



# Brain Injury Waivers Home and Community Based Services Conference

**Stefani O’Dea, MA, Director Office of Older Adults and Long-Term Services and Supports - Maryland Behavioral Health Administration**

**Jennifer Braun, Brain Injury manager, Bureau of Special Health Care Needs - Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

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# Outline:

- Understanding Brain Injury- Jennifer
- Overview of 1915c waivers vs 1915c for brain injury- Stefani
- MO Brain injury waiver- Jennifer
- MD Brain Injury Waiver- Stefani
- Considerations for home and community-based services- Stefani
- NASHIA- Jennifer

# Understanding Brain Injury

## Terminology

- Brain injury vs. Head injury
- Traumatic vs. Acquired

# Understanding Brain Injury

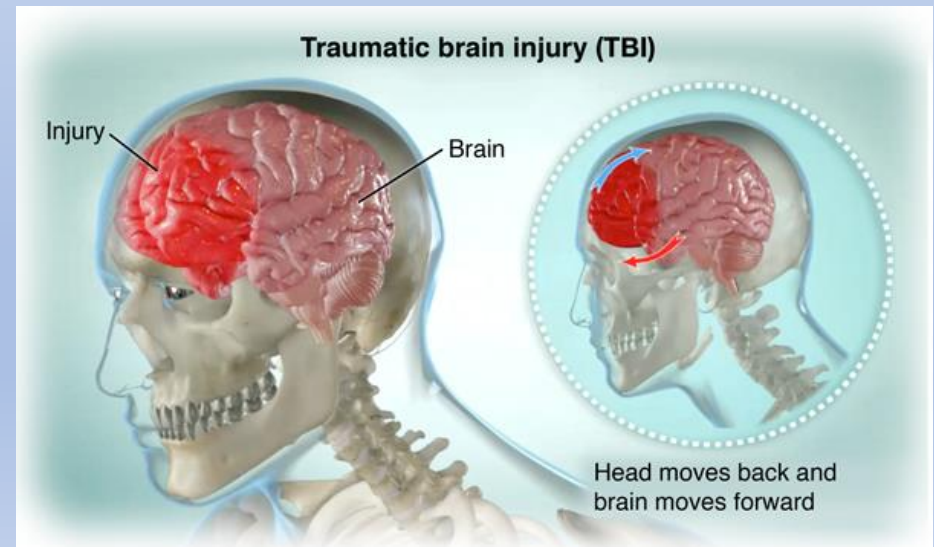
“The Invisible Disability”

- What is a traumatic brain injury (TBI)?
  - A TBI is a blow or jolt to the head or body that interrupts the normal function of the brain.
  - There are two basic types of brain injury
    - Open head injuries
    - Closed head injuries
  - Traumatic Brain Injuries range from mild to severe

# Understanding Brain Injury

## Closed Head Injury

- No penetration to the skull
- Resulting from falls, motor vehicle crashes
- Effects tend to be broad



# Understanding Brain Injury

## Open Head Injury

- Results from bullet wounds, motor vehicle crashes, falls
- Penetration of the skull
- Effects tend to be localized

# Understanding Brain Injury

## Leading Causes of Traumatic Brain Injuries

- #1 – Falls
- #2 – Struck by or against an object
- #3 – Motor vehicle accidents
- #4 – Assaults



Other prominent causes include bicycle accidents and sports injuries.

# Understanding Brain Injury

Acquired Brain Injuries are non-traumatic brain injuries that cause damage to the brain by internal factors, such as a lack of oxygen, exposure to toxins, pressure from a tumor, etc. Examples of NTBI include:

- stroke
- near-drowning
- aneurysm
- tumor
- infectious disease that affects the brain (i.e., meningitis)
- lack of oxygen supply to the brain (i.e., heart attack)



# Understanding Brain Injury

Brain Injuries can range from mild to severe:

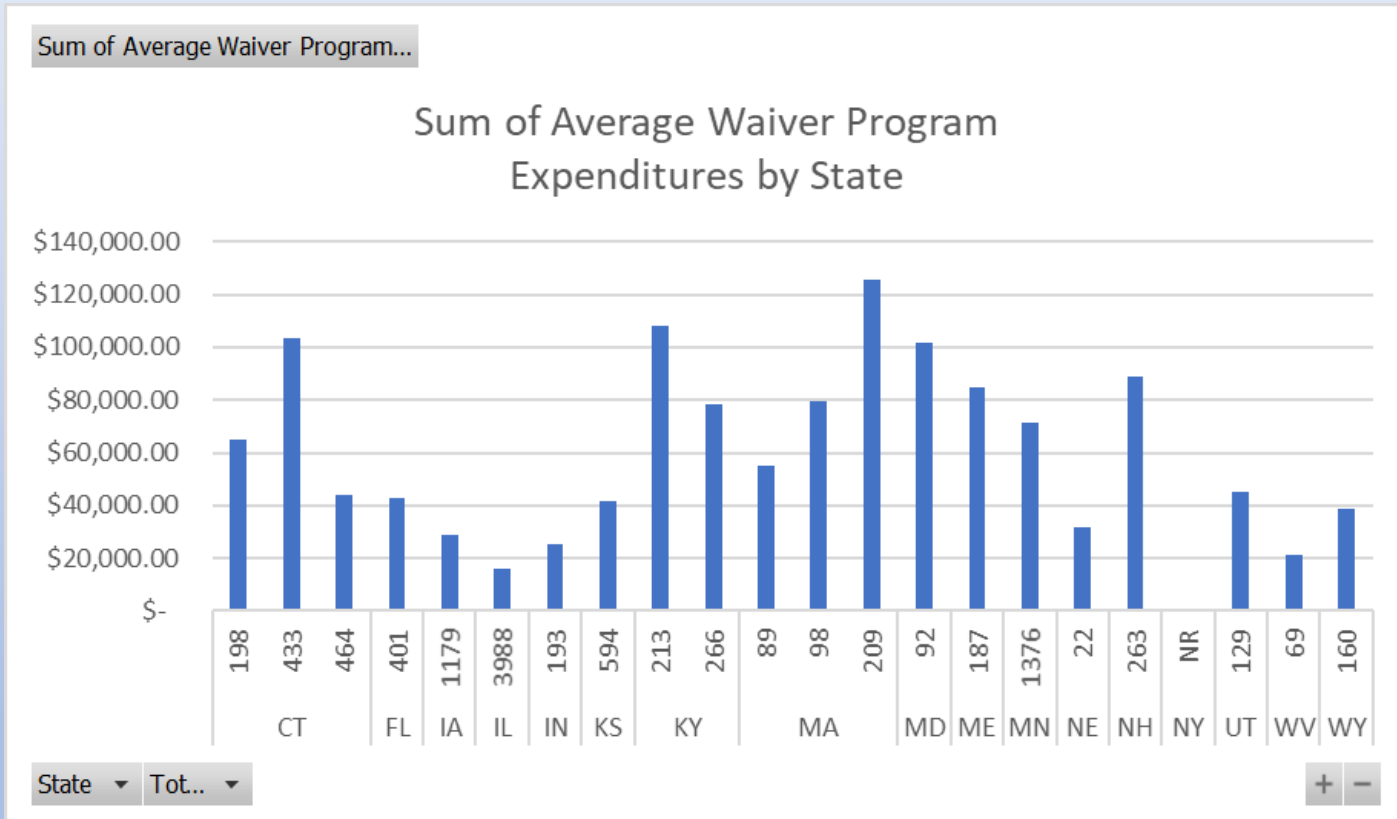
- Mild Brain Injury – Brief, if any, loss of consciousness
- Moderate brain injury – Period of unconsciousness up to 24 hours
- Severe brain injury – Period of unconsciousness exceeding 24 hours (coma)

# Brain Injury Waivers

TBI/ABI HCBS waiver programs vary considerably across the country in terms of numbers served and how the state has defined the level of care requirement. Twenty-two states administer TBI/ABI waiver programs with three states administering more than one TBI/ABI waiver (CT, KY, MA). Most states have designed their waiver programs around typical long-term services and supports (LTSS) services. However, a handful of states have designed their waiver services to focus primarily on short-term rehabilitation and community reintegration.

# Brain Injury Waivers- Average Expenditures and Number of Participants

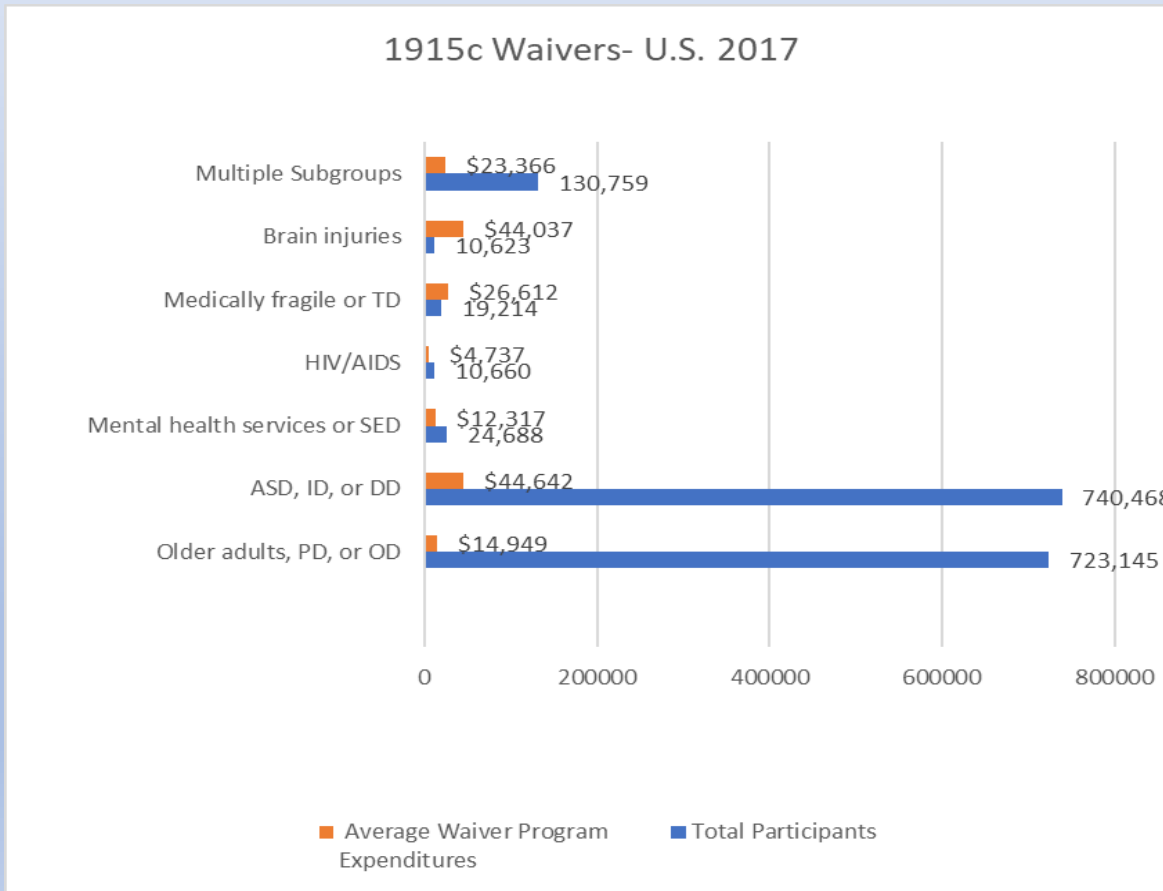
Source: Mathematica analysis of 372 annual reports from 2017.



# Waivers- U.S. 2017

## Total Participants ALL Programs- 1,659,733

Source: Mathematica analysis of 372 annual reports from 2016 and 2017.



# Considerations for HCBS Services

In the United States, in 2014

- ~ 2.87 million TBI-related ED visits
- ~ 288,000 TBI-related hospitalizations
- 43% of these will experience long-term disabilities (~ 1.4 million people)

Dewan , M.C., Rattani , A., Gupta , S., Baticulon , R.E., Hung , Y.C., Punchak , M., Agrawal , A., Adeleye , A.O., Shrime , M.G., Rubiano , A.M., Rosenfeld , J.V., and Park , K.B. (2018). Estimating the global incidence of traumatic brain injury. **J. Neurosurg**, doi: 10.3171/2017.10.JNS17352.

# Considerations for HCBS Services

- Older persons are more likely to sustain a TBI by falling, be hospitalized following their injury, and suffer from severe injuries as a consequence of their fall.
- TBI in adults has been identified as an early risk factor for Alzheimer's disease and dementia.
- 30% and 50% of adults with a moderate-to-severe TBI experience a psychiatric illness, such as depression after trauma. TBI increases the risk of developing mood and anxiety disorders, substance-use disorders, and psychosis.
- TBI is also associated with chronic pain, suicidality, substance-use disorders, and sleep disturbances.

# Brain Injury Informed HCBS

- ✓ Screen HCBS participants for history of brain injury  
[https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ccjj/committees/ADTF/Materials/2019-07-10\\_CCJJ-ADTF\\_OSU-TBI-ID.pdf](https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ccjj/committees/ADTF/Materials/2019-07-10_CCJJ-ADTF_OSU-TBI-ID.pdf)
- ✓ Provide accommodations that will address the cognitive, behavioral, and physical sequela of brain injury
- ✓ Refer for specialty medical services as needed
- ✓ Get to know your Brain Injury Association or Alliance in your state
- ✓ Consider specialty services and specialty training for providers for aging and disability waivers
- ✓ Considerations for Assessment Tools  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb2bae2bb8af12ca7ab9f12/t/5f0e582e5b73ca549652fb73/1594775599334/revised\\_bip\\_rec\\_assessment\\_june\\_2015.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb2bae2bb8af12ca7ab9f12/t/5f0e582e5b73ca549652fb73/1594775599334/revised_bip_rec_assessment_june_2015.pdf)

# Missouri Brain Injury Waiver

The Missouri Brain Injury Waiver Program was implemented on October 1, 2020 and is designed to provide home and community-based services to participants ages 21 to 65 with traumatic brain injuries.

- **Goals** are to: 1) Provide cost-effective home and community-based services for participants as an alternative to nursing home placement and 2) Assure that necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of participants receiving services under the BIW.
- **Objectives** include: 1) Provide individual choice between nursing home institutional care and comprehensive community-based care in a cost-effective manner, 2) Maintain and improve a community-based system of care that diverts participants from institutional care, 3) Ensure the adequacy of medical care and waiver services, 4) Monitor each participants condition and continued appropriateness of participation through bi-annual home visits by authorized staff, and 5) Monitor provider provision of service through care plan reviews and documentation that identifies the participant's progress, the implementation of services, and the appropriateness of the services provided.





# Missouri Brain Injury Waiver

Waiver services are limited to individuals who:

- Are between the ages of 21 to 65
- Have medical documentation of a traumatic brain injury
- Are enrolled in MO HealthNet
- Have a federally matched ME code
- Require medical care equivalent to the level of care received in a nursing home

# Missouri Brain Injury Waiver

Service Coordination is a culturally competent, collaborative, proactive, and comprehensive health care process that is designed to help each participant and their parent(s)/responsible party(ies) achieve the best possible health and greatest degree of independence. Service Coordination activities include:

- Identifying and accessing service providers
- Service plan development and implementation
- Coordination of services through resource identification and referral
- Family support
- Assisting in establishing a medical home
- Transition planning

# Missouri Brain Injury Waiver

Prior authorization of medically necessary services, including:

- Personal Care
- Applied Behavioral Analysis
- Assistive Technology
- Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy
- Environmental Access and Modification
- Neuropsychological Evaluation
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy

# Maryland Brain Injury Waiver

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- Maryland's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Adults with Brain Injury was implemented July 1, 2003. The operating state agency (OSA) is the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), with oversight from the State Medicaid Agency (SMA) by the Office of Long Term Services and Supports (OLTSS) Health Services (OHSOLTSS).
- The program was initially designed as a resource for Maryland residents with brain injury who could not be served in traditional long-term care settings within the state, primarily due to the severity of their neurobehavioral deficits. Events that precipitated the creation of this program included the out-of-state placement of several individuals with brain injury accompanied by complex needs, an increasing number of individuals who remained in state psychiatric hospitals due to the lack of appropriate care alternatives within the State of Maryland, and ultimately a class action law suit.
- The target population was quite specific, and the program was originally intended to be small: 10 slots were approved for the first year, 20 slots for the second year, and 30 slots in each year thereafter.

# Maryland Brain Injury Waiver

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- Technical eligibility is based on the age at injury and the location where the applicant is residing (state psychiatric hospitals, in out-of-state placements, or in state-owned and operated nursing facilities).
- Changes to technical eligibility since program implementation
  - Increased setting types that individuals could access program from
  - lowered qualifying age of onset of the brain injury from age 21 to age 17
  - Broadened definition of brain injury TBI (injury resulting from outside trauma) to include any acquired brain injury
- There are six services available through the Brain Injury Waiver
  - residential habilitation
  - day habilitation
  - supported employment
  - medical day care
  - individual support services.
  - case management

# Maryland Brain Injury Waiver

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**Brain Injury Association of Maryland (BIAMD)**- Non- profit organization that provides information assistance and resources to Marylanders with brain injury, their families, and professionals. The Brain Injury Association of Maryland [www.biamd.org](http://www.biamd.org) 410-448-2924 [info@biamd.org](mailto:info@biamd.org) is the primary Brain Injury information and referral source of the Maryland Access Point, Maryland's No Wrong Door System for accessing long term services and supports [www.marylandaccesspoint.info](http://www.marylandaccesspoint.info).

- BI waiver transitional case management and administrative case management services to individuals with Brain Injury (BI) per year who are enrolled in the BI Waiver program
- Technical assistance and training to providers; Ensure on-line access to brain injury resources
- Support funds/ transition funds to individuals enrolled/enrolling in the BI waiver.
- Provide anti-isolation opportunities to individuals living with brain injury and caregivers/ family members

# Maryland Brain Injury Waiver

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## Opportunities and Accomplishments

- Money Follows the Person expanded the program by 300%
- Affordable Housing initiatives in Maryland have helped more than 15% of waiver participants to transition out of residential services into their own housing with supports

# Maryland Brain Injury Waiver

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## Pandemic related activities

- Covid 19 exposure and positive case reporting
- Technical assistance and support to providers
  - Virtual training Resources <https://www.biamd.org/brain-injury-waiver-provider-resource-page.html>
- Funds for tablets for waiver participants to increase opportunities to stay connected with family and friends and improve access to telehealth services
- Anti-isolation weekly check in
- Adopted virtual service option during last waiver renewal



# **National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)**

## **NASHIA's Mission:**

NASHIA is a nonprofit organization created to assist State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.

# NASHIA Provides



# Technical Assistance

- Assessment and Support to Strengthen Services Offered through Medicaid Brain Injury Waivers
- Creation of Medicaid Brain Injury Waivers
- Strengthening HCBS for people living with brain injury
- Training for HCBS providers related to brain injury

Contact Rebecca Wolfkiel @ [rwolfkiel@nashia.org](mailto:rwolfkiel@nashia.org) to learn more

NASHIA is also a New Editions partner in CMS' HCBS TAC