff presented updates, worked through case studies to put all the learned information into practice and then gathered the teams to work on BrainSTEPS annual team goals.



Below is a listing of the BrainSTEPS CO teams and the number of individuals attending the Update Training from each district or BOCES team.

Districts/BOCES Attending February 15, 2022
BrainSTEPS CO Update Training

District	Number Attending
Academy 20	4
Adams 12	7
Aspen SD	3
Aurora 28J	3
Boulder Valley SD	8
Centennial BOCES	2
Cherry Creek SD	4
Colorado River BOCES	3
Denver Public Schools	7
Douglas County SD	6
East Central BOCES	5
Fort Morgan RE-3	5
Fountain-Fort Carson SD 8	5
Harrison 2 SD	8
Jefferson County	6
Mesa County Valley SD 51	3
Moffat Schools	1
Montrose	4
Poudre SD	9
Pueblo County District 70	9
Roaring Fork SD	3
San Juan BOCES	5
School District 27J	8
School District 49	7
St. Vrain Valley SD	11
Thompson	6
Weld RE-4	4
Weld Re-6	10
Total	156



All persons who registered for the training were sent a link to complete an online *February 2022 BrainSTEPS CO Update Training Pre-Test* prior to the training. The pretest was composed of questions submitted by the invited speakers. A total of 162 persons completed the 8-question pre-test. Following the training, participants were asked to complete the *February 2022 BrainSTEPS CO Update Training Post- Test*. 135 persons completed the 8-question post-test (84% completion rate).

Scores were compared for those who took the pretest and the post-test (N=135). As a group participants scored 75% on the pretest and 75% on the post-test, showing 0% gain in knowledge. All participants were also expected to complete the BrainSTEPS CO Brain Injury Update Training Evaluation Survey. A total of 135 individuals completed the evaluation survey (84% completion rate). The survey asked participants to respond to the following 6 statements for presentations covered in the training; rating each: 1) Strongly Agree, 2) Disagree, 3) Agree, or 4) Strongly Disagree. The table below shows the survey questions and the number of responses and percentages in each category.

BrainSTEPS CO Brain Injury Update Training Evaluation Survey

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The content of this training helped me to further understand the impacts of a brain	50% (68)	43% (59)	7% (10)	0.7% (1)
I feel prepared in being an active BrainSTEPS Team member.	36% (49)	62% (85)	2% (3)	0.7% (1)
As a result of this training, my knowledge of student behavior with	42% (58)	51% (70)	7% (9)	0.7% (1)

Open ended questions at the end of the survey were also asked of attendees. Responses received from this question will be used for planning future trainings.

What types of additional information, training topics, or follow-up activities, should be provided?

School Interventions

TBI and drug use

Environmental accommodations, more social aspects of communication Cognitive Rehabilitation

Just continued trainings on how to support teams with brain injury

Additional comments? Responses received from this question will be used for planning future trainings.

“Loved the presenter with the 20-20-20 breaks” “Great conversations!”

“Dr. Lynn Turkstra's information was excellent! Another amazing training from the Brain STEPS”

After the training was completed, all presentations and handouts were posted on the BrainSTEPS CO website for team members to view, so those who were not able to attend had access to the information.

- c. Develop and implement a BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader training spring 2022.

A BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Training was held virtually via Zoom on April 21, 2022. One to three team leaders from each of the 27 teams attended the BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader training to gain strategies and hone their skills in serving as BrainSTEPS CO team leaders (see Appendix C for copy of BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Training Agenda).



The following table shows a listing of the BrainSTEPS CO teams and the number of team leaders attending the BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Training from each team.

BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Training
April 21, 2022

District	Number Attending
Academy 20	1
Adams 12	1
Aspen RE-1	1
Aurora Public Schools	1
Boulder Valley School District	3
Centennial BOCES	1
Cherry Creek School District	1
Colorado River BOCES	1
Denver Public Schools	2
Douglas County Schools	1
East Central BOCES	1
Fort Morgan RE-3	1
Fountain-Fort Carson School	1
Harrison 2 School District	1
Jefferson County RE-1	2
Mesa County Valley School	2
Moffat County School	1
Montrose County School District	2
Poudre School District	1
Pueblo County District 70	2
Roaring Fork School School	1
San Juan BOCES	2
School District 27J	2
School District 49	1
St Vrain Valley School	2
Thompson R2-J	1
Weld RE-4	1
Weld RE-6/Greeley	2
Total	39

Following the training, participants were emailed a link to complete the *BrainSTEPS CO Team Lead Training Evaluation Survey*. 27 of the 39 attendees completed the evaluation (69% completion rate.) The survey asked participants to respond to 6 statements evaluating the speakers, content, training activities, etc., rating each: 4) Strongly Agree 3) Agree, 2) Disagree, or 1) Strongly Disagree. The following table shows the team leaders’ responses to the survey.



BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Training Evaluation

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The content of this training helped me to further understand the impacts of a brain injury.	81%	14%	0.04%	0
I feel prepared in being an active BrainSTEPS Team member.	81%	14%	0.04%	0
As a result of this training, my knowledge of student behavior with acquired brain injury has improved.	59%	37%	0.04%	0

An open-ended question at the end of survey asked, “How would you like to see the BrainSTEPS program progress in the next 3 years?” and “What would you like to see changed within the BrainSTEPS program now?” Some of the responses included:

- “Stipends for team members, not just team leads”*
- “A team in every district”*
- “Continued support to leaders/groups with goodies/swag/and stipend”*
- “More and more awareness of our team by district administration”*
- “Continue to provide PD for the members, help build capacity for district level teams”*
- “Offer trainings to school employees on a regular basis, in addition to BrainSTEPS teams”*
- “I’d like to see awareness of brain injuries continue to increase”*
- “I think there should always be a virtual option for meetings”*

- d. Provide support for BrainSTEPS CO teams.

Monthly Team Leader Meetings

BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader meetings were held monthly via Zoom to update the team leaders with new information, announcements, etc. This provided team leaders with an opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding BrainSTEPS CO procedures, management of students with TBI, etc. Each meeting started with announcements and updates being disseminated through a PowerPoint presentation. The meeting then opened to a question and answer session, followed by a general discussion. Minutes from each of the BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Monthly Conference calls are sent to all team leaders following the call and are posted on the BrainSTEPS website where they are available to be view by all Colorado BrainSTEPS team members. Team leaders are instructed to share information from the meetings with their teams during their own team’s monthly meetings.



The table below lists the BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Monthly Meeting Teleconference dates, number of persons attending via Zoom, the number of represented districts, and the topics discussed at each meeting.

Team Leader Monthly Teleconference Meetings

Date	Number of Team Leaders Attending	Number of Districts/BOCES	Meeting Topics
08/19/21	29	20	BrainSTEPS CO updates - introductions; Team Leader Reminders & Beginning of the school year to do's, Training Dates
09/16/21	23	16	BrainSTEPS Team Best Practices - Review, Reminder to-dos, training dates, Additional learning opportunities, Office hours
10/21/21	7	7	BrainSTEPS Team Best Practices – Review, Reminder to-dos, training dates, Referral review process, Additional learning opportunities, Group Conversation regarding cases
11/18/21	22	19	New Teams/Team members completed training, training dates, Referral Process following flow chart, Office hours, CMT Community of Practice Meeting Speakers, Group
12/16/21	17	15	Training dates, Additional learning, Discussion regarding updating gender options on referrals, Peer Mentors, Group conversations
01/19/22	24	19	ORBS training immediately following today's meeting, Review of the BrainSTEPS referral process and re-enforcing BIAC into that process, Brain Injury awareness month
02/15/22			No February Meeting due to Update Training
03/17/22	20	15	Highlighted Teams Best Practices as some teams are still missing goals, Team Leader Update Training 4/21, All team member survey out now please complete, clarification on parent permission, Developing BrainSTEPS teams, How CDE is handling long COVID and supports, ORBS database
04/21/22	-	-	No meeting this month due to Team Leader Training. Items normally covered during Team Leader meeting reviewed during the training.
05/19/22	-	-	No meeting this month due to numerous amounts of leaders unavailable. Increase number of new evaluations at the end of the year, and short staff.



BrainSTEPS CO Team Member Consultations

It is important that BrainSTEPS CO team leaders and team members have expert support available as they carry out their role. Toni Grishman responded to approximately 120 phone calls and emails from BrainSTEPS CO team leaders and team members seeking information or guidance on various aspects of serving students with brain injury during FY22. Emails and notes from phone calls document these consultations.

As an additional means of providing support to the BrainSTEPS CO teams, the CDE BrainSTEPS CO staff (Grishman and Hotchkiss) continued plans from FY21 to attend one of each team’s monthly meetings. During quarter one, BrainSTEPS CO team leaders were asked to provide their team meeting schedules to the CDE BrainSTEPS CO leaders so they could schedule virtual team visits. The table below shows the BrainSTEPS CO team meetings that Toni Grishman attended during quarters two, three, and four. Notes from each meeting attended are kept on a shared drive that both Grishman and Hotchkiss can access.

BrainSTEPS CO Team Meetings Attended

Date	BrainSTEPS CO Team
10/25/2021	St. Vrain Valley School District
10/28/2021	District 70
01/07/2022	Harrison 2 School District
02/22/2022	Douglas County
02/25/2022	Roaring Fork School District
03/08/2022	Denver Public Schools
04/08/2022	San Juan Boces
05/11/2022	Cherry Creek School District



BrainSTEPS CO Team Member Survey

At the end of March 2022, an annual survey of BrainSTEPS CO team members was conducted by Toni Grishman. A link to the survey was emailed to all 216 BrainSTEPS CO team members. One hundred and twenty-seven persons responded (95 BrainSTEPS CO team members and 32 BrainSTEPS CO team leaders) for a response rate of 59%. The table below shows the survey questions and the number of responses and percentages in each category. At least 1 response was received from 25 out of the 27 BrainSTEPS CO teams.

BrainSTEPS CO Team Members Satisfaction Survey 2021

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The communication among my BrainSTEPS team members is effective.	40%	45%	10%	4%	0.8%
COVID has interfered with my BrainSTEPS team function	15%	25%	28%	13%	19%
I am satisfied with the quality of services my team has provided this past school year.	30%	43%	17%	7%	2%
My BrainSTEPS team meets regularly to discuss program updates, student referrals, etc.	57%	23%	13%	4%	3%
My team leader keeps me in the communication loop for referrals, update information, trainings etc.?	62%	24%	8%	0.8%	5%
My BrainSTEPS team meetings are productive.	43%	38%	11%	2%	6%
I feel that my BrainSTEPS team works well together.	61%	24%	12%	0.8%	2%
I feel the services provided by my BrainSTEPS team this year have made a difference in the lives of the students.	35%	42%	14%	6%	3%
I feel comfortable using the ORBS database (www.brainsteps.net).	9%	41%	32%	13%	6%



Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My involvement with the BrainSTEPS Program has contributed to my overall professional development.	47%	38%	13%	2%	-
I am satisfied with the assistance that the CDE Brain Injury Consultants (Heather Hotchkiss, Toni Grishman, Nicole Crawford) have provided to me when support was requested.	65%	28%	6%	-	-
I am satisfied with the collaboration and follow-up Colorado Children’s Hospital staff has provided when a student is discharged from their facility.	34%	31%	31%	4%	0.8%
I am satisfied with the student data (e.g., neuropsychological report, therapy reports) Colorado Children’s Hospital provides when a student is discharged from their facility.	35%	33%	29%	2%	0.8%
I am satisfied with the timeliness of the notice given by the Colorado Children’s Hospital staff when a student is ready for discharge from their facility.	30%	34%	32%	4%	0.8%
I am satisfied with the services Kevin Taulman, Education Consultant from Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC) provided to our student(s).	24%	33%	38%	5%	-
	Most Important				Least Important
Please rank from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important) the services you believe the BIAC Education Consultant should provide for students. Do not repeat a ranking number [Supporting students and families]	Supporting Students and Families	Brain Injury training and Information for Parents	Programs for Students	Connection to other Helpful Agencies	Educational Consultation
	Yes	No			
Our team’s student referrals are appropriate (moderate to severe brain injury/concussion)	4%	96%			
When a student is referred, different team members assist in taking "point person" lead	79%	14%			
Did you participate in any student referrals this year? If no, please also choose other and	74%	26%			
For Team LEADERS only. I find the monthly team leader calls useful. If no, please also choose	28%	6%			



Question	Yes	No
Our team's student referrals are appropriate (moderate to severe brain injury, and concussion referrals only after initial 6 weeks).	(95%)	(5%)
Did you participate in any student referrals this year?	(67%)	(33%)
My team meets regularly to discuss program updates, student referrals, etc.	(93%)	(7%)

Question	Choice					
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Please rank from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important) the services you believe the BIAC Education Liaison should provide for students. PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE (1) RESPONSE FOR EACH ROW and EACH COLUMN (Do not repeat a ranking number)						
Advocacy for Students and Families	38 (37%)	23 (22%)	10 (10%)	17 (17%)	14 (14%)	1 (1%)
Brain Injury training and information for parents	42 (40%)	27 (26%)	14 (14%)	5 (5%)	8 (8%)	7 (7%)
Connection to other helpful agencies	17 (17%)	21 (20%)	25 (24%)	21 (20%)	15 (15%)	4 (4%)
Educational Consultation	11 (11%)	18 (18%)	26 (25%)	23 (22%)	21 (20%)	4 (4%)
Programs for Students (e.g., peer mentoring, skill building classes)	13 (13%)	19 (18%)	16 (16%)	20 (19%)	27 (26%)	8 (8%)
Other (enter information in comment box 21 a.)	21 (20%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	74 (72%)



Asked open ended question what they would like information on for next year. Some replies were:

“Ready made resources for Tier 1 teachers on how to support students with TBI”

“Successful strategies that have worked to support building teams”

“Grants to support the program”

“Latest research and interventions”

“Effects of long term COVID and BrainSTEPS engagement”

Asked any other comment regarding your team or the BrainSTEPS program. Some replies were:

“I think the BrainSTEPS program is exceptional! I’m glad RFSD is now a part of it”

“It would be helpful to continue having virtual trainings. We are a rural district so traveling to Denver for training is challenging”

“I am very appreciative of the really great support that our team gets from the BrainSTEPS at the state level! I just wish that they could help us make more time in a day so that we could dedicate more time to these students/families!”

“This is my last year in D20 and I don’t believe admin will continue the program”

e. Aggregate data from BrainSTEPS database.

The following tables list the aggregate data from the ORBS BrainSTEPS CO database. Totals are provided by a report run at the end of each quarter.

BrainSTEPS CO Students by District or BOCES

Added in FY22/Total in Database

Quarter	Number Districts/Total Districts Reporting	Number BOCES/Total BOCES Reporting	Total New Students Added/ Total Districts Reporting
One 07/01/21-09/30/21	8/42	0	18/42
Two 10/01/21-12/31/21	15/42	0	40/42
Three 01/01/22 – 03/31/22	22/42	0	73/42
Four 04/01/22-06/30/22	13/42	0	31/42

BrainSTEPS CO Students by Age

Added in FY22/Total in Database

Quarter	Number New Students Added 0-2 years/Total	Number New Students Added 3-5 years/Total	Number New Students Added 6-12 years/Total	Number New Students Added 13-19 years/Total
One 07/01/21 - 09/30/21	5/143	7/69	3/136	3/184
Two 10/01/21-12/31/21	11/154	1/70	7/143	19/203
Three 01/01/22 – 03/31/22	0/154	2/72	20/163	16/219
Four 04/01/22-06/30/22	0/154	4/76	7/170	6/225



BrainSTEPS CO Students Reported by Grade Level
Added in FY22/Total in Database

Quarter	PreK	K 1/2	K full	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
One 07/01/21-09/30/21	1/24	1/4	2/19	2/20	2/9	1/22	1/16	3/23
Two 10/01/21-12/31/21	0/25	0/4	1/19	1/19	0/7	1/23	0/15	2/25
Three 01/01/22-03/31/22	2/30	0/4	2/26	3/23	5/13	2/28	5/22	1/25
Four 04/01/22-06/30/22	0/29	0/4	2/26	1/21	0/9	0/26	1/19	0/24

BrainSTEPS CO Students Reported by Grade Level (Added/Total) Added
in FY21/Total in Database

Quarter	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	Post	N/A
One 07/01/21-09/30/21	0/21	0/16	0/28	1/33	1/42	3/23	0/11	0/1	0/10
Two 10/01/21-12/31/21	2/24	0/17	5/33	2/34	5/47	7/27	3/14	0/1	10/24
Three 01/01/22-03/31/22	3/30	3/25	4/36	2/35	3/48	2/23	2/15	0/2	9/25
Four 04/01/22-06/30/22	0/29	1/23	1/34	2/37	1/51	1/25	1/14	0/2	7/24

2. Develop, implement, and maintain a network of school-based concussion management teams (CMTs).
 - a. Provide training to, and obtain buy in from, appropriate administrators and school building personnel.

The following activities took place during FY22 to encourage administrative support for CMTs and to get appropriate groups to register for the training:

- The Return to Learn CMT training was promoted at the Concussion Action Team (CAT) Teleconference (9/14/2021) and at all the BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Teleconference Meetings.
- Instructions on how to sign up for the CMT training was included in the CAT minutes sent out to the CAT listserv.
- The Return to Learn CMT training was promoted through a virtual BrainSTEPS CO booth staffed by Toni Grishman at the Colorado School Counselor Association Virtual Conference (10/6-7/2021).

- 3.
4. Promoted Return to Learn CMT training during a virtual training with Denver Public Schools, a virtual training on 02/18/2022 with Aurora Public Schools both in conjunction with Heather Hotchkiss. I also



attended the Widefield School District PD Day with Heather Hotchkiss and I presented on brain injuries and promoted CMT training. On 03/05/2022 in person presentation entitled “Up to Date Guidance on Brain Injuries Can Better Support your Students” at the Colorado Association of School Nursing conference.

- a. Develop CMTs in a minimum of 25 schools.

The following table lists the total number of Return to Learn CMTs registered, the number of individuals on those CMTs who are registered, the number of BrainSTEPS CO team members registered, and the number of districts with registered CMTs at the end of each quarter.

Return to Learn Concussion Management Team Training Registrations FY22

Groups Registered for CMT Training	Number New Registered Q1/Total # Registered	Number New Registered Q2/Total # Registered	Number Registered Q3/Total # Registered	Number Registered Q4/Total # Registered
Return to Learn CMTs	1/174	2/183	25/208	4/212
Districts with CMTs	4/47	2/49	-	-
CMT Members Registered for CMT Training	10/441	9/450	14/464	3/467
Non-CMT Member Registered for CMT Training	4/29	4/33	8/41	1/42
BrainSTEPS CO Members Registered for CMT Training	6/240	7/247	4/251	-

- b. Conduct monthly Return to Learn CMT Community of Practice (CoP) meetings.

To help support the Return to Learn CMTs once they have completed the training, Return to Learn CMT CoP Monthly Meetings were held. These meetings were open to all persons who completed the Return to Learn CMT online training. The meetings were hosted by Toni Grishman. The purposes of the online meetings were to disseminate new concussion research and to provide answers to questions participants may have regarding concussion management. During each meeting, a PowerPoint presentation was delivered highlighting concussion research, concussion resources, case studies, and strategies for Return to Learn. Participants were encouraged to ask questions about Return to Learn concussion management. PowerPoint presentations from each meeting are available upon request.

Toni Grishman arranged to have nationally known speakers on a variety of topics in the field of concussion present at the Return to Learn Concussion Management Community of Practice Meetings. Persons who have completed the Return to Learn CMT training received a monthly invitation for each meeting.

The following table shows the Return to Learn Concussion Management Community of Practice meeting dates, number of persons attending from Colorado and Pennsylvania (count from Zoom participant list), the title of the presentation, and the speaker(s).



Return to Learn Concussion Management Community of Practice Meetings

RtL CMT CoP Meeting Date	Number Attending	Speaker
09/29/21	22	Dr. Brenda Eagan-Johnson
10/20/21	12	Scenarios lead by Toni Grishman
11/10/21	12	Karen McAvoy, PsyD, Get Schooled on Concussions
12/15/21	20	Group Discussion lead by Toni Grishman
01/19/22	13	Melissa McCart, Center on Brain Injury Research and Training
02/16/22	15	Juliet Haarbauer-Krupa, CDC Traumatic Brain Injury across the Pediatric Lifespan
03/09/22	13	Jodi Krause, Children’s Hospital
04/20/22	14	Allison D’Lauro, The Role of Physical Therapy After a Concussion and How It Can Help In School, Children’s Hospital Physical Therapy Concussion Program
05/11/22	Meeting cancelled	



c. Conduct bi-monthly Concussion Action Team (CAT) meetings.

CAT teleconference meetings are held bi-monthly during the school year to provide school professionals an opportunity to discuss challenges, share information/documents, and share achievements related to concussion management. In addition, the CDE provides updates and facilitates discussion of current research articles and new materials produced within the brain injury field. The table below shows CAT teleconference dates, number of persons attending via GoToMeeting, and the number of districts represented.

Concussion Action Team Teleconference Meetings

CAT Meeting Date	Number of Persons Attending	Number of Districts/BOCES
09/14/2021	21	14
11/09/2021	15	13
01/11/2022	15	9
03/08/2022	Cancelled	
05/03/2022	Cancelled	

Additionally, minutes from the CAT meetings are emailed to over 400 school district members on the CAT Listserv. The minutes contain concussion resources and links to research articles and resources discussed during the CAT conference call.

d. Assist districts with developing concussion guidelines.

- During FY22 assistance was provided to school districts developing concussions guidelines. Toni Grishman consulted with the BrainSTEPS team from Cherry Creek School District who wanted a clearer direction for a concussion protocol. Toni Grishman also consulted with Thompson Valley School District who enforced having their Health Aides take the concussion training for a stronger Concussion Management Team within each school building.

5. Activities related to maintaining a database for both CMT and BrainSTEPS CO Team data.

- To ensure the security of the BrainSTEPS CO database it is important that only current BrainSTEPS CO team members have access to the Online Reporting for BrainSTEPS (ORBS). Thus, at the beginning of the school year an email was sent to each of the BrainSTEPS CO team leaders providing them with a current list of their team members who had access to their district’s ORBS database information, stating they were required to notify Toni Grishman if any of the members listed were no longer on the team. After team leaders responded, Toni Grishman ensured that members who had left the district or team, no longer had access to the BrainSTEPS CO database.
- Responded to requests from Return to Learn CMTs to add and delete individuals from their teams and to help CMTs problem solve user errors.
- Worked with Sam Cartos of Frameweld to update the BrainSTEPS CO team leader contact list on the CMT website.



- Worked with Tim Kelly from Leader Services to correct minor issues team members were experiencing with the database.
- Secured FY23 contracts for hosting/maintenance and licensing of the BrainSTEPS CO ORBS database and the Return to Learn ConcussionManagement training websites.

6. Activities and deliverables related to community-based training and outreach.

a. Responded to education requests from school personnel, families, and community providers (including partnering with the BIAC) by either providing education or partnering with an appropriate organization to provide requested education.

- Attended quarterly Youth Operations meeting (CDE, BIAC, MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network) to discuss needs of the field and report on the CDE activities.
- Participated in the virtual Pediatric Brain Injury Professional Network Meeting (12/7/21).
- Presented “Up to Date Guidance on Brain Injuries Can Better Support Your Students” at the Colorado School Nurse Association Conference (03/05/22).
- Presented “Return to Learn Following Concussion: The Role of the School Nurse” at the School Nurse Orientation Webinar (3/1/22).
- Presented at the Aurora School District Nurses Professional Development Day (02/18/22).
- Presented at Widefield School District Professional Development Day (02/11/22).

b. Develop and maintain a relationship with appropriate hospitals and providers in the state (e.g., Children's Hospital of CO)

- Kept Jodi Krause from Children’s Hospital, Laura Magnuson from Craig Hospital, and Kevin Taulman from BIAC updated with the latest BrainSTEPS CO Team Leaderlists.
- Contacted Liz Gerdeman, MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network, Jodi Krause, Laura Magnuson, and Kevin Taulman to ask if they could provide video overviews or speak in person of their programs at the BrainSTEPS CO New Team Leader/Team Member Training in November.
- Had several meetings with Barb Gabella, MSPH, Senior Epidemiologist, and Sarah Barkley, MPH, Injury Epidemiology Fellow, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Liz Gerdeman, MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network, and Heather Hotchkiss, CDE, to discuss gathering of statewide brain injury data and development of a CDE TBI fact sheet.
- Met with Jodi Krause (CHCO), Jessica Hall (CHCO), Kevin Taulman (BIAC), and Heather Hotchkiss (CDE) on a regular basis to ensure referrals were going to BrainSTEPS CO team members and BIAC as anticipated, and to problem solve any issues with school re-entry.

- Met with Megan Matney from Children’s Hospital Colorado to discuss the hospital sharing their EPIC with CDE Brain Injury Consultants for the purpose of presenting a statewide picture of injuries to the BrainSTEPS CO teams. (6/27/22)
- c. Maintain/enhance, develop content, and facilitate webpage design for the website:
www.cokidswithbraininjury.com.



The Colorado Kids Brain Injury Resource Network (COKids) webpage (<https://cokidswithbraininjury.com>) serves as a resource for educators, school administrators, school psychologists, related services professionals, and families.

Maintenance and updates (e.g., to fix broken links) on the website, were provided during FY22 by Dr.Toni Grishman. Additional edits, and revisions to prevent spam, were also made during FY22 by the webmasters at Harmony Designs.

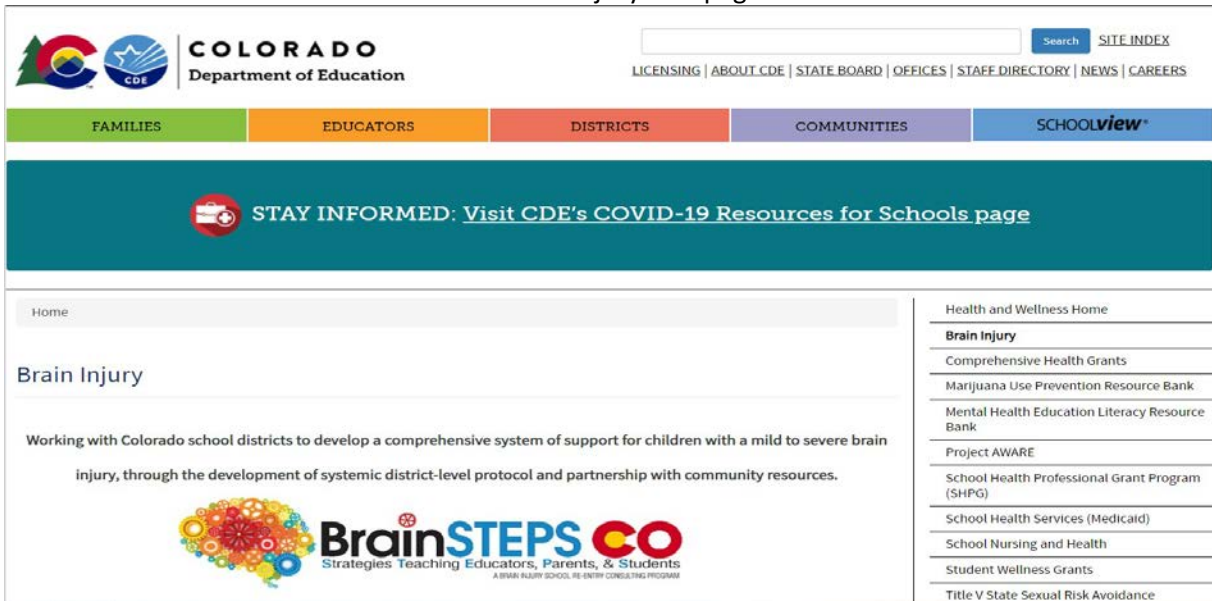
Toni Grishman also worked with the webmasters at Harmony Design to secure a renewal on the COKids domain.

The following table lists the monthly COKids webpage analytics reports.

Colorado Kids with Brain Injury Webpage Analytics

Period	New Visits	Unique Visitors	Page Views
July 1-July 31, 2021	266	279	732
Aug 1-Aug 31, 2021	305	333	784
Sept 1-Sept 30, 2021	483	515	1354
Oct 1-Oct 31, 2021	451	510	1186
Nov 1-Nov 30, 2021	442	485	1156
Dec 1-Dec 31, 2021	370	394	952
January 1-31, 2022	566	617	1354
February 1-28, 2022	431	472	1167
March 1-31, 2022	513	564	1371
April 1-20, 2022	516	563	1255
May 1-30, 2022	413	458	1063
June 1-30, 2022	0	1	1

CDE Brain Injury Webpage



The Senior Brain Injury Consultant at the Colorado Department of Education is responsible for maintaining the Health and Wellness brain Injury webpage which contains brain injury information for Colorado educators. Webpage analytic reports for the CDE Health and Wellness brain injury webpage (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/braininjury>) provide the statistics as seen in the following table.

CDE Brain Injury Webpage Analytics

Period	Page Views	Unique Page Views
July 1-July 31, 2021	65	42
Aug 1-Aug 31, 2021	115	88
Sept 1-Sept 30, 2021	163	102
Oct 1-Oct 31, 2021	125	92
Nov 1-Nov 30, 2021	126	91
Dec 1-Dec 31, 2021	328	258
January 1-31, 2022	130	105
February 1-28, 2022	220	175
March 1-31, 2022	292	236
April 1-30, 2022	200	172
May 1-30, 2022	205	157
June 1-30, 2022	95	76

- d. Maintain and facilitate listserv e-mails on both the brain injury and concussion listserv to raise awareness on upcoming events, trainings, resources, etc.

Two listservs are maintained and utilized to raise awareness of upcoming events, trainings, resources, etc. The TBI Listserv was recently updated and now has 1,671 members and the CAT Listserv has 414 members.



Examples of information sent out via listservs included announcements about:

7. Quarter One: Examples of information sent out via listservs included announcements about:
- National Concussion Day 09/2021 to promote CMT training to support the students within the school buildings.
 - CAT Meetings and Minutes
 - Additional educational opportunities
 - BrainSTEPS CMT Community of Practice Meetings
 - March Brain Injury Awareness Month
 - Newly updated Fact Sheets or Best Practice Guides
 - Resources from ESSU to share with parents and colleagues
 - May CAT meeting cancelled
 - ESSU Job Vacancy posting Brain Injury Consultant
 - Mental Health Awareness Month Information and Resources
 - CAT Meetings with a Survey
 - Speech Language Specialist position posting
 - Concussion Action Team Meetings next year schedule
 - RISE/SAIL community information

BARRIERS/CHALLENGES FACED (IN TERMS OF MEETING SCOPE OF WORK) FOR FY2022

Ongoing presence of the COVID-19 pandemic in FY22 not only continued to disrupt in-person learning for students, but disrupted plans for in-person BrainSTEPS CO trainings, visits to teams, and in-person presentations or displays at conferences. While fortunately most of the work was able to be carried out virtually, it is believed that willingness of school staff to take on an additional role such as a BrainSTEPS CO team member or Concussion Management Team Member suffered because of the pandemic. For example, school nurses, one of our most valued assets on both BrainSTEPS CO teams and Concussion Management Teams, simply did not have the time to attend trainings to become new consulting or concussion team members because they were so busy with COVID-19 related activities in their schools. Other disciplines needed to help support students with brain injuries were in high demand. The need for mental health throughout the entire community, illness and lack of substitute teachers meant a higher caseload for everyone.

PLANS FOR FY2023

FY23 plans are to continue to provide training and support for BrainSTEPS CO team members and the Return to Learn CMTs so they can best meet the needs of Colorado students with brain injury. Additional BrainSTEPS CO teams, BrainSTEPS CO team members, and the Return to Learn CMTs will be trained to ensure coverage for Colorado school buildings and districts. The continuation of a modest stipend for team leaders in FY23 will continue to provide recognition of the time and effort that BrainSTEPS CO team leaders spend to ensure the success of their teams. Discussion with all team leaders the importance of using the BrainSTEPS database to track time and effort could lead to future grant awards to fund a position that can help all team members.

Appendix A
BrainSTEPS CO New Team/Team Member Training Agenda



New Team Member Training Agenda
November 15, 16, 17, 2021
Virtual

Monday – Nov. 15th ([Day 1 Link](#))

Time	Topic/Activity	Presenter
8:00am	Say Hello!	
8:00-8:30am	Welcome to BrainSTEPS CO! Introductions, and Instructions	Heather Hotchkiss, MSW Toni Grishman, BSN, RN Nicole Crawford, Ph.D Janet Zimmermann
8:30-9:15am	What is a BrainSTEPS CO Team?	Hotchkiss
9:15-9:30am	Break	
9:30-11:15am	What is Brain Injury and Why is it Different?	Grishman
11:15-11:45am	Exploring Community Resources – - MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network - Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado	Liz Gerdeman, MA, CBIST Kevin Taulman, MS Ed
11:45-12pm	Wrap up	Hotchkiss, Grishman, Crawford

Tuesday – Nov. 16th ([Day 2 Link](#))

Time	Topic/Activity	Presenter
8:00-8:15am	Welcome back Questions or Follow up from Yesterday	Hotchkiss Grishman
8:15-9:45am	Building Blocks of Brain Development – The Colorado Neuroeducational Model	Hotchkiss Crawford
9:45-10am	Break	
10:00-11:30am	Building Blocks of Brain Development – The Colorado Neuroeducational Model Continued	Hotchkiss Crawford
11:30-11:50am	Exploring Community Resources – - Craig Hospital	Laura Magnuson, MEd CBIS
11:50-		





Wednesday – Nov. 17th ([Day 3 Link](#))

Time	Topic/Activity	Presenter
8:00-8:15am	Welcome Back Questions or Follow-up from Yesterday	Hotchkiss Crawford
8:15-9:00am	What are Concussion Management Teams (CMT) and How CMT's differ from BrainSTEPS Teams	Grishman
9:00-10:00am	Overview on Special Education Eligibility for Brain Injury	Hotchkiss
10:10-10:15am	Break	
10:15-10:30am	What is ABI Activity	Hotchkiss
10:30-11am	School Re-Entry	Grishman
11-11:10am	Break	
11:10-11:50am	Introduce Team Leaders who have joined us. Team Planning Considerations	Crawford Hotchkiss Grishman
11:50-12pm	Closing Remarks Post-test Instructions & Evaluation/Certificate	Grishman Hotchkiss

Appendix B

BrainSTEPS CO Team Update Training Agenda



BrainSTEPS Update Training

February 15, 2022

8am-1pm

Before joining - please ensure your first_last name and district/BOCES are on your profile/zoom screen. Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83345330169>

8:00 am	Welcome & Introductions	Heather Hotchkiss, Toni Grishman, Nicole Crawford
8:30 am	Social Communication after Acquired Brain Injury: What it takes to succeed?	Lyn Turkstra, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
10:30 am	Break	
10:40 am	Case Studies	Grishman/Hotchkiss/Crawford
11:45 am	Break	
12:00 pm	Annual Team Goals	Grishman/Hotchkiss/Crawford
1:00 pm	Evaluation, Post Test, Certificates	

Social Communication after Acquired Brain Injury: What it takes to succeed?

Successful social communication requires skills that often are affected by ABI, and social communication challenges are a common reason for loss of employment, social isolation, and other negative injury outcomes. This presentation will include discussion of key cognitive and other skills involved in social communication, and how they can be affected by ABI.

Learners will:

- identify key cognitive and perceptual skills required for successful social communication;
- generate practical strategies for assessment in school contexts, including identifying key contexts for evaluation;
- describe an evidence-informed framework for intervention; and
- practice using the framework to identify intervention targets and aims.

Appendix C
BrainSTEPS CO Team Leader Meeting



Team Leader Update Training
April 21, 2022

Leadership Development and Toolbox Expansion

Agenda:

8:00 am	Welcome	Heather & Toni
8:10 am	Accomplishments from this school year	
9:00 am	Team Leader Mentoring	
9:30 am	State of the State in BrainSTEPS	Heather & Toni
10:00 am	Toolbox Expansion & Sharing	CDE/Team Leaders
	Neuroeducation Evaluation	Heather Hotchkiss, CDE
	Building Blocks & Root Cause Analysis	Kristi McCollum, DPS
	NEF assessment	Nicole Crawford, CDE
Break 10 minutes		
	Framework	Toni Grishman, CDE
	Brain Check Survey	Donna Detmar-Hanna, PSD
	Empowering team members-Google Form	Jen Buser/Jolynn Hirai, Weld 6
12:15 pm	Stipend	
12:30 pm	Team Survey Results	
1:00 pm	Wrap up & Questions	
	Post test/Evaluation Certificate information	
1:30 pm	Adjourn	