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March 27, 2018

Dana Fink
Project Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living
330 C St. SW
Washington, DC 2021

Subject: Letter of Support for Vermont TBI Grant Application

The mission of the Brain Injury Association of Vermont (BIA-VT) is to create a better future for Vermonters with brain injury and their families through prevention, education, advocacy and support. The BIA-VT became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1999 with a vision to bring Vermont to a place where brain injuries are prevented and those who already have a brain injury can get all the help they need.

Our partnership with the Agency of Human Services, TBI Program is helping us to reach our mission and make our vision a reality. With grant funding, the BIA-VT will be able to expand services to serve the needs of individuals with TBI and those who assist them to make sure that they have access to up to date information regarding benefits, appropriate treatment, and community resources.

BIA-VT is uniquely positioned to provide expertise in the area of TBI. Continued collaboration with other state agencies and non-profit community partners will build awareness of TBI issues and a network of community supports.

Once again, the BIA-VT notes its strong commitment to the goals outlined in this grant application. If you have any questions regarding our role in the provision of assistance to those with brain injury and the people who work with them, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Trevor J Squirrell

Trevor Squirrell
Executive Director, Brain Injury Association of Vermont

State of Vermont
Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-2000
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Agency of Human Services

April 4, 2018

Re: Letter of Commitment for Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Grant Funding Opportunity

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Partnership grant funding opportunity (HHS-2018-ACL-AOD-TBSG-0282) application for the State of Vermont to enhance its system of care for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury.

The Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC) has a vision to be valued by the citizens of Vermont as a partner in prevention, research, management, and intervention of criminal behavior. Our mission in partnership with the community is to support safe communities by providing leadership in crime prevention, repairing the harm done, addressing the needs of crime victims, ensuring offender accountability for criminal acts, and managing the risk posed by offenders. The DOC operates seven Correctional Facilities as well as eleven Probation and Parole offices across the state.

In support of the proposal submitted by the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), the Vermont DOC will implement an evidence-based screening for TBI upon entry into the correctional system.

The Vermont DOC shall contribute the time of its contracted healthcare staff to administer the evidence-based TBI screening. We will work collaboratively with DAIL and the Brain Injury Association of Vermont to ensure our goals are aligned with the goals of the grant proposal, including efforts to track and report on outcomes. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve how individuals with TBI are identified and treated across healthcare systems in Vermont, and we look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Lisa Menard, Commissioner of VT DOC



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2018

Mr. Lance Robertson
Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Robertson:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program (CFDA #93.234) for funding to enhance Vermont's support of individuals with traumatic brain injuries.

Over the years, DAIL has built an impressive track record of collaborating with other government departments and stakeholders throughout Vermont in providing high quality and much-needed services to Vermonters with traumatic brain injuries.


With the requested funding, DAIL and the Vermont Department of Health will develop a registry of traumatic brain injuries. This registry will enable improved outreach and referral services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, and will allow the state to better evaluate where those services should be targeted.

In addition, DAIL will partner with the Brain Injury Association of Vermont to help individuals with traumatic brain injuries transition from hospitals and acute rehabilitation facilities back into the community. Increasing successful transitions will involve working closely with medical professionals, patients, and their families. Lastly, DAIL will screen individuals entering the correctional system for traumatic brain injuries, and provide further screening services for those who screen positive.

Thank you for giving this application the serious consideration it deserves. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further evidence of our strong support for this proposal.

Sincerely,


PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator


BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator


PETER WELCH
United States Representative



Formerly Vermont Protection & Advocacy
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*DRVT is the **Protection & Advocacy System** for Vermont and our state's **Mental Health Care Ombudsman***

Dana Fink

Project Officer

U.S Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Community Living

330 C St. SW

Washington, DC 2021

Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT), Vermont's protection and advocacy system pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10801, 42 U.S.C. 15043. and 29 U.S.C. §794e, inter alia, and the Mental Health Care Ombudsman for the State of Vermont pursuant to 18 V.S. A. §7259, is in full support of Vermont's Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living's application for HHS-ACL-AOD-TBSG-(Grant ID 300487) Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Partner State Funding.

DRVT has experience working with Vermonter's with TBI in our communities, correctional facilities, hospitals and residential facilities throughout Vermont. There is a clear need to improve knowledge of the frequency and severity of TBI within our population generally, as well as within sub-populations such as Corrections and residential placements.

There is also a clear need to augment capacity to support people with TBI to remain in the community, transition back to the community and avoid unnecessary restrictions on their liberty and ability to fully participate in everyday life. The DAIL proposal to include a focus on peer support and self-advocacy are especially important and visionary aspects of the application that deserve positive

Defending and Advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

Email at info@DisabilityRightsVT.org,

On the web: www.disabilityrightsvt.org

consideration from HHS.

To summarize, DRVT believes there is a strong and pressing need to develop the information and capacity needed to support and assist people with TBI in Vermont and that the DAIL grant proposal, if funded, will provide for important, impactful improvements for our citizens with TBIs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Paquin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P".

Ed Paquin
Executive Director
Disability Rights Vermont

115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05633
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STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
SERVICES

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REP. KELLY PAJALA
REP. CARL ROSENQUIST
REP. JOSEPH "CHIP" TROIANO

March 22, 2018

Dana Fink
Project Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living
330 C St. SW
Washington, DC 2021

Dear Dana Fink:

The State of Vermont (VT), Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) is filing an application with Administration for Community Living for the funding opportunity HHS-2018-ACL-AOD-TBSG-(Grant ID 300487) Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Partner State Funding Opportunity. As Chair of the Vermont House Committee on Human Services, the committee of jurisdiction for policy issues in this area, I am writing this letter in support of Vermont's application.


ACL funding will be used to build on and enhance the basic infrastructure Vermont has in place to support individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The state will accomplish this goal by partnering with various state departments and key stakeholders to plan, develop and implement sustainable infrastructure enhancements that embrace the principles of self-direction and person-centered planning to support individuals with TBI and their families/caregivers.

The infrastructure enhancements include, but are not limited to, partnering closely with the Vermont Department of Health, the Brain Injury Association of Vermont and the Department of Corrections. Work with the Vermont Department of Health includes enhancing traumatic brain injury surveillance and to develop a registry. The registry is a system that requires identified providers to report specific information to the Health Department regarding incidents of traumatic brain injury. This will provide enhanced surveillance and will be used to improve outreach and referral services for individuals with TBI and their families, as well as, to ensure adequate services are available and evaluate where prevention efforts and/or other services, education or outreach should be targeted. Work with the Brain Injury Association of Vermont includes marketing, outreach and support to individuals with TBI and families/caregivers to support care transitions from hospitals and acute rehab back into the community. Work with the Department of Corrections will support current efforts to implement routine TBI screen upon admission to corrections, build TBI training into the one-day mental health training at the Correctional Academy, develop a peer support and self-advocacy curriculum for inmates and those on probation and build upon the existing relationship the University of Vermont to do a secondary screening for individuals who screen positive for TBI on the initial screening. These

efforts will set the stage for transitional support back into the community and tie into other state efforts to ensure ongoing support to reduce recidivism.

Vermont is unique in its ability to partner across state agencies and non-profit community partners to better serve our citizens. The grant funded activities tie directly to non-grant funded activities around program and system improvements which will enhance the current infrastructure of the Vermont TBI system of care while enabling sustainability. This distinctive approach will build an infrastructure to support Vermonter's with TBI in their own communities. For these reasons, I strongly support this application for the ACL TBI State Partnership Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Pugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Ann Pugh
Chair, House Human Services Committee
Chair, Child Protection Oversight Committee

State of Vermont
Department of Health
Commissioner's Office
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HealthVermont.gov

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Agency of Human Services

April 13, 2018

Dana Fink
Project Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living
330 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20201-0008

Re: HHS-2018-ACL-AOD-TBSG-(Grant ID 300487) Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program
Partner State Funding Opportunity

The Vermont Department of Health is writing in support of the State of Vermont (VT), Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) application for the Administration for Community Living for the funding opportunity **HHS-2018-ACL-AOD-TBSG-(Grant ID 300487) Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Partner State Funding Opportunity.**

ACL funding will be used to build on and enhance the basic infrastructure Vermont has in place to support individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The state will accomplish this goal by partnering with various state departments and key stakeholders to plan, develop and implement sustainable infrastructure enhancements that embrace the principles of self-direction and person-centered planning to support individuals with TBI and their families/caregivers.

Vermont is unique in its ability to partner across state agencies and non-profit community partners to better serve our citizens and ensure population health. This distinctive approach will build an infrastructure to support Vermonter's with TBI in their own communities.

For these reasons, I strongly support this application for the ACL TBI State Partnership Grant.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Levine, MD
Commissioner
Vermont Department of Health

