



## *Iowa Governor's Advisory Council on Brain Injuries*

### **2012 Legislative and Public Policy Agenda**

The Advisory Council on Brain Injuries (ACBI) is charged under Iowa Law with making recommendations to the Governor for developing and administering a state plan to provide services for persons with brain injuries. The council's mission is to represent individuals with brain injury, their families, and all Iowans through advocacy, education, training, rehabilitation, research and prevention. By means of these efforts, the council brings about awareness to others and serves as a source of hope and healing to survivors of brain injury.

To this end, the ACBI proposes the following Legislative and Public Policy Agenda:

- **ACBI supports the efforts of the Mental Health and Disability Services System Redesign and the Brain Injury workgroup's recommendations.**

*EXPLANATION:* The BI workgroup's recommendations focus on increasing service access, expanding existing services, and developing new services.

- **ACBI recommends *fully* funding the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Brain Injury Waiver, to eliminate the current waiting list and provide funding for projected growth.**

*EXPLANATION:* 467 Iowans are on the waiting list for services funding. The next eligible applicant applied 2/25/2011.

- **ACBI recommends that the Chronic Conditions appropriation to the Iowa Department of Public Health for the Brain Injury Services Program be maintained and expanded to accommodate the increased demand for BI information, support services and training.**

*EXPLANATION:* The Brain Injury Services Program (BISP) is the only safety net to thousands of Iowans. The BISP provides greater access to vital health care linkage through Neuro-Resource Facilitation, enhanced brain injury training and the recruitment of service providers statewide.

- **ACBI recommends that Iowa's administrative rules governing the implementation of Iowa's Brain Injury Registry be amended to align with the definition of brain injury in IAC 441-83.81.**

*EXPLANATION:* This change would improve data collection efforts to and benefit the system redesign efforts and the ACBI's charge to study, review and recommend systems improvement for the prevention, evaluation, care, and treatment for Iowans with brain injury.

- **ACBI recommends elevation of its status to the commission level and to additionally establish an interagency, intragovernmental brain injury coordinating committee.**

*EXPLANATION:* The commission would support ongoing system improvement efforts and provide the necessary system oversight for the newly recommended brain injury system within the current redesign process; and, the coordinating committee would be a vital linkage across government agencies.

- **ACBI recommends PREVENTION legislation to address the following:**
  - **Implement a Graduated Drivers License system in Iowa**
  - **Require the use of "hands-free" devices while using cell phones**
  - **Require helmet use for children when riding bicycles.**
  - **Require helmet use for all persons riding motorcycles and ATV's.**

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