



The National Brain Injury Information Center Pilot Project Connects Callers to Local Brain Injury Services in Three States

1-800-444-6443

The importance of connecting people with brain injury information and resources cannot be overstated. Therefore, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is pleased to announce that the National Brain Injury Information Center (NBIIIC) pilot project is now up and running in two states: Minnesota and Michigan, and will begin operating in Mississippi in early January 2006. This means that individuals in these states who call BIAA's 1-800 number will now be directly linked to their local Brain Injury Association (BIA) where they will receive individualized and confidential brain injury information specific to their state. Callers may also obtain information on local brain injury-related services, resources, and supports, including:

- Local treatment and rehabilitation services;
- Funding and legal programs;
- Veterans' options;
- Programs where individuals and families/caregivers can learn coping and living skills;
- School and work adjustments; and
- Effective ways to manage the changes in their lives and plan for the future following a brain injury.

The NBIIIC pilot project was developed in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help state BIA information and resource (I & R) programs address the needs of people with brain injury and their families and caregivers by providing accurate, appropriate, and timely information about brain injury.

To date, project staff has developed a range of tools for the state affiliates to enhance existing I & R programs. In collaboration with the three pilot states, CDC, and an external expert committee, project staff has developed an administrator guide, a user guide, and training manual with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation, outreach materials (poster and tips cards), and a basic packet of materials to be mailed to our callers. The goal is to collect data about who is calling, why they are calling, and what callers are requesting. This will allow us to gain greater understanding of the information and resource needs of our callers and to begin to help us determine where future efforts should be focused to meet potential resource gaps. Increased knowledge about our callers

will also help us to provide the most accurate, reliable, and individualized information possible, and to learn how best to connect individuals with needed services and programs.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of those with brain injury and their families and caregivers. If you would like more information on the National Brain Injury Information Center, please contact Pat Britz or Caroline Feller at 703-584-8634 or 262-782-7228, respectively or visit the BIA's website at www.biausa.org.

