



## SFY22-26 State Plan Goals and Objectives

### July 2021

The Alabama Head Injury Task Force is developing a five-year State Plan to establish priorities based on input from the people with lived experience, their caregivers and family members, service providers, along with program administrators. The following goals and objectives are the result of key activities of the Alabama Ad Hoc State Plan Development Committee:

- Review and consideration of the 2020 needs assessments results: July 2020 State Plan Survey of Service Providers (42 respondents) and a December 2020 Alabama Needs Assessment for Head Injury Survivors (129 respondents)
- Review and consideration of input gathered through seven, structured focus groups held in May 2021 with the following, targeted groups: 1) people with lived brain injury experience, 2) veterans with brain injury/veteran service providers, 3) physicians/psychologists, 4) injury prevention, 5) brain injury support group members, 6) service providers, and 7) vocational rehabilitation providers. The focus groups were attended by a total of 27 individuals through remote conferencing.
- A survey of Ad Hoc State Plan Development Committee members with prioritization and short answer questions
- Four committee meetings over May and June 2021

The Alabama Ad Hoc State Plan Development committee included:

Drew Davis MD – represents the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine at Children’s of Alabama

Alice Floyd, BSN, RN – represents the Alabama Trauma Registry at the Alabama Department of Public Health (AHPH)

Mark Harold – represents lived brain injury experience perspectives and the criminal justice profession

Christy Johnson – represents the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)

Elaine Mahoney, PhD – represents the UAB School of Medicine and Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of Care Program (TBIMS)

Debbi Metzger, MA NCC, ADC, MAC – represents the Alabama Department of Mental Health, Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Virginia Moore-Bell – represents the Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Latofia Parker, PhD, NCC, ALC – represents Parker Counseling Services and the University of Montevallo, Department of Counseling

Scott Powell – represents the Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Melissa Slater – represents family perspectives as a parent of an adult with co-occurring brain injury and mental health

Despina Stavrinou, PhD – represents the UAB Department of Psychology and the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund

April Turner, MS, CRC – represents the State Head Injury Program and TBI Services with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation (ADRS)

Karen Coffey, MS – represents the Administration of Community Living (ACL) grant program at ADRS

The themes from the 2020 needs assessments informed the focus group questions and topics. The anecdotal input and priority recommendations gathered from the focus groups were analyzed by the Ad Hoc Committee with consideration of level of impact along with level of effort. Five priority areas and fifteen specific goals are recommended for consideration by the Task Force along with draft objective statements. It is anticipated that the State Plan will be reviewed annually and adjustments, as appropriate, will be made to keep the Plan current and responsive over the five-year period.

After July 1st, priority groups will be formed to work on tactics, roles and responsibilities, and determination of measures. Potential, brainstormed tactics have been incorporated into an expanded State Plan document for use by the priority groups.

The State Plan is a collective effort of all partners and Task Force Priority Groups will lead initiation and monitoring of activities. It is important to note that the Ad Hoc Committee 1) prioritizes university partnerships and collaborations where possible and 2) prioritizes the process of initiating State Plan activities with intentional steps to achieve an understanding of the issues with research and thoughtful consideration of data and data collection options.

Goals	Detail on the Specific Results We Expect to Achieve (Objectives)
<b>Priority Area 1: Education &amp; Awareness</b>	
<p>Goal 1.1 Improve brain injury knowledge and awareness among service providers to better meet the needs of individuals with brain injury being served within current service systems, including special populations such as veterans, racial or ethnic minorities, with an emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In State Plan year 1, five behavioral health sites serving individuals with Serious Mental Illness, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and/or Substance Use Disorders will be approached and engaged for participation in brain injury training including crisis diversion and psychiatric unit staff.</li> <li>● Each subsequent State Plan year, a minimum of five behavioral health sites (e.g., community mental health, crisis diversion, psychiatric unit sites and/or organizations serving individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities or Substance Use Disorders) will be trained on brain injury as well as brain injury screening reaching all regions of the state.</li> <li>● By State Plan year 2, review and planning of unique training competencies of additional, varied disciplines (e.g., primary care and emergency room, veteran services and support, long-term care, criminal and juvenile justice including law enforcement, vocational rehabilitation, employers) will be determined and presented to the Task Force.</li> <li>● After establishing an initial baseline, a 10% increase of new sites (e.g., primary care and emergency room, hospital trauma units, veteran services and support, long-term care, criminal and juvenile justice including law enforcement, vocational rehabilitation, employers) will receive brain injury training with a 50% increase by the end of the State Plan.</li> </ul>

<p>Goal 1.2 Increase awareness of brain injury resources on <a href="http://www.alabamatbi.org">www.alabamatbi.org</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In State Plan year 1, a new, comprehensive resource directory will be launched at <a href="http://www.alabamatbi.org">www.alabamatbi.org</a>.</li> <li>● In State Plan year 1, an outreach plan for <a href="http://www.alabamatbi.org">www.alabamatbi.org</a> and the Brain Map resource directory will be implemented to include strategies for links and navigation to <a href="http://www.ahif.org">www.ahif.org</a> and other human services sites.</li> <li>● Each subsequent State Plan year, an increase in resource and/or training content will be added to the <a href="http://www.alabamatbi.org">www.alabamatbi.org</a> website and its Brain Map resource directory.</li> <li>● Each State Plan year, website analytics will demonstrate an increase in viewership of the <a href="http://www.alabamatbi.org">www.alabamatbi.org</a> site.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal 1.3 Enhance the self-advocacy skills of persons with brain injury with particular focus on accessing systems of care, transportation, and educational support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 1, updated self-advocacy training will be available for people with brain injuries through remote and in-person modalities.</li> <li>● Each State Plan year, a minimum of one self-advocacy session per quarter will be offered to people with brain injuries through the Alabama Head Injury Foundation.</li> </ul>
<b>Priority Area 2 -- Community Reintegration</b>	
<p>Goal 2.1 Expand pre-employment, employment and volunteer opportunities for people with brain injuries to include people with brain injuries who have and who have not participated in the Interactive Community-Based Model (ICBM).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 2, findings of study into ICBM and Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) participation data will be presented to the Task Force.</li> <li>● By State Plan year 3, baseline targets for increased participants with brain injury in employment and volunteer settings.</li> <li>● In State Plan years 4 and 5, five organizations will be recruited to receive training and engage volunteers with brain injuries.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal 2.2 Expand support groups focus areas for people with brain injuries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 2, one or more new support group options will be developed and marketed to people with brain injuries.</li> </ul>
<b>Priority Area 3 -- Infrastructure</b>	
<p>Goal 3.1 Evaluate the feasibility for modifying brain injury terminology use in Alabama.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 4, results of a study into the benefits and drawbacks of revised terminology use and associated messaging will be presented to the Task Force.</li> </ul>

<p>Goal 3.2 Evaluate the feasibility of increased funding to expand and broaden eligibility criteria for care coordination services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 5, results of a feasibility study on the expansion of the ICBM program will be presented to the Task Force.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority Area 4 -- Service Access</b></p>	
<p>Goal 4.1 Reduce barriers for behavioral health (mental illness, intellectual/developmental, substance use, and suicide) systems access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 2, key content and training points related to comorbidities, reimbursement methods, strategies for modifying psychotherapeutic treatment, will be assembled by ICBM, along with state and grant partners, to inform training with behavioral health providers (public and private).</li> <li>● By State Plan year 4, findings related to service delivery experiences by persons with brain injury seeking to access community mental health and substance use services will be reviewed to inform future policy change recommendations and/or capacity building opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal 4.2 Improve rural service system access for people with brain injuries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 3, results of a review of consolidated data from ICBM and AHIF demonstrating geographical representation of people with brain injuries will be provided to the Task Force.</li> <li>● By State Plan year 4, a resource publication on telehealth options will be developed.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal 4.3 Increase the recognition of and support for people with unidentified brain injury in human services systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each State Plan year, a minimum of twenty new individuals and five service providers sites, including behavioral health service providers, will complete on-line training on brain injury screening.</li> <li>● Each State Plan year, one or more new sites will implement screening.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal 4.4 Increase awareness of transportation options for people with brain injuries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In State Plan year 2, results of research, along with proposed strategies to improve awareness of transportation options, will be presented to the Task Force to inform future objectives development.</li> </ul>
<p>Goal 4.5 Identify gaps and plan for improving service access by unserved and underserved populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 3, a study of unserved and underserved brain injury populations, prevalence, health disparities/equity, intersectionality factors, service barriers and needs, and recommendations for improved outreach and service provider training will be provided to the Task Force.</li> <li>● By State Plan year 4, specific plans for outreach as well as training to increase competencies for those serving identified unserved and underserved brain injury populations will be reviewed with the Task Force and implemented.</li> <li>● By State Plan year 4, a plan for developing and disseminating program materials in alternative languages will be presented to the Task Force.</li> </ul>

Priority Area 5 -- Pediatrics	
Goal 5.1 Increase the recognition of and support for students with unidentified brain injury in the school systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 3, a plan to pilot implementation of screens in a secondary setting will be reported to the task force.</li> </ul>
Goal 5.2 Expand concussion management by school personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 1, one or more resources will be developed for use by the medical community to raise awareness about the Teacher Acute Concussion Tool (TACT).</li> <li>● Each subsequent State Plan year, five medical providers will be engaged for distribution of TACT resources to pediatric patients and their families to provide to school personnel.</li> <li>● In State Plan years 2-5, an annual 5% increase in the number of users of the TACT will be achieved.</li> </ul>
Goal 5.3 Improve concussion management and recognition of associated mental health symptoms by athletic staff and parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By State Plan year 2, the HEADS UP concussion materials in use by the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) will be reviewed to understand the existence of content related to brain injury resources, potential mental and/or behavioral health symptoms associated with brain injury, and the importance of monitoring symptoms in youth athletes.</li> <li>● In State Plan year 3, AHSAA will be engaged, and resources will be developed for distribution to address content needs related to potential mental and or behavioral health symptoms associated with brain injury and the importance of monitoring symptoms in youth athletes.</li> </ul>