



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor
State of Louisiana
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, La 70804 – 9004

The Honorable Charles E. Kleckley, Speaker
Louisiana State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, La 70804-9062

The Honorable John A. Alario, Jr., President
Louisiana State Senate
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, La 70804-9183

Re: Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Annual Report

Dear Governor Jindal, President Alario, and Speaker Kleckley:

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the attached 2012 annual report for the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program in accordance with LA R.S. 46:2633.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at hugh.eley@la.gov or 225-219-0223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugh Eley".

Hugh Eley
Assistant Secretary
Office of Aging and Adult Services

TRAUMATIC HEAD AND SPINAL CORD INJURY TRUST FUND

REPORT PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO LA R.S.
46:2633.(E)(4)

FEBRUARY 2013

Contact:

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Hugh Eley
Office of Aging and Adult Services
628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, La 70802
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund (TH/SCI) was created by ACT 654 of the 1993 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The TH/SCI Program was created to provide services in a flexible, individualized manner to Louisiana citizens who survive traumatic head or traumatic spinal cord injuries. The TH/SCI Program assists participants to return to a reasonable level of functioning and independent living in their communities.

Act 654 imposes fees on motor vehicle violations in Louisiana for the offenses of driving under the influence, reckless operation and speeding. These fees provide the funding for this program. The funds are deposited into the State of Louisiana Treasury and appropriated annually to the TH/SCI Trust Fund Program by the legislature.

The Trust Fund Program is a program of last resort. An individual must seek assistance from all available resources prior to the Trust Fund's financial participation in services.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The TH/SCI Program is administered by the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) and is staffed by the Trust Fund Program Manager, an Administrative Program Specialist, and an Administrative Coordinator. The Program contracts with four entities, three which provide Case Management Services statewide and one that operates the TH/SCI Resource Center.

During SFY 2012, the TH/SCI Program provided services to a program record high of six hundred seventy two (672) Louisiana residents. At the end of SFY 2012, one hundred ninety two (192) remained on the Program's waiting list with an average of eight (8) new applications received monthly.

TRUST FUND ADVISORY BOARD

The TH/SCI Trust Fund Program has an advisory board which consists of thirteen members; seven ex-officio and six appointed by the Governor pursuant to La. R.S. 46:2634 as follows:

- Assistant Secretary of the Office of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Hospitals or designee
- President of the Louisiana Senate or designee
- Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives or designee
- A representative of an organization recognized for its work in advocacy programs for persons with traumatic head injuries appointed by the governor
- A representative of an organization recognized for its work in advocacy programs for persons with spinal cord injury appointed by the governor
- President of the Louisiana Psychologists Association or designee
- Survivor of a traumatic head injury appointed by the governor

- Survivor of a spinal cord injury appointed by the governor
- Relative of a survivor of a traumatic head injury appointed by the governor
- Relative of a survivor of a spinal cord injury appointed by the governor
- President of the Louisiana State Medical Society or designee
- President of the Louisiana Hospital Association or designee
- Director, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Louisiana Workforce Commission or designee

For information about current membership, please visit the Louisiana Boards and Commissions Webpage: http://www.legis.state.la.us/boards/board_members.asp?board=392

The major functions of the Advisory Board are:

- Serves in an advisory capacity recommendation to the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Aging and Adult Services in the implementation and administration of the TH/SCI Trust Fund Program.
- Monitor and review quality of services funded through the TH/SCI Program.
- Participate in quarterly Board meetings.
- Provide impartial decisions based on the provisions of the trust fund policy manual and the law for recipient appeals of program decisions.

ELIGIBILITY

In order for an individual to be determined eligible for services, the individual must:

- Meet the definition of spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury as defined in law:
 - Spinal Cord Injury - an insult to the spinal cord, not of a degenerative or congenital nature but caused by an external physical force resulting in paraparesis/plegia or quadraparesis/plegia.
 - Traumatic Head Injury - an insult to the head, affecting the brain, not of a degenerative or congenital nature, but caused by an external physical force that may produce diminished or altered state of consciousness which results in an impairment of cognitive abilities or physical functioning.
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- Be a resident of Louisiana, citizen of the United States, and officially domiciled in the state of Louisiana at the time of injury and during the provision of services;
- Have a reasonable expectation to achieve a predictable level of outcome to achieve improvement in quality of life and/or functional outcome;
- Have exhausted all other governmental and private sources;
- Provide proof of denial from other sources;
- Be willing to accept services from an approved facility/program;

- Be medically stable;
- Complete and submit an appropriate application.

SERVICES

A traumatic brain or spinal cord injury can affect every aspect of an individual's life (e.g., education, employment, social and family relationships, emotional health and mobility). As a result, individuals and their families must often find and gain access to an array of services. Because individual needs are different and can change over time, it is important that programs provide person-centered services and supports. Programs should be flexible enough to meet the unique needs of individuals and their families.

The Louisiana TH/SCI Program greatly enhances the ability of an individual to access both their home and community through the provision of services such as various assistive technology devices, personal care attendant services, and home and vehicle modifications.

Monies from the trust fund are distributed for the sole purpose of funding the cost of care which may include, but are not limited to:

- Post-acute medical care rehabilitation;
- Therapies;
- Medications;
- Attendant care;
- Equipment necessary for activities of daily living;

PROGRAM STATUS

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

	SFY 2002	SFY 2003	SFY 2004	SFY 2005	SFY 2006	SFY 2007	SFY 2008	SFY 2009	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012
Participants Served	293	305	368	387	416	465	597	646	554	550	672

The nine contract case managers have an average of fifty-seven (57) participants in each of their caseloads. They provide direct consumer contact in the nine regions of the state. The case managers prepare all requests for goods and services. The requests are sent directly to the Trust Fund Program Manager for review and approval. The Program Manager also determines Eligibility for the program.

EXPENDITURES AND DEPOSITS

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of both traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries in Louisiana. Funding for the TH/SCI Trust Fund is provided through fees and surcharges from moving traffic violations such as driving while intoxicated, speeding and reckless operation of a vehicle. Below is a chart of the deposits and expenditures since the implementation of the Program.

Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Collections		
Time Frames	Deposits	Expenditures
June 30, 1994	\$403,087.34	\$0
June 30, 1995	\$1,349,546.24	\$0
June 30, 1996	\$1,588,515.26	\$20,114.00
June 30, 1997	\$1,485,020.99	\$313,233.00
June 30, 1998	\$1,461,162.22	\$1,737,861.00
June 30, 1999	\$1,423,633.38	\$1,935,541.00
June 30, 2000	\$1,682,006.16	\$1,655,101.00
June 30, 2001	\$1,769,188.34	\$1,458,660.89
June 30, 2002	\$1,716,891.42	\$998,816.00
June 30, 2003	\$1,541,616.40	\$778,215.00
June 30, 2004	\$1,555,798.44	\$1,262,362.00
June 30, 2005	\$1,651,169.59	\$1,723,356.00
June 30, 2006	\$1,752,285.69	\$1,541,659.00
June 30, 2007	\$1,950,031.33	\$1,979,467.00
June 30, 2008	\$2,005,257.90	\$2,387,062.00
June 30, 2009	\$1,845,450.54	\$3,228,448.00
June 30, 2010	\$1,554,006.00	\$3,238,531.00
June 30, 2011	\$1,670,612.84	\$1,628,589.83
June 30, 2012	\$2,161,089.65	\$1,753,283.20

CONCLUSION

The Program provided services to six hundred and seventy-two (672) unduplicated participants during State Fiscal Year 2012. The unduplicated number includes participants who are no longer active but were served within the year and the new participants who became active within the year. Currently, the program is providing services to five hundred and ninety one (591) and there are one hundred and ninety two (192) persons waiting for services. Although the number of participants on the waiting list has decreased, the need for services continues to be essential for participants who sustain traumatic brain

and/or spinal cord injuries. Hundreds of participants sustain these types of injuries each year in Louisiana.

Case Management Oversight - Case management services are provided by contracting with three vendors to allow participants easier access to the Trust Fund Program.

- The Trust Fund Program Manager continues to review contracts and procedures in order to streamline processes.
- Multi-year contracts have been established with these vendors, to ensure continuity of benefits of case management services.
- Ongoing training and development of case management services continues to be emphasized through biweekly conference calls with case managers.
- Quarterly reporting has been implemented to maintain closer supervision of consumer needs and service provision.
- Annual site visits are conducted by the Trust Fund Program Manager to review programmatic procedures and standards of service delivery.

Management Initiatives

- Continue to annually validate the waiting list to ensure those participants are eligible for THSCI services and still interested in receiving services.
- Established a TH/SCI Resource Center.
- Continue to monitor for duplication of services with other programs.
- Trust Fund Advisory Board conducts annual random case reviews of the Program Manager's records for clarity, thoroughness, and adherence to policy.
- Establish priorities for waiting list.
- Develop criteria for disbursement of funds
- Conducted a Participant Satisfaction Survey. Overall 83% of respondents are satisfied with case management, services and program staff.

Author:

Alicia Smith, Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program Manager

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Bruce D. Greenstein, Secretary

Kathy Kliebert, Deputy Secretary

Jerry Phillips, Undersecretary

Hugh Eley, Assistant Secretary, Office of Aging and Adult Services

Christine Peck, Legislative and Governmental Relations Director