

North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) State Plan

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2027

The North Dakota Brain Injury Council (BIAC) is finalizing its State Plan which will guide the council's focus and activities for a four-year period beginning July 1, 2023. The BIAC has worked the last several months to review past needs assessments, gather input, and prioritize high impact goals leading to this document.

Reference Section

- **Interim Study:** A potential study through the ND Legislative Management to examine if services provided in the state relating to the care and treatment of individuals with brain injury are adequate, including a review of the state's existing programs to identify potential pathways and treatment options for individuals with brain injury, gap identification with programmatic recommendations identifying potential strategies to address the gaps, potential federal and state funding sources for services, and developing a method to evaluate the efficacy of new programs.
- **National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA):** North Dakota is contracting with NASHIA for support with its 2023-2027 State Plan development process as well as board development activities.
- **Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TARC):** A national resource for recipients of Administration for Community Living (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program grantees (which includes North Dakota)
- **Survivor Engagement Group (SEG):** A group of brain injury survivors in North Dakota who meet monthly to provide input and ideas to the Brain Injury Advisory Council to emphasize the delivery of person-centered services.

1. SERVICES – Clarify the brain injury service continuum and improve service engagement for people with brain injury (including underserved and high prevalence populations).

<p>a. Research other state approaches and implement an affordable media and/or outreach awareness campaign.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, NDBIN will partner with the Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TARC) to obtain examples of various state campaigns, funding approaches of varying financial levels, and potential funders for the BIAC/BIAC committee.</p> <p>No later than state plan year two, the council will partner on implementation of outreach campaign strategies consistent with available funds.</p>
<p>b. Research options for implementing discharge release of information and brain injury registry for the purposes of warm follow up.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, NDBIN will seek information about other state strategies from the TARC on client referral/release of information at time of hospital discharge.</p> <p>Within state plan year two and following receipt of an anticipated interim study report, the BIAC will determine and take action on realistic options for implementation.</p>
<p>c. Increase North Dakota Brain Injury Network (NDBIN) provider and survivor exposure at opportunities such as job fairs, health fairs, open house events, hospital, and clinic tours.</p>	<p>No later than state plan year two, NDBIN, in collaboration with the survivor engagement group, the BIAC, and other interested partners, will establish common and formal protocols for coordinated outreach (e.g. request process and delivery methods) as well as realistic, annual target numbers for annual outreach events.</p>
<p>d. Examine feasibility of increasing regional resource facilitation.</p>	<p>NOTE: This objective will be completed by the end of February when additional budget forecast information becomes available.</p>
<p>e. Evaluate and make recommendations for increasing brain injury providers within the 1915(i) program.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, NDBIN will finalize a brain injury track for peer support specialists through the Brain Injury Endorsement initiative.</p> <p>Also in state plan year one, NDBIN will determine a method to track providers by discipline (e.g., Home and Community Based Services, behavioral health, peer specialists) and initiate tracking.</p>

	<p>Upon receipt of interim study report, council will assess and determine actionable recommendations along with courses of action within six months.</p>
<p>f. Research models for day programming through Long Term Services and Supports.</p>	<p>NDBIN, in partnership with the Technical Assistance and Resource Center will request and provide day programming state examples to BIAC committee in state plan year one.</p> <p>No later than state plan year one, a new council member to represent aging and adult services will be determined.</p> <p>Upon receipt of interim study report, council will assess and determine actionable recommendations along with courses of action within six months.</p>
<p>2. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS – improve brain injury and injury prevention awareness and enhance brain injury-informed service delivery with consideration of family members, educators, law enforcement/justice settings, healthcare and human services providers, and members of the general public.</p>	
<p>a. Create a public campaign: “What is Brain Injury” with a focus on topics including concussion, hidden brain injury, brain injury resources, brain injury prevention, etc.</p>	<p>No later than state plan year one, NDBIN will initiate video editing support services through the university to create vignettes of individuals with brain injury on awareness topics to include prevention.</p> <p>In state plan year two, the education committee will plan the needed materials for an expanded public campaign using available vignettes and other state examples or templates and determine the extent of the campaign based on available budget.</p>
<p>b. Enhance North Dakota school district, adult education, and general educational development (GED) staff knowledge and awareness of NDBIN and specialized supports for people with brain injury.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, DHS, DPI, and NDBIN representatives will convene to plan coordinated approach for building awareness along with prospective products.</p> <p>No later than state plan year three, the planning team will finalize and implement use of a revised toolkit along with a schedule of regular training offerings.</p>

<p>c. Implement a regularly scheduled introduction to brain injury and brain injury services utilizing examples from other states (e.g., Maryland’s check-in chat.)</p>	<p>Within year one, Living Life Fully staff will research strategies and develop an orientation to brain injury for use with individuals with lived experience, family members, and caregivers.</p>
<p>d. Create education opportunities for healthcare and human services providers.</p>	<p>By state plan year two, the education committee will develop needed resources, finalize an outreach plan, and begin implementation.</p> <p>Each state plan year, the education committee will research and prioritize two or more audiences for outreach and brain injury training.</p>

3. HOUSING – Improve the landscape of permanent supportive housing options as well as access to accessible housing for people with disabilities, to include people with brain injury.

<p>a. Increase brain injury representation on disability-focused committees and boards such as Money Follows the Person, Medicaid stakeholder groups, and others.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, the BIAC or BIAC committee will determine boards, committees, or councils where brain injury representation will be most beneficial and will match opportunities with interested representatives.</p>
<p>b. Investigate options for Supportive Long-Term Housing for individuals with complex care needs.</p>	<p>Upon receipt of interim study report, council will assess and determine actionable recommendations along with courses of action within six months.</p>

4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT – Grow the pool of and awareness about financial assistance options available for people with brain injury in North Dakota.

<p>a. Examine and communicate resources for helping people with disabilities transition back into the community and home settings, including utilization of new SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery programs in ND.</p>	<p>By state plan year one, the BIAC or a BIAC committee, in partnership with NDBIN will conduct research into North Dakota resources available for individuals with brain injury.</p>
<p>b. Increase awareness and utilization of supports from the North Dakota Association of the Disabled (NDAD) and North Dakota Assistive and other options.</p>	<p>In state plan year two and each subsequent state plan year, the BIAC or a BIAC committee, in partnership with NDBIN, will determine and take action on two or more strategies for sharing information about the North Dakota resources.</p>

<p>c. Research other state methods for assisting with time-limited costs associated with brain injury needs, e.g., overnight stay for assessments, home modifications, rent assistance, pre-benefits subsistence, transportation, etc.</p>	<p>In state plan year three, NDBIN, in partnership with the Technical Assistance and Resource Center at NASHIA, will compile innovative approaches states have used to establish discretionary fund opportunities for individuals with brain injury. The BIAC or a BIAC committee will determine approaches that might be feasible in North Dakota in state plan years three and four.</p>
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5. DATA – Improve consistency and availability of brain injury data among systems in North Dakota.

<p>a. Study options to strengthen brain injury data sharing and definition use in North Dakota.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, NDBIN will transition data management into a new database, Salesforce.</p> <p>In state plan year two, the data committee will work to identify opportunities for data sharing and will research how brain injury is defined within North Dakota’s state systems to identify opportunities for common definition use.</p>
<p>b. Study Medicaid payment and/or coding data and make recommendations related to brain injury services for people with brain injury.</p>	<p>Upon receipt of interim study report and in state plan years two and three, the data committee will determine opportunities to build capacity for Medicaid services for individuals with brain injury.</p>
<p>c. Strengthen collaboration with the trauma registry.</p>	<p>In state plan year three, the BIAC or a BIAC committee will connect with trauma registry staff and explore opportunities to improve collaboration and information sharing.</p>

6. SELF-ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT - elevate voices and engagement of people with lived experience.

<p>a. Formalize structure and expand diversity of the Survivor Engagement Group.</p>	<p>In state plan year one, the Survivor Engagement Group (SEG) will define the group structure and associated guidelines for the SEG and determine membership gaps from a diversity perspective and target recruitment of at least three new members.</p>
<p>b. Expand activities of the Survivor Engagement Group.</p>	<p>Each state plan year, the Survivor Engagement Group will offer a minimum of one informal activity, e.g., concert, comedy night.</p>

	By state plan year four, goal is to have one informal activity in each of the regions of the state.
c. Create a Speaker's Bureau with the goal of expanding survivor presentations (individual or paired) in varied settings.	<p>In state plan year one, the Survivor Engagement Group will define the bureau, develop processes and materials, and finalize a statewide roster of speakers with support from NDBIN.</p> <p>No later than state plan year two, the Survivor Engagement Group will initiate the Speaker's Bureau and engage in at least four events over the course of the year, ideally one per quarter.</p>
d. Expand volunteer opportunities for ND survivors with brain injury.	In state plan year two, the Survivor Engagement Group will research and prepare a list of volunteer agencies receptive to brain injury training and supportive approaches.
e. Connect more people with brain injury to the Survivor Connections Program.	In state plan year one, one or more new marketing strategies will be implemented to increase participation in the Survivor Connections program reaching a target of 10 individuals per quarter.
f. Expand reach of the Living Life Fully self-advocacy course through attendance and potentially new trainers.	<p>In state plan year one, the Survivor Engagement Group, in partnership with NDBIN will seek to regularly increase participation in Living Life Fully by survivors.</p> <p>In state plan year two, the Survivor Engagement Group, in partnership with NDBIN, will tailor and offer at least one revised version of Living Life Fully to a new audience, e.g., professionals, family members/caregivers.</p>