



CNI Trust Fund Grant #018-061

“Looking Out for Little Brains: Comprehensive Pediatric Case Management”

January 31, 2022

CNI Quarterly Summary and Final Report

Primary Project Staff

- Cindy Noftsinger - Executive Director
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The Major 3-Year Project Goals are:

Goal 1: Decrease barriers for children with brain injury by hiring full-time Pediatric Case Manager.

Goal 2: Outreach with the community regarding pediatric needs and brain injury.

Overview:

The purpose of “Looking Out for Little Brains: Comprehensive Pediatric Case Management” is to build the capacity of our local community to better respond to children (and their families and caregivers) who have sustained a brain injury, and support partner organizations who provide complementary resources. The most immediate and positive outcomes of the program will be an increase in communication, collaboration, and understanding among providers and the educational systems, and increased number of children served.

Timeline:

4th Quarter Report timeframe: 05/1/2021-07/31/2021

Goal 1: Decrease barriers for children with brain injury by hiring a full-time Pediatric Case Manager.

Objective 2A: Serve 5 pediatric clients from July 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

Objective 2B: Serve up to 17 pediatric clients from January 1, 2019-June 30, 2019.

Objective 2C: Serve up to 20 pediatric clients from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2019.

Objective 2D: Serve up to 22 pediatric clients from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Objective achieved-in-part

BICSV's part-time pediatric case manager position remains at part-time. We anticipated the position would move to full-time this year, but the pandemic has made it difficult to do planned outreach to increase numbers needed to do so. With local systems varied in responses to the pandemic, some completely online and some returning this quarter to a hybrid of virtual and in-person, it has been a continued challenge to get administrators to provide in-service time for our organization. Educators have had unique priorities and have continued to be overwhelmed managing student online and hybrid learning environments. Participation in in-service meetings has continued to be prohibitive. However, BICSV's pediatric case manager, BICSV's outreach coordinator and BICSV's Executive Director have all communicated to school administrators and athletic directors so our agency is ready to bring education, advocacy and outreach back into our school systems, when they are ready for us. We have recently focused our educational outreaches on staff at other local agencies, who may be working with at-risk populations, and who also have fewer system demands. We are providing these agencies with opportunities to engage with BICSV via ZOOM presentations to their staffs and parents.

From May 1, 2021-July 31, 2021 BICSV served 11 unique individuals under the age of 22 (we define a pediatric client as under 22 years old and still enrolled with the school system). Of the 11 unique individuals who were under 22, nine qualify under our definition of pediatric clients. Unfortunately, one of our long-time active pediatric clients dropped out of school, making him ineligible to be considered a pediatric client, and that is reflected in this quarterly report.

Objective 2E: Each academic year identify 2 clients who would benefit from working with the Alvin V. Baird Center. The Baird Center develops and promotes evidence-based early interventions for children with attention and learning challenges, while educating families, teachers, students, and professionals about best practices for their treatment. This objective will be on going, reaching a total of 6 clients over the 3 year project.

Objective achieved for the second year. For the 2019-2020 academic year, case managers connected three different families with the Baird Center to evaluate the need for services.

Objective achieved for the third year. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year, BICSV case managers connected two families with the Baird Center for services. These services continue to provide key supports for those pediatric clients and their families. The Baird center is also currently supporting the adoptive family of a female pediatric client who sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) from child abuse in the form of Shaken Baby Syndrome. This family reports that the clinic is a huge help to them and they have high praises for their involvement with the clinic. They are striving to reduce challenging behaviors (in which there HAS been a measurable decrease) and focus on the client's ability to complete adaptive living skills, as she struggles with daily activities of living and academic achievement. Successes has been that the client has been able to talk more about what she is having trouble with instead of

shutting down and has reduced a lot of challenging behaviors, like aggression and inappropriate understanding of boundaries. The family has very positive reviews of their time with the Baird Center.

Goal 2: Outreach to the community regarding pediatric needs and brain injury.

Objective 2A: The Pediatric Case Manager will spend 25% of their time collaborating and coordinating with community partners including local Department of Social Services (DSS), Community Service Boards (CSB), School Systems, and others to develop and strengthen the existing linkages in the community for the youth we serve. This objective will be on-going over the 3-year project.

Objective achieved for the reporting period. Case Manager spent an estimated 50% of their time working with community partners on behalf of clients, and, along with BICSV outreach coordinator, provided outreach to community agencies who serve children and families, for acquiring future clients. The meetings included warm-weather outdoor home visits, virtual presentations, phone calls, team meetings, and referrals.

Objective 2B: The Ad Hoc Science Advisory Committee will organize a summit on the effects of brain injury and youth, with a special focus on opioids and substance abuse. The summit will be held November, 2018.

Objective 2B was achieved on November 8, 2019. The BICSV team coordinated the November 2019 event with the Region 5 Training and Technical Assistance (T/TAC) team and fulfilled this objective at that time.

Objective 2C: Develop and hold a caregivers support group event twice annually. This objective will be on-going to provide a total of 6 events over the 3 year project.

Objective achieved for the reporting period. May 5, 2021 marked our fourth pediatric and family support group activity. The event was open to caregivers, children with brain injury, and siblings. BICSV prepared custom May Day support baskets (see attached photos) and hand-delivered them to the families. The May Day baskets each included gift certificates for a family pizza meal to provide an additional respite opportunity. A presentation on positive parenting for resilient families was included for encouragement and support. Adagio House, a community partner, recorded a video with stress management tips for parents and our agency created a QR code, for quick parent access, and included on a postcard to place in the basket. A “positive parenting” slide show was prepared by our community partner as an education topic for pediatric parents, too. The May Day baskets also included a variety of activities for our clients and their families to enjoy together. These were personalized according to the pediatric clients’ interests, as assessed by the case manager and conversations held with family members. Items included were as follows: puzzles, bubbles, crafting paints, pinwheels, and other sensory stimulating activities. Clients and their families all felt supported by our efforts.

Originally, our fourth pediatric caregiver support group was planned for last Fall with a community partner and family counseling center, but the virtual event had to be canceled due to too many time

conflicts for families. At the time, the pandemic and school demands were making it difficult for parents to find time to participate.

Objective 2D: Provide school systems with background to assist students who have sustained a brain injury through in-service trainings. Target at least 15 teachers from each of the 9 districts, equaling a minimum of 135 educators over the 3 years. Our Science Advisory Committee identified the topic of substance abuse and brain injury as an essential component of this outreach.

During the 4th quarter, BICSV staff planned an outreach to the local school systems. Concussion awareness wallet cards were distributed to athletic directors. Local High Schools and Universities provided opportunities for in-person and outdoors outreach where our agency provided materials on concussion prevention. There were a total of 6 concussion awareness outreaches provided at these schools. Additionally, we shared concussion wallet cards and other prevention materials to the equestrian community at Rockbridge County's Virginia Horse Center. Notepads with concussion symptoms were printed then distributed to 150 educators in Page and Shenandoah Counties, along with asynchronous brain injury education training video and a post-training survey. The pandemic continues to challenge school and community outreach efforts, but we were innovative in our delivery of these items. Our agency, with the support of school administration, shared online videos and surveys and built mailers with the other printed educational items. We received positive feedback on this important outreach.

Objective 2E: BICSV will demonstrate collaborative community planning by serving as a conduit to connect the area hospitals with school nurses and administrators to increase the conversation regarding brain injury and concussion protocol.

Although the continuing pandemic has created real barriers to connect area hospitals and school nurses and administrators, BICSV continues to keep open communications with these key stakeholders. Currently, these institutions and their personnel remain overwhelmed by pandemic needs, mitigation management, response and service provision. Our agency has been asked to delay conversations until Summer of 2022.

Objective 2F: In year 2 and 3, the Ad Hoc Science Advisory Committee will develop informational brochures and a video for the school systems addressing brain injury and substance abuse, focusing opioids.

Objective achieved. The video was completed in summer 2019 and distributed to the area school systems as a resource, as well as distributed to the local CSB's. These videos are accessible on our website also and often used in local outreach efforts; virtual and in-person.

Pediatric Client Success Stories

The BICSV case manager has continued to support a male pediatric client who sustained a non-TBI as an infant. BICSV's Pediatric Case Manager successfully obtained funding through her Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT) requests for this particular client. As a result of these efforts, her client will receive the neurofeedback services recommended as therapy. The case manager, client and family have continued to participate in Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) meetings for this adolescent client also in order to reduce combative behaviors.

Additionally, the case manager was able to request funds via CCT for child psychiatric appointments for one her male adolescent clients. CCT funding supported a week-long stay at summer camp for one our clients also. Our pediatric case manager worked on other funding applications and was awarded resources to offset family costs for massage therapies which reduce spasticity for four other pediatric clients.

Another success to note is that the collaborative efforts made by BICSV, a pediatric client parent advocate and our local Delegate impacted legislative change. Because of our efforts to make changes to the Department of Education's definition of brain injury, brain injured children from across the Commonwealth, and previously ineligible for education services, will now be included to receive them as of July 1, 2021. BICSV is grateful to have active parents and local government partners who work alongside of our organization to improve the lives of those living with brain injury.