



Traumatic Brain Injury Family Caregiver Panel



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Creation of the TBI Family Caregiver Panel

- December 2006, Congress addressed the needs of current & former armed service members & their families affected by war-related traumatic brain injuries
- Passed National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 (NDAA), Section 744



Creation of the TBI Family Caregiver Panel

(continued)

- Assigned unfunded mandate to the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center on 23 April 2007
- Funding for the project was allocated in 2007 September
- Project staff hired September 2007

Note: This congressional mandate was originally assigned to the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and reassigned based on DVBIC expertise



National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 (NDAA), Section 744

Law mandates the establishment of a 15 member panel:

“to develop coordinated, uniform, and consistent training curricula to be used in training family members in the provision of care and assistance to members and former members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injuries”



National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 (NDAA), Section 744 (continued)

- Law stipulates that certain categories of individuals must be included on the panel. For example:
 - medical professionals specializing in TBI (combat TBI as well) including psychologists with expertise in the mental health treatment and care of TBI
 - family caregivers and representatives of family caregivers or family caregiver associations
 - DoD & DVA health & medical personnel with expertise in TBI
 - Experts in the development of training curricula
 - Family members of members of the Armed Forces with TBI
- Panel members are appointed after receiving DoD and White House approval



Tasks of the Panel

- Review literature and evidence for curricula content
- Develop consistent curricula for TBI caregiver education
- Recommend dissemination mechanisms for the curricula throughout the DoD and DVA



Panel Selection

- Panel nominees were selected via the following methods:
 - established DVBIC networks within TBI field
 - guidelines provided by the law
 - geographical representation
- Prepared slate of panel nominees, Ex-Officio members, Expert Consultants, and Contingency Members



Panel Selection *(continued)*

- Panel nominee list forwarded for review on 26 OCT 2007
- Currently the nomination package is at the Health Affairs (HA) Front Office for signature



Panelist Face-to-Face Meetings

- First meeting scheduled for
 - 9-10 January 2008 in Silver Spring , MD
- Second meeting anticipated
 - 23-24 April 2008 in Washington state to coincide with the DHB meeting to present pilot curricula



DVBIC's Role with the Project

- Provide programmatic and logistical support to ensure
 - (1) Development of curricula according to congressional mandate
 - (2) Content validity and accuracy
 - (3) Implementation, evaluation and ongoing effort for family caregiver education through the DoD Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury



Current Project Activity

- Work being done to identify health education writers/editors, qualitative research organizations, family caregiver organizations with curricula experience
- Logistical work being done for first panel meeting



Benefits of Curricula

- TBI Caregiver Curriculum will provide a uniform resource for caregivers through
 - consistent message
 - tools for coping and gaining assistance
 - giving hope while navigating life post TBI
- Curriculum will be
 - informative and accurate
 - provide self-management skills
 - teach effective communication skills for individuals with TBI and their caregivers to communicate with providers & healthcare teams
 - be user-friendly and culturally-appropriate



QUESTIONS?