

*Services, Support, Successful Outcomes for New Yorkers with Brain Injury*

**\*\*\*FACT SHEET\*\*\***

**SERVICES FOR NEW YORKERS WITH BRAIN INJURY**

- March is Brain Injury Awareness Month, and the Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) is educating New Yorkers about how services support successful outcomes for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- BIANYS is also working to help New Yorkers understand how changes proposed by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) could lead to dramatic service cuts for these individuals.
- BIANYS has organized the first-ever Brain Injury Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Albany, to be held Wednesday, March 23.

***UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR BRAIN INJURY SERVICES***

- Serious falls, assaults, car accidents and other incidents result in TBI for thousands of New Yorkers every year, and the impact of TBI varies greatly from one person to the next.
- For many people, brain injury profoundly affects their physical and cognitive abilities and makes it extremely difficult or impossible to live their lives the way they did before the injury.
- Some with TBI also struggle with behavioral issues that make it difficult for them to function in day-to-day life.
- Services for New Yorkers with brain injury address the specific cognitive, social, and physical needs of these individuals.
  - Brain injury impacts an individual's ability to reintegrate into his or her family, community and employment or school.
  - Service coordinators, community integration counselors, independent living skills trainers and other service providers offer individualized structure, support and assistance to help individuals with brain injury live as independently as possible in their home communities.
- Behavioral challenges can have a significant impact on the ability of some individuals with brain injury to interact with others and conform to the rules and structure of our society.
  - Without services from trained professionals, these individuals may be unable to be productive, law-abiding members of their communities and are likely to face institutionalization, homelessness, or incarceration.

***NEW YORK STATE PLANS TO CHANGE THE WAY BRAIN INJURY SERVICES ARE PROVIDED***

- Many individuals with TBI currently receive services under two Medicaid waiver programs.
- DOH plans to end the waiver programs and place New Yorkers with brain injury in managed care programs that will not maintain the existing level and range of services.
- BIANYS and other advocates believe that these service cuts will be devastating to New Yorkers with brain injury and will result in more individuals with brain injury being served in institutional, rather than community-based settings – at much greater cost to taxpayers.