

## SOLUTIONS TO HELP OUR VISION FOR A BRAIN INJURY REGISTRY

( SECTION 81-653 TO 81-661)

### Issue

Persons with brain injury are not aware of resources available in Nebraska.

### Background

Seventeen states have TBI-specific registries that are established by statute. Eight of these states collect personal identifiers, such as name and address, and use this and other information to link individuals with brain injury to case management/ service coordination or other available services. This follow-up contact usually takes place while the individual is in the hospital or within three months of the occurrence of the injury.

While Nebraska has made progress in the development of materials and supports for individuals with disabilities and the establishment of a single point of contact, many individuals still do not know where to turn for help.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas to learn about problems resulting from mild to moderate TBI. Preliminary analysis indicates that 20% of brain-injured patients developed depression within three to six months after injury, twice the percentage of patients who sustained trauma not involving the brain. Nearly 40% of the TBI patients developed at least one of the following secondary conditions within three to six months of injury: depression, symptoms commonly resulting from concussion, or symptoms associated with stress disorders that occur with traumatic events.

### Recommendations

Nebraska needs to :

- Amend the current brain injury registry to require notification to persons with brain injury about available resources in Nebraska. It is of utmost importance that this notification occurs within 30 days of receiving the report that a person has been identified with a brain injury. Early notification may alleviate injuries and avoid secondary problems.
- Require each hospital and each rehabilitation center located within a hospital in the state of Nebraska to report to the Department of Health and Human Services a brain or head injury which results in admission or treatment within 30 days of such admission or treatment.

### Anticipated opposition

Some may be opposed to the requirement of reporting the brain or head injury within 30 days of admission or treatment. The current statute requires an annual reporting.

The Department of Health and Human Services may be opposed to the additional task of notifying persons with brain injury on the registry about resources.