

**DISABILITIES LAW PROGRAM
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN
INJURY (PATBI)
FY23 PRIORITIES**

INTRODUCTION

The Disabilities Law Program (“DLP”) of the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. provides services to address the advocacy needs of persons with traumatic brain injury (“TBI”). This document identifies the priorities, rationale, and projected outcome measures for the DLP’s Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI) program for FY23. Completion of targets may be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions placed on operations of CLASI, service providers in the TBI community and the state legislature and regulatory agencies.

I. PREVENTION

GOAL: The PATBI will promote TBI prevention and resource options.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE:

0100 Collaborate with the State Council for Persons with Disabilities [“SCPD”] Brain Injury and Policy & Law Committees in development and analysis of State legislation, regulations, and selected policies with significant effect on TBI prevention and resource options.

OUTCOME MEASURE:

As a result of PATBI composition or analysis, a minimum of 3 laws, regulations, or policies affecting TBI prevention and recourse options will be analyzed.

II. SPECIAL EDUCATION

GOAL: The PATBI will advocate for access to appropriate special education services for students with TBI.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE:

0200 A. Collaborate with SCPD Brain Injury Committee and Policy and Law Committee, and Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens

["GACEC"], to promote the timely and valid identification of students with TBI.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE:

- 0201 B. Provide legal advocacy services to students with TBI denied special education, eligibility, FAPE or essential direct or related services.

OUTCOME MEASURES:

- A. Through participation in councils and committees, the PATBI will positively influence the development of broader definitions of what constitutes a brain injury for purposes of securing educational services and evaluate Delaware Department of Education efforts to identify and serve students with TBI.
- B. As a result of PATBI intervention, a minimum of 3 students with TBI will secure special education identification or access to FAPE or essential services.

III. HEALTH & FINANCIAL BENEFITS and Access to Government Services

GOAL: The PATBI will advocate for enhanced access to "safety-net" health and financial benefits for persons with TBI and promote access to government programs and services.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE:

- 0300 A. Collaborate with the SCPD Brain Injury and Policy & Law Committees in analyzing State legislation, regulations, Medicaid initiatives, and selected policies with significant effect on access to "safety-net" health and financial benefits and reduce statutory, regulatory, and policy barriers and promote effective constituent access to governmental programs.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE:

- 0301 B. Provide advocacy services to individuals with TBI facing program eligibility or significant service denials/terminations in "safety-net" health and financial public benefits contexts (e.g., SSI; Medicaid; Food Supplement Program; Veterans' Benefits and Services) or if an individual has been prevented from effectively accessing important governmental programs based on systemic policy or barrier(s) contrary to Federal or State law.

OUTCOME MEASURES.

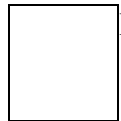
- A. As a result of PATBI review, a minimum of 10 laws, regulations, or policies affecting access to health and financial benefits or access to government programs and services will be analyzed.
- B. As a result of PATBI intervention, a minimum of 6 individuals with TBI will secure enhanced access to “safety-net” public health or financial benefits or have barriers to access to government programs removed.

IV. INAPPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONALIZATION; COMMUNITY LIVING

GOAL: The PATBI will deter inappropriate institutionalization of persons with TBI and promote the availability of appropriate community-based housing options.

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES:

- 0400 A. The PATBI will collaborate with the SCPD Brain Injury and Policy & Law Committees in analyzing State legislation, regulations, and selected policies with significant effect on diversion of persons with TBI to appropriate community-based housing options.



INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES:

- 0401 A. The PATBI will facilitate appropriate discharge planning for inappropriately institutionalized persons with TBI.
- 0402 B. In collaboration with CLASI’s fair housing program, the PATBI will provide direct advocacy services to individuals with TBI who have experienced housing discrimination in violation of fair housing laws or who are struggling to access safe, affordable housing options.

OUTCOME MEASURES:

- A. PATBI will analyze a minimum of 3 laws, regulations, or policies affecting the institutionalization and fair housing rights of persons with TBI.
- B. As a result of PATBI intervention, a minimum of 3 persons with TBI will secure or retain access to appropriate community-based housing.

V. COMMUNITY EDUCATION

GOAL: The PATBI will educate persons with TBI, their families, and professionals to understand the service needs of persons with TBI, civil rights protections, and sources of supports.

SYSTEMIC OBJECTIVE:

- 0500 A. The PATBI will co-sponsor or support training events which provide information on the service needs of persons with TBI, civil rights protections, and sources of supports.

INDIVIDUAL OBJECTIVE:

- 0501 B. The PATBI will provide technical assistance to persons with TBI, their families, and professionals in response to inquiries concerning service needs, civil rights protections, and sources of support for persons with TBI.

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

- A. The PATBI will co-sponsor or support a minimum of 3 training events which provide information on service needs, civil rights protections, and sources of support for persons with TBI.
- B. The PATBI will provide information, referral, and technical assistance to 10 individuals with TBI, family members, and professionals.