Press Release

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Gaps in Brain Injury Services Identified in Statewide Commission Report

Gaps in services for survivors of brain injury in Massachusetts were identified in a report released this week by a statewide Brain Injury Commission. Under the bipartisan leadership of Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester) and Representative Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden), the Commission has met monthly in Boston since January and held public meetings in Worcester and Pittsfield. Members of the commission include representatives from healthcare, state government, and the private sector.

The final report, which was written in collaboration with the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA), was presented on Monday to the Governor Patrick and JudyAnn Bigby, MD, Secretary of the Executive Office of Human Services,

“This the first time individuals from the public and private sectors have come together in Massachusetts to identify the needs of brain injury survivors,” says Arlene Korab, Executive Director of BIA-MA. “Gaps have been identified and recommendations made. Now, we need to take steps to implement change.”

Observed gaps in services include: case management services, day programs, social/recreation services, post-acute rehabilitation services, MassHealth PCA services, technical assistance, transportation, and other services needs.

“Many people have collaborated and worked hard on this report so we can address gaps in services in the Commonwealth,” says Sen. Chandler. “This final report showcases the Brain Injury Commission’s dedication and commitment to finding solutions to improve the quality of life for those living with brain injury.”

“I am honored to be part of this Commission, and I am very pleased with the final report. Members worked very hard to develop a document which contains recommendations that are a major step forward for individuals with brain injury and their families. I look forward to seeing these recommendations implemented,” stated Representative Ferguson.

The Acquired and Traumatic Brain Injury Commission was formed in outside section 160 of the FY2011 Budget. Its mission has been to advance the present scope of community based long-term supports and services available to individuals with brain injury in Massachusetts by providing an analysis of current services, the related needs and gaps relative to access, capacity, and resources, and to subsequently develop a series of prioritized recommendations for system change.
The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is a private, non-profit organization that provides support services to brain injury survivors and their families, offers programs to prevent brain injuries, educates the public on the risks and impact of brain injury, and advocates for legislation and improved services.