Transition Resources for Students in Pennsylvania Post-Brain Injury

Monica Vaccaro,
Director of Programs
Brain Injury Association of PA
vaccaro@biapa.org
Brain Injury Resources for Adolescents

- PA Head Injury Program (HIP)
- Acquired Brain Injury Program
- Medicaid Waivers - *Community Health Choices*
- OBRA
- OVR
- PA NeuroResource Facilitation
Pennsylvania Head Injury Program (HIP)

• Created in 1988 by The Emergency Medical Services Act
• Operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health
• Funds rehabilitation services for individuals with traumatic brain injury
  – $100,000 or 1 yr
• Services can happen in an outpatient setting, in the home, or in a residential facility
• Choice of 13 brain injury providers
Pennsylvania Head Injury Program

*Eligibility requirements:*

- Have a traumatic brain injury certified by a physician
- 18 years or older
- US Citizen
- PA resident at time of injury and application
- Other financial resources for rehab exhausted
- Meet income guidelines
Pre-Enrollment Assistance

- Program to assist individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families to apply for services through the PA Head Injury Program (HIP)

- Pre-Enrollment Assistance Coordinator is assigned to assist individuals in their homes and communities with the application process and to provide information about resources.
For more information about HIP

- HIP rack card

- https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Pages/Head-Injury.aspx

- To apply, contact the PA Department of Health:
  717-772-2763
Acquired Brain Injury Program

- New program operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Funds rehabilitation services for individuals with non-traumatic acquired brain injury ages 18-21
- Services can happen in an outpatient setting, day treatment program, or home and community based setting
- To apply, contact the PA Department of Health: 717-772-2763 or the Brain Injury Helpline: 1-866-412-4755
Medicaid Waivers

■ There used to be several different waivers
■ The system has transitioned to Managed Care and there is now one waiver: Community Health Choices (CHC)
  - For those 21 and over
  - All disabilities
■ Exception: OBRA waiver
  - For those 18-20
  - The disability must result in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following major life activities:
    - Self-care, communication, learning, mobility, self-direction and capacity for independent living.
Waiver Eligibility

- Financial
  - Must have or apply for Medicaid

- Functional
  - Will undergo an assessment to determine level of care needed. This will happen in the applicant’s home
  - It is important to have someone who knows the person well to participate along with the applicant to help the assessor understand the needs of the person
Medicaid Waivers.

- Provide funding for home and community-based services to qualified individuals

- Can provide Long Term Services and Supports

- To apply: 1-877-550-4227
CHC services

- Adult daily living services
- Assistive Technology
- Behavior therapy
  - Benefits counseling
  - Career assessment
- Cognitive rehabilitation therapy
  - Community integration
  - Community transition services
- Counseling
- Employment skills development
  - Financial management services
  - Home adaptations
  - Home delivered meals
  - Home health aide
  - Home health – nursing
- Job coaching
- Job finding
- Non-medical transportation
- Nutritional counseling
- Participant-directed community supports
- Participant-directed goods and services
- Personal assistance services
  - Personal emergency response system (PERS)
- Pest eradication
- Residential habilitation
- Respite
- Service coordination
- Structured day habilitation
- TeleCare
- Vehicle modifications
OBRA Medicaid Waiver Services

- Adult Daily Living
- Employment Skills Development
- Job Coaching (Intensive and Extended Follow-along)
- Personal Assistance Services
- Residential Habilitation Services
- Respite
- Service Coordination
- Structured Day Habilitation Services
- Behavior Therapy Services
- Nursing Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Speech and Language Therapy Services
- Community Integration
- Community Transition Services
- Counseling Services
- Home Adaptations
- Job Finding
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Nutritional Consultation
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Prevocational Services
- Supported Employment
- Supported Employment
- Vehicle Modifications
Independent Enrollment Broker

- Program to help streamline eligibility assessment and enrollment into waiver programs
- Began on December 1, 2010
- For assistance or to make an application:
  
  Toll free helpline: 1-877-550-4227
  Toll free TTY line: 1-877-824-9346
- Must say, “I have a brain injury and want assistance from a brain injury – trained independent enrollment broker”
Early Reach Initiative – ages 14-21, individuals with disabilities

- Early Reach Coordinator (local office)
- Group Services
- Individual Services
  - Career exploration
  - Work-based Learning Experiences and Job Shadowing
  - Counseling on Post-secondary Education
  - Workplace Readiness Training
  - Instruction on Self-Advocacy
OVR – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Services for adults
- Must have a disability
- Must have an employment goal
- Diagnostic services
- Vocational evaluations
- Counseling
- Restoration services
- Direct services and services through approved vendors
NeuroResource Facilitation Program (NRFP)

- Funded by federal grant – Administration of Community Living (through May 2021)
- Service for residents of PA with TBI age 18 and over
- A NeuroResource facilitator is assigned to each client
  - Provide information about local resources, services, and supports;
  - Assist individuals and their families with navigating and pursuing appropriate services and supports;
  - Help to create a plan and provide ongoing support;
  - Partner with individuals and their families to help ensure that they can continue to access resources, services, and supports after completing the program.
- Service begins with an in-person meeting, service is ongoing for 6 months
For more information

- NRFP rack card

- https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Pages/NeuroResource-Facilitation-Program.aspx

- To access this program, call 717-772-2763