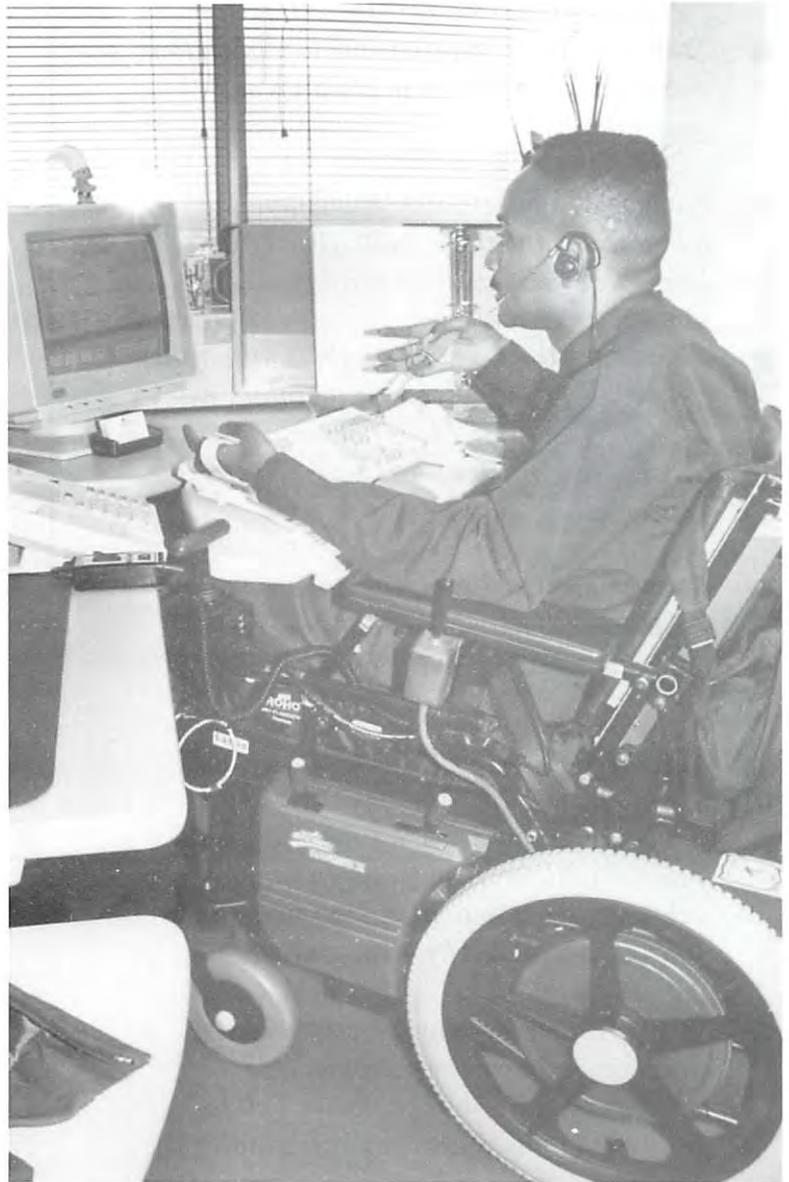


The Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund ...

Enabling Alabamians with traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury to achieve their maximum level of independence



ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1995

Prepared by:
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
Lamona H. Lucas, Commissioner

Traumatic Brain Injury

- *Traumatic Brain Injury is the leading killer and cause of disability in children and young adults.*
- *Each year some 10,070 Alabamians sustain a traumatic brain injury. This translates to 27 head injuries per day.*
- *First year direct cost projections for caring for survivors with severe brain injury will exceed \$55 million (does not include indirect costs such as lost wages, lost opportunities, etc.)*
- *Approximately 87% of Alabamians with serious head injuries are on some form of public assistance 10 years after their injury.*

Spinal Cord Injury

- *Approximately 150 Alabamians sustain spinal cord injuries each year as a result of a motor vehicle crash, gunshot wounds, falls and sports activities. Half of these injuries are caused by vehicle crashes.*
- *54% of all motor vehicle-related spinal cord injuries result in paralysis in arms and legs (quadraplegia); 46% result in paralysis in lower extremities (paraplegia).*
- *Estimated cost of acute care and rehabilitation of Alabamians with vehicle crash-related injuries is \$9,750,00 per year.*



Impaired Drivers Trust Fund

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I. Background

In 1992, the Alabama State Legislature established the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund (IDTF) in the State Treasury and the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board (ACT-92-586).

In 1993, the Legislature passed ACT 93-323 which imposed 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.

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services Disperses Monies

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services was designated by the Legislature to expend monies from the IDTF in accordance with the priorities and criteria established by the Trust Fund Advisory Board.

The Board was charged with the responsibility of (1) **investigating the needs** of citizens who have survived traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury; (2) **identifying the gaps** in services to the citizens; (3) **establishing priorities** and criteria for disbursement of monies in the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund; and (4) **assuring maximum benefit** from the Fund.

Public Hearings Help to Identify Gaps in Services

The IDTF Advisory Board issued a report to the Alabama State Legislature in January 1994 providing results of the needs assessment and identifying gaps in services to citizens with head injuries and spinal cord injuries. Six public hearings were held throughout the state to obtain citizen input in establishing priorities and identifying needs.

As a result, the IDTF Advisory Board established priorities and criteria for disbursement of monies in the Fund as mandated. The Advisory Board, IDTF committees, and Department of Rehabilitation Services staff have met throughout the year to establish systems and procedures to deliver services. The Board will continue to oversee expenditures of funds to assure that they are spent in accordance with established priorities.

II. Advisory Board

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board members were appointed to serve from April 1993 to April 1995. Seventeen members were selected to help facilitate a comprehensive system of services for Alabamians with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. New board appointments to fill expiring terms will be made by the represented agencies.

Advisory Board Members

Ralph R. Norman III, Chairman
Alabama Insurance Department

Sandra Nicholson, Vice Chairman
Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Eugene O'Donnell, Secretary
Department of Human Resources

Senator Jeff Underwood
Alabama State Senate

Representative Bill Fuller
Alabama House of Representatives

Lamona H. Lucas
Alabama Head Injury Task Force

P. Caudill Miller, M.D.
Medical Association of Alabama

Graham Sisson, Jr.
Governor's Office

Rick Harris
Alabama Department of Public Health

Andy Scarborough, Ed.D.
Division of Special Education

Joan Hannah, Ed.D.
Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Ruth Seal
Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation

Phillip R. Fine, Ph.D., MSPH
UAB Injury Control Research Center

Joe Austin
The Alabama Hospital Association

Karen M. Rolen
Epilepsy Foundation of North & Central Alabama

Jeff Wallace
Alabama Medicaid Agency

Tim Cain
Alabama Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

III. Service

Components

The Service Components represent the priorities and gaps in services that were identified by the IDTF Advisory Board, its committees and consumers.

Family Service Coordination

Because of the wide range of services and treatment options that Alabamians with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury may require, *service coordination* is critical.

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund established a new *family service coordination* program through Family Service Centers to help patients and their families find the coordinated, community-based assistance they need.

Family Service Centers are now operating in Huntsville, Birmingham and Mobile. Additional centers are being developed for Montgomery, Dothan, Florence, Anniston and Gadsden.

Family Service Centers (FSC) are staffed by professionals who understand community services. The FSC coordinators will be able to provide community information, referrals, advocacy, housing and respite care assistance, support group development and public awareness activities.

Family Education Seminars

Keeping clients and their families informed of the services and assistance available to them is a vital part of follow-up care for people with head or spinal cord injury.

In addition to the information provided by the Family Service Coordinators and local support groups, *family education seminars* will be held in ten locations across Alabama in 1995. The seminars will ensure that patients get the latest, most accurate information on topics ranging from resources and estate planning to coping with severe disability. The locations of the *family education seminars* scheduled include:

Camp ASCCA	May 20
Birmingham	June 10

Huntsville	June 17
Muscle Shoals	June 24
Dothan	July 8
Mobile	July 15
Montgomery	August 5
Anniston	August 12
Tuscaloosa	August 26
Gadsden	September 9

Housing Initiatives

Persons with serious head or spinal cord injuries often require special living arrangements that cannot always be found at home.

The committee has developed a selection process and has acquired the expertise of a Housing/Supported Employment Coordinator who will assist in the processing of housing applications.

Case Funds (Emergency Funds)

Head or spinal cord injury can be devastating not only to a patient's health, lifestyle and family, but to his or her personal finances as well.

Many people require financial assistance for necessary services including transportation, therapy consultation, medication and disability-related supplies.

When no other money is available, service coordinators utilize *case funds* to provide the vital assistance.

Respite Care

Caring for a severely disabled family member can be a 24-hour responsibility and often is a tremendous burden on a patient's family.

To provide families time to recover from those overwhelming demands, a statewide program has been approved that will offer as much as 100 hours of *respite care* each year for families who qualify.

Working in tandem with home health care agencies across Alabama, the program will begin in April 1995 and is expected to initially serve 85 families a year.

Family Helpline

People with head or spinal cord injury and their families can now get the answers to their questions through the toll-free *Family Helpline* (800-433-8002). The *Family Helpline* is staffed by a

Service Components (cont.)

part-time licensed social worker and was developed through a federal grant to the Alabama Head Injury Foundation. In addition to providing immediate information to callers, the *Family Helpline* also offers a comprehensive library of other material, including audio and video tapes and articles on neuro-trauma.

Social/Recreation Day Activities

People with head or spinal cord injury may be physically limited, but there is no limit to their desire for *social and recreational activities*.

To expand the opportunities for patients, the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Board has awarded a \$29,125 grant to the Lakeshore Foundation to promote the 1996 Paralympics and to develop the Alabama Games for people with disabilities. Both events will not only allow patients to participate and even compete, they will broaden public awareness, understanding and acceptance.

Camp

It is important that people facing a long, hard recovery from serious head or spinal cord injury experience success. One setting that gives them challenges to overcome and the opportunity to enjoy recreational activities in the company of others with similar disabilities is *camp*. This year an estimated 250 people will get to enjoy the outdoor environment of Camp ASCCA at Lake Martin in two special camp sessions. In July the camp will be set aside a week for patients with spinal cord injuries. Weekend sessions will be held in May and October for those with brain injury.

Personal Assistance/ Homebound Service

In many cases, traumatic brain or spinal cord injury can be so debilitating that the patient faces the grim possibility of being institutionalized.

Homebound Service is a state-funded program, within the Department of Rehabilitation Services, designed to assist clients with head and spinal cord injuries to become as independent as possible in their own homes. Once a person is determined eligible, *Homebound Service* may provide

education in disability management, personal care attendants, medical equipment, home modifications, nursing and counseling services, and access to peer support networks.

Beginning in April 1995, funding from the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund will make it possible for *Homebound Service* to expand its range of services.

Interactive Community-Based Model (ICBM)

Traumatic brain injury has far-reaching consequences for not only the patient, family, and friends, but also for employers of people with head injuries.

Most adults who survive severe head injury must reevaluate their employment abilities and their goals. The *ICBM* is a comprehensive rehabilitation program that coordinates a client's transition from hospital to home to community and ultimately to the workplace.

The gradual, often slow, process begins at home where *ICBM* care coordinators guide the patient and family through a four-phase process of rehabilitation. The *ICBM* program is supported by the Southeastern Comprehensive Head Injury Center until November 1996. After that time, the Trust Fund will fund its continuation.

Supported Employment (Long-term Support)

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 define supported employment as "competitive work in integrated settings for individuals with the most severe disabilities (a) for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred, or (b) for individuals for whom competitive employment has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a severe disability; and who, because of the severity of their disability, need intensive supported employment services or extended services in order to perform such work."

The primary method of serving these individuals is through the utilization of a "job coach." This individual goes to the work site with the client and provides direct training on real job tasks.

Job coach funding is available through the Department of Rehabilitation Services but restricts

the department to a maximum of eighteen months of on-site job coaching. Therefore, a state or local source of funding for the provision of extended services is vital to ensure employment success.

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund will provide a stable source of funding for extended job-related support services needed to maintain employment. A statewide network of extended support is being developed and will include supervision by a Housing/Supported Employment Coordinator, seven local service coordinators, and subcontracts with rehabilitation facilities and related agencies. It is anticipated that the service will be available June 1995.

IV. Committees

The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board established three committees made up of board members, consumers and individuals with expertise in the area of study to more closely review critical areas affecting the rehabilitation of Alabamians with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. The committees and their accomplishments are as follows:

Request For Proposals Committee

(Housing and Social/Recreational Activities)

(board members)

Sandra Nicholson, Chairman

Jeff Underwood Graham Sisson

Karen Rolan Joan Hannah

(nonboard members)

Archie Short Tom Novack

Dan Kessler Marie Moore

Gary Edwards Jack Sellers

Kirk Tcherneshoff Mary Watkins

Gloria Presley Nell Duquette

Augusta Cash

With a focus on "consumer choice," this committee's mission was to determine the best way to help families and individuals who may require specialized housing arrangements. Working with agencies throughout Alabama and professional staff who touch the lives of people with brain or spinal cord injuries, the committee estab-

lished an eligibility and selection process for the housing program which is expected to be operational by August 1995.

With assistance from the Lakeshore Foundation, this committee also helped establish a recreational program that will allow people with brain injury and those with spinal cord injury to participate together in the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta.

Budget Committee

(board members)

Eugene O'Donnell, Chairman

Tim Cain

Lamona H. Lucas

Sandra Nicholson

Phillip R. Fine

Jeff Wallace

The budget was prepared and approved by the Board. It was presented to the Finance Department and the appropriation was made so that monies could be spent.

Committee on Assessment Procedures

(board members)

Rick Harris, Chairman

Lamona H. Lucas

Phillip R. Fine

Karen Rolan

Charles Priest

Sandra Nicholson

Eugene O'Donnell

(nonboard members)

Augusta Cash

Linda Hayes

This committee was charged with determining what services were needed most by people with head and spinal cord injuries and their families. In addition to distributing a questionnaire to professionals across the state, the committee reviewed reports from other states and conducted a series of six town hall meetings. Based on input from patients, families and professionals in the field, the committee drafted the Board's plan for providing each of the Service Components.

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