**Data Analytics Committee**

**2025 Needs Assessment Planning**

Analysis and Recommendation 1/17/25

# Situation

The DOR is requesting a Needs Assessment for TBI at the request of the TBI Advisory Board, and with the guidance of the Data Analytics Committee. We have approximately $160,000 available for this project.

# Background

The TBI Advisory Board authorized and funded a TBI Needs Assessment in 2022, which was completed by HARC. There were some limitations to that report and some recommendations.

Limitations of the 2022 HARC TBI Needs Assessment

* Limited sample size (TBI survivors, caregivers, professionals)
* It was not a representative sample
  + Overrepresented geographic areas: San Diego, Sacramento, and Orange Counties, participants who are educated
  + Underrepresented: ethnic minorities, rural communities, lower socioeconomic status

## What we learned from the 2022 Needs Assessment

Top unmet needs of **People with TBI**

* 62% Finding TBI resources
* 52% Finding Jobs
* 85% Need more income
* 43% Health Insurance only covers some of their care
* 95% say mental healthcare is either somewhat or very important for their recovery
* 50% say a support group is needed
* 42% chose “help with developing and maintaining friendships” is an unmet need
* Identified reasons for need not being met:
* Limited personal finances
* Didn’t know about the resource
* Limited health insurance
* Resource was not available
* Lack of family/social support
* Lack of transportation

Unmet Needs of **Caregivers**

* 71% needs help finding resources
* 51% need mental health counseling
* 47% need support groups
* 44% need respite care

Unmet Needs of **Professionals**

* 83% general TBI education
* 78% centralized list of TBI resources
* 78% funding for programs available for persons with TBI
* 75% community based service options

**Common Elements identified by Survivors, Caregivers, and Professionals:** *Education, Resources, Connections, Finances (income/funding)*

## Objectives of the TBI Advisory Board from the State Plan

1. Brain Injury Survivor Committee
2. Resources and Education
3. Sustainable Funding
4. Statewide Impact
5. Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation

## TBI Program Providers

* The DOR utilized one-time HCBS funding in 2022 to expand from 6 to 12 TBI Program Providers.
* The DOR maintained funding for 12 TBI Grantees in 2024.

## The Current State Legislation

AB 398 – 2010- is the legislation that identifies the core services the TBI Program Providers are required to provide:

(d) (1) Service providers shall provide, directly or by arrangement, a coordinated service model to include all of the following:

(A) Supported living services.

(B) Community reintegration services.

(C) Vocational supportive services.

(D) Information, referral, and, as needed, assistance in identifying, accessing, utilizing, and coordinating all services needed by individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.

(E) Public and professional education designed to facilitate early identification of persons with brain injury, prompt referral of these persons to appropriate services, and improvement of the system of services available to them.

# Assessment

We need to leverage what we learned in 2022, be specific about what we want to learn in 2025, and be realistic with the goals, funding available, and timeframe.

1. We need a **larger sample size** for this Needs Assessment. We need to increase the amount of time allowed for the project and be more active with the recruitment of participants.
2. Given that we don’t have a BIA at this time (for larger advocacy efforts), **let’s focus on the 12 funded TBI Providers and how they are meeting what is in the legislation and identify unmet needs of program participant**s.
3. We have increased the number of state TBI grantees from 6 to 12 which brings up follow up questions.
   1. How has that affected our statewide impact?
   2. What programs/services/outcomes are going well, which need improvement, what are the gaps in service?

# Recommendation

We need to take the time to focus our study on commonalities in advisory Board goals, the legislation that provides for the TBI Program, and the areas for improvement from the previous needs assessment, and topics that we provide actionable recommendations on.

The 2025 Needs Assessment Project should be a **focused** assessment of the needs of our participants (**survivors being served by the 12 state funded TBI Programs**) and an indication of the performance of the statewide program as a whole.

1. We need to actively recruit participants from all 12 CATBI sites. We need a much larger sample size than the previous needs assessment.
2. What is the consumer experience, successes, challenges, and gaps in service.
3. Are we addressing what is intended in the current legislation?
4. Comment on Statewide Coverage and Impact
5. Focus on Vocational Services
6. Focus on Community Reintegration
7. What is the feasibility of including survivors of TBI that are not receiving services from a CATBI Site? (Cost, benefit of including this group, how would we recruit without a BIA?)