



New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury

July 14, 2026

Agenda



Welcome, Introductions, Division Updates: <i>Jacqueline Moskowitz, Interim Executive Director, DDS</i>	10:00 am-10:10am
Mission of the Council Scope and Vision Moving Forward: <i>Adam Neary, Assistant Director, DDS</i>	10:10am-10:40am
Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey: <i>Barbara Chabner, Director of Education & Outreach</i>	10:40am-10:45am
TBI Fund Updates: <i>Margaret Lumia, PhD, MPH, Administrator, Disability Health & Wellness/TBI Fund</i>	10:45am-10:50am
ACL TBI State Partnership Program Grant Final Update: <i>Sakina Ladha, ACL Grant Project Director</i>	10:50am-11:05am
BREAK:	11:05am-11:10am
Open Discussion:	11:10am-11:30am

**Please put your
name in the chat
and we'll note
that in our
attendance!**



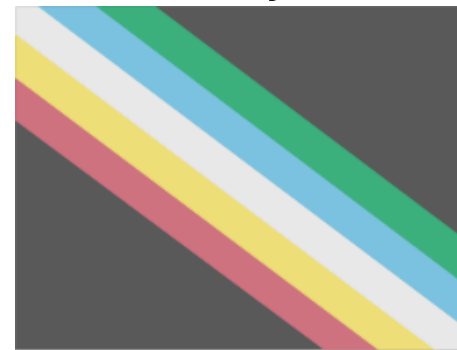


Welcome, Introductions, Division Updates

Jacqueline Moskowitz, Interim Executive Director
Division of Disability Services

10:00 – 10:10

Disability Pride Month is celebrated every July to recognize the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990. The month aims to promote awareness & visibility of the pride that people with disabilities feel, and to celebrate their unique talents & skills. It is an opportunity to honor the history, achievements, experiences, & struggles of the disability community.



After receiving input from people with visually triggering disabilities, Ann Magill, the designer, changed its design in 2021 to have muted colors and straight diagonal stripes.

The Disability Pride Flag

The widely recognized Disability Pride Flag, created by disabled advocate Ann Magill, features a charcoal gray background and five muted, zig-zag diagonal stripes representing different aspects of the disabled community:

White: Invisible and undiagnosed disabilities

Red: Physical disabilities

Yellow: Cognitive and intellectual disabilities

Blue: Psychiatric disabilities

Green: Sensory disabilities

Faded **BLACK** background: Mourning and rage for victims of ableist violence and abuse

State Fiscal Year 2027

Division: Restores \$1 million in funding to the Centers for Independent Living.

Department: Allocates \$7.2 billion in state dollars for the state's Medicaid program, NJ FamilyCare. Facing looming federal cuts, the enacted \$60.7 billion spending plan also introduces a fee on large employers (50+ workers) whose employees receive Medicaid coverage, aiming to raise \$145 million to protect benefits.

Department: Dedicates over \$100 million to assist counties with SNAP administration following federal funding reductions.



Mission of the Council Scope and Vision Moving Forward:

Adam Neary, Assistany Director
Division of Disability Services

10:10 – 10:40

What is a mission statement?

A mission statement is a **brief** statement of purpose of the **general values and principles** which guide the Council.

Characteristics/Attributes of a Well Written Mission Statement:

- ✓ Is unique to your program/office/department
- ✓ Clarifies the distinctive purpose of your program/office/department
- ✓ Identifies signature features of your program/office/department
- ✓ Is short and concise Is easy to understand and remember
- ✓ Promotes alignment with the institutional/school/department mission
- ✓ Withstands time, has longevity
- ✓ Is shared and visible (publicly available)

Vision Statement = dream
vs.
Mission Statement = purpose

SHOULD NOT BE...

- Too long
- Too general
- Not clear/vague
- Too boring
- Unbelievable
- Unachievable

https://ttuhscep.edu/elpaso/oire/_documents/1%20How%20to%20Write%20an%20Effective%20Mission%20Statement.pdf



A - We prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies.

B - Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

C - To feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger.

D - Our mission is to improve the quality of life for anyone impacted by brain injury by providing support, advocacy, and information, while promoting brain injury prevention.

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Mission Statement

“To refresh the world and make a difference.”

What are the specific duties of this Council?

- a. Advise and make recommendations to the Department of Human Services and other related State agencies on ways to improve and develop services regarding traumatic brain injury, including the coordination of these services between public and private entities;
- b. Encourage citizen participation through the establishment of public hearings and other types of community outreach and prevention activities;
- c. Encourage and stimulate research, public awareness, education and prevention activities;
- d. Oversee any programs created under the federal law, Pub. L.104-166, known as the Traumatic Brain Injury Act, and any successive amendments to that act, and report to the federal government regarding these programs; and
- e. Advise the Commissioner of Human Services on the administration of the Traumatic Brain Injury Fund established pursuant to section 5 of this act.

Key Words...What is our purpose?

- a. **Advise** and make recommendations to the Department of Human Services and other related State agencies on ways to **improve** and develop services regarding **traumatic brain injury**, including the **coordination** of these services between public and private entities;
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- e. Advise the Commissioner of Human Services on the administration of the Traumatic Brain Injury Fund established pursuant to section 5 of this act.

Suggestions...

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Workshops



- In-person and virtual workshops
- 65 workshops; 2780 attendees; 43 avg. attendance
- FY: 328 workshops; 11,708 attendees; 36 avg. attendance

Community Fairs and Conference Exhibiting



- Community Fairs/Wellness Events
 - 31 events attended
 - FY: 108

Coalition/Networking Meetings



- Community Coalition Meetings
 - Coalition meetings
 - Individual networking meetings
 - 94 attended
 - FY: 375

Webinars

- Hosted five webinars
 - Two-part series on Fueling Recovery
 - Dizziness After Brain Injury
 - Reclaiming your Recall
 - Understanding AI and Using it Safely After Brain Injury
 - 176 attended
 - FY: 16 webinars; 788 attended

TBI Fund



- TBI Fund promoted at presentations/events, through social media and CARES
- 112 referrals to TBI Fund
- Fiscal Year: 441

Fiscal Year Overview of Programs and Services



- Concussion awareness day event at Metuchen High School
- Cranford TV 35 – hosted and aired show on brain injury
- Brain Injury Awareness Month Activities (March)
- Visit to the Statehouse
- Regional Trainings
- Facebook Live Survivor Discussion
- Social Media Posts

Fiscal Year Overview of Programs and Services

- Wendy Berk interviewed on “Still Time for Joy” podcast
- Cranford TV 35 –working on segment on helmet safety;
- Annual Professional Seminar
- Virtual Complementary Treatment Program for Survivors/Caregivers
- 4 Facebook Live sessions
- 53 Bilingual Events (includes community fairs and presentations)
- Work group to address website accessibility; added disability icon
- BIANJ Resource App



TBI Fund Updates

Margaret Lumia, PhD, MPH

Administrator, Disability Health & Wellness/TBI Fund

10:45 - 10:50



TBI FUND APPLICATION

- Applications may be submitted either online or by paper.
- Online applications include built-in checks that help applicants complete required fields and upload supporting documentation before submission.
- Paper applications may sometimes require additional follow-up if information or documentation is missing.
- Paper submissions also require manual data entry as part of the intake process.
- Both submission methods are reviewed using the same eligibility requirements.

Implementation Date: August 2024

Application Summary

- Total Applications Received: 383
- Eligible: 187
- Ineligible: 60
- Eligibility Undetermined*: 103
- Under review: 33

*Eligibility could not be determined because required documentation was missing or the documentation submitted did not sufficiently demonstrate that eligibility requirements were met.



TBI FUND UPDATES

- To date for FY 26, the TBI Fund has collected \$3,792,352 from the DMV Vehicle Registration Surcharge (\$.50)
- FY26 TBI Fund total expenditures are \$2,216,986
- Panoramic, online management system, finalized the scope of work, currently soliciting bids, and anticipated start date: beginning of FY27



ACL TBI State Partnership Program Grant Final Update

Sakina Ladha
ACL Grant Project Director

10:50 - 11:05

State Action Plan

2021–2022	2023–2025	2025–2026
Planning & Assessment	Data Collection & Stakeholder Engagement	State Action Plan Development
• Conducted literature review • Developed survey instruments • Established project framework	• Administered statewide surveys • Conducted focus groups • Collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data	• Synthesized findings • Developed State Action Plan priorities and goals • Drafted and finalized State Action Plan • Dissemination of plan to stakeholders

Focus Areas of State Plan

- Access & infrastructure
- Education and awareness
- Communities with unmet needs
- Experience informed solutions

Grant Successes

Strengthened Statewide Partnerships

- Expanded collaboration with stakeholders across New Jersey to support TBI initiatives and planning.

Expanded Outreach & Education

- Increased outreach, education, and engagement in underserved and historically underrepresented communities.

Improved Understanding of Community Needs

- Gathered valuable statewide input through surveys, focus groups, and stakeholder engagement to better understand the priorities and unmet needs of the New Jersey TBI community.

Established an Engaged Survivor Advisory Board

- Created a robust and active Survivor Advisory Board that provides lived-experience perspectives and helps guide program development and future planning.

Next Steps

Pursue Future Funding Opportunities

- Monitor for the next TBI grant announcement and prepare to apply to continue statewide initiatives.

Implement the State Action Plan

- Begin carrying out priority goals and strategies identified in the State Action Plan through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

Deepen Engagement with Underserved Communities

- Conduct more targeted outreach and assessment to better understand the unique needs and barriers experienced by specific underserved populations e.g. victims of domestic and interpersonal violence.

Expand Provider Education

- Increase education and training opportunities for healthcare providers, rehabilitation professionals, and community organizations to improve TBI awareness, identification, referral pathways, and access to services.

Lessons Learned

The most effective TBI councils combine survivor *leadership*, clear *structure*, cross-agency *collaboration*, accessible *engagement*, and measurable implementation to move from planning to lasting systems change.

Next cycle....

- More engaged council and board
- Greater representation from different populations in New Jersey



Break

11:05-11:10



Open Discussion

11:05 – 11:30



Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

Date: October 20, 2026 – Virtual

Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Send potential topic ideas by September 30, 2026 to
adam.neary@dhs.nj.gov.**