2005 Annual Report

Impaired Drivers Trust Fund

working today to create a better tomorrow for Alabamians with traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injury

Dear Legislator,

Because of services made possible through Alabama's Impaired Drivers Trust Fund (IDTF) and partnering agencies and organizations, more than 2,000 individuals who have sustained permanent disability from traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury still have the promise of maintaining and improving their quality of life after injury. The Advisory Board of the IDTF facilitates a comprehensive system of services through the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry and Service Linkage System, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and other public and private organizations to link survivors of TBI and SCI and their families to much-needed community-based services.

Developing a comprehensive continuum of care and providing the widest possible range of service options remain a priority for the IDTF and its participating members. It is the collaborative efforts of the IDTF agencies that sustain the program's success and ensure that people served by IDTF receive optimal benefits. The continued success of this effort can be attributed in large part to the IDTF Advisory Board. This panel provides professional leadership not only to the state agencies involved in IDTF services, but to private and community-based organizations as well.

This report highlights the results of the dedication IDTF partners invest and stands as a symbol of their commitment to the individuals and families they serve. Please join us in expressing the deepest appreciation for the IDTF Board and its staff statewide who work together to improve the lives of Alabamians living with traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injury.

Steve Shivers, Commissioner
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Reyn Norman, Chairman
Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund
Advisory Board

Fiscal Year 2005
October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005

IDTF Background

When the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund in the state treasury and the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board (Act 92-586) were established in 1992, the Alabama Legislature charged the IDTF Advisory Board with the responsibility of facilitating a comprehensive system of services for Alabamians with head and spinal cord injury. The mission of the advisory board was to:

- investigate the needs of survivors with SCI or TBI
- identify gaps in services to these survivors
- establish guidelines for disbursing IDTF monies
- assure maximum benefits from the IDTF

In 1993 the Legislature passed ACT 93-323 imposing an additional fine of $100 on persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs with proceeds from the fines allocated to the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund. These proceeds are used as payer of last resort for the costs of care provided to Alabamians who have survived neurotrauma with head or spinal cord injury.

The Legislature also designated the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services as the agency to disperse monies from the IDTF in accordance with the priorities and criteria established by the board.

Thus, the advisory board, IDTF committees and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services staff implemented systems and procedures to deliver services.

Service Linkage System Toll-Free Number: 1-888-879-4706

IDTF partners with the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry and Service Linkage System

The Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry (AHSCIR), established by Act 98-611, requires that all hospitals in Alabama report the names of individuals treated for traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), thus allowing the ADPH to:

- learn more about brain injury and spinal cord injury
- develop programs aimed at preventing these disabling conditions
- make recommendations regarding improvement in current prevention and treatment methods

The AHSCIR allows the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) to contact individuals whose names have been submitted to the registry about the availability of information and resources.

Development of the AHSCIR and Service Linkage System exemplifies how effective collaboration and coordination of resources among state agencies, private and public organizations and partners can improve the system of care in Alabama for people who have experienced head and/or spinal cord injury. The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund supports this process as a collaborative partner and with funding.

The Alabama Trauma Registry (ATR) database has received data on 44,264 cases that satisfy the criteria for admission to the ATR — 13,632 cases were classified as head, neck, and spinal cord injuries. The high concentration of individuals with TBI and/or SCI within the 15- to 24- year-old age group is expected and, more often than not, results in many years of lost productivity and increased cost of care.

The ADRS Service Linkage System: Linking people to resources and services

Often people with head and spinal cord injuries and their families cannot find solutions to the many difficulties they are experiencing. ADRS, in partnership with ADPH, has implemented the AHSCIR Service Linkage System to connect survivors of TBI and SCI and their families to much-needed community-based services. The system facilitates this process as soon as possible after individuals leave the hospital.

Survivors who sustain moderate and severe head or spinal cord injuries are contacted by mail and given information about the Service Linkage System. They may call a toll-free number and speak with the service system coordinator, who can provide assistance in accessing a variety of services and information. Individuals are linked to resources based on their specific needs. The service system coordinator is also available to provide TBI- and SCI-related information and resources to professionals and service providers.

Service Components

Through funds provided by the IDTF, specific programs were created and implemented to address the needs of people with TBI and SCI. These programs resulted in the following services:

Helpline

The Alabama Head Injury Foundation's toll-free Helpline, 1-800-433-8002, provided immediate information to 634 callers.

Callers ---------- 634
Information requests -- 1,267
Referrals ---------- 826

Resource Coordination

This service coordination program helped 919 consumers and their families find and implement the coordinated, community-based assistance they needed.

Consumers/families served: 919
TBI ---------- 683
SCI ---------- 200
TBI/SCI ----------36

Interactive Community-Based Model (ICBM)

Through the efforts of this five-phased rehabilitation program, 236 consumers transitioned from the hospital to home and to the community.

236
Transitioned from the hospital to the community

State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Service

SAIL Service provided personal assistance and support services to 365 consumers and their families, enabling them to maintain as independent a lifestyle as possible.

Consumers served: 365
Birmingham ----------55
Dothan ----------27
Montgomery ----------66
Decatur ----------35
Anniston ----------83
Mobile ----------54
Tuscaloosa ----------44

Extended Support

Through job-related support services, 18 consumers were given needed assistance to help them maintain their jobs.

18
Received job-support assistance

Respite Care

Services were provided to 62 families, relieving them of round-the-clock responsibilities of caring for a consumer.

Families served: 62
TBI ----------43
SCI ----------15
TBI/SCI ---------- 4

Housing Assistance

This program helped seven consumers in processing applications for housing assistance and in implementing approved accessibility modification or structural repairs to their homes.

Consumers served: 7
TBI ---------- 6
SCI ---------- 1

Recreation

Fifty-four persons with TBI or SCI and volunteers enjoyed recreation by attending camp.

Camp: 54
Spring session ----------27
Summer session ----------27

STATE OF ALABAMA
IMPAIRED DRIVERS TRUST FUND

- serving people with brain or spinal cord injury -

Advisory Board

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Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES
2129 East South Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36116-2455
(334) 281-8780 • 1-800-441-7607 • TTY 1-800-499-1816
Fax (334) 281-1973 • www.rehab.state.al.us