



DARS

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

*Supporting Virginians' efforts
to secure independence and employment*



Virginia Brain Injury Council New Member Orientation

We appreciate your time and service!

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- What is DARS?
- History of the Council

WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL?

- Role of VBIC
- Membership
- Committees
- Expectations of Members
- Quarterly Meeting Dates

QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION



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Welcome to the Virginia Brain Injury Council!

Please introduce yourself



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What is DARS?

- Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
 - Lead Agency for Disability, including Brain Injury, in Virginia
- Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Centers for Independent Living
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Other smaller departments related to disability and aging



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Virginia Brain Injury Council

- Statewide Advisory Council
- The Virginia Brain Injury Council was created in 1986, one of the first in the Country
- More detailed history is provided in the attachment entitled "History of the Virginia Brain Injury Council"
- The mission of the Council is to promote accessible, affordable, and appropriate services for Virginians with brain injury and their families by advising DARS



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Current Role

Identify Priorities

- The Council identifies annual priorities related to brain injury and shares those with the DARS Commissioner

Make Funding Recommendations

- The General Assembly requires DARS to consider the recommendations of the Council when allocating new funds for brain injury services

Advise on a Federal Brain Injury Grant

- The Council serves as an advisory board for Virginia's federal Traumatic Brain Injury grant

Advise on State Plan

- Council provides input on Virginia's State Plan for Brain Injury Services



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Federal TBI State Partnership Program Grant

Authorized by the Federal TBI Act in 1996

- First “Implementation Program” grants distributed in 1998
- Virginia was one of the first

Administration for Community Living

Purpose is to help states increase access to services/supports for individuals with TBI throughout the lifetime. Funded states are expected to:

- Expand/improve state and local capacity so individuals with TBI have better access to appropriate services
- Systems change activities
- These federal funds do not provide “direct service”



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A Comprehensive and Coordinated Entry into Services and Supports (ACCESS)

Current Grant Cycle → 2021 through 2026

- 5 grant goals

Advisory Board

- Council serves as advisory board to Virginia's TBI State Partnership Program grant; no oversight



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Current Grant Goals

1

- Effective treatment for individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and co-occurring behavioral health & substance use disorder

2

- Supports for caregivers of individuals with TBI

3

- Increased access to and the ability to engage with culturally relevant brain injury specific programs and community-based resources (Years 1-3)

4

- The work of the Virginia Brain Injury Council will reflect the input of individuals living with TBI

5

- Service development driven by accurate data and progress measured through data-based evaluation (Years 4-5)



Review of Orientation Manual



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3 Membership Categories

At-Large Voting Members

- At least 50% of the Council is made up of individuals living with brain injury
- At-Large Voting Members serve in a voluntary capacity

Agency Representative Voting Members

- Required by the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Play critical roles in providing, funding, or advocating for services

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

- Include state agencies that frequently serve individuals with brain injuries and their families
- Have an important role in improving coordination and access to services



At-Large Voting Members

Individuals Living with Brain Injury (14)

- Provide crucial first-hand perspectives of the needs of individuals with brain injury and their experiences navigating or receiving services

Family Members or Caregivers (3)

- At least 1 is required by the U.S. Administration for Community Living

Public/Non-profit Private Health Related Organization (2)

- Have an important role in improving coordination and access to services



At-Large Voting Members

Submit an application for appointment

- The Nominating Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations to the DARS' Commissioner
- DARS' Commissioner makes formal appointments

Term on Council

- 4 Year Term
- Eligible to serve an additional consecutive term



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The Council is committed to the full participation of individuals living with brain injury and their family members/caregivers:

- Provide another “voice” for Virginians living with brain injury and their families/caregivers
- Bring valuable perspectives to the Council’s work – a “real life” view that balances that of professionals



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Agency Representative Voting Members

One Representative from Each of the Following Entities:

Virginia Department of
Health (VDH)
Representative

Centers for Independent
Living (CIL) or State
Independent Living
Council (SILC)
Representative

Aging & Disability
Resource Center (ADRC)
or Area Agency on Aging
(AAA) Representative

disAbility Law Center
(dLCV) Representative

State Long-Term Care
(LTC) Ombudsman
Representative

Virginia Commonwealth
University TBI Model
Systems of Care

Brain Injury Association
of Virginia (BIAV)

Virginia Alliance of Brain
Injury Services Providers
(VABISP)



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Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

One Representative from Each of the Following Entities:

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD)

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC)

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

Virginia Department of Veteran's Services (DVS)



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Council Officer Positions

At-Large and Agency Representative Voting Members can be elected to hold the following officer positions:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Immediate Past Chair
- Family Ombudsman



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Staffing

The Council is staffed by the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Brain Injury Services Unit



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Member Expectations

Attend quarterly meetings

- Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. Council members shall confirm attendance in advance
- At least 2 meetings per year are held in person

Be prepared to participate

- Meeting materials are sent out 10 days before each meeting
- Council members should review meeting materials prior to meetings

Participate on Committees

- Council members are encouraged to participate in at least one committee
- Committees meet virtually outside of the Council quarterly meetings



Council Conduct

Civil interactions at all times

- Allow others to speak
- Do not interrupt others

One focus at a time

- Discussion before action

Public Meetings

- All Council meetings (including committees) are public.



Modified Roberts Rules of Order

- Motions
- Seconds
- Voting
- Abstaining
- Points of Order



Quarterly Council Meetings

- Meetings are held from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of January, April, July, and October
- Public comment period is held during every meeting
- DARS Commissioner and DARS Brain Injury Director Updates
- Committee Activity Reports
- Educational Opportunities
- Federal Grant Updates



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OPTIONAL: Join a Committee

Priorities

- Prepare the Council's annual "Priorities Letter" for Council consideration (and adoption) to send to the DARS Commissioner

Nominating

- Establish the membership application process
- Solicit nominees to fill Officer positions
- Solicit nominees to fill At-Large Voting Member positions
- Prepare membership recommendations for potential appointment by the DARS Commissioner

Funds Dissemination

- During years that the General Assembly allocates new funding for **state-funded brain injury services**, this committee reviews budget amendment language and makes recommendations to the DARS Commissioner on dissemination of the funds

Ad-Hoc: Orientation Planning

- Update and redesign the on-boarding process for new members

Other committees may be formed as needed



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Committees

- All committee work is done virtually
- Each committee elects a chair
- Minutes are kept
- Committees report at the quarterly council meetings



Quarterly Council Meetings

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Virtual

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

*In-Person, This meeting is often held at an off-site location.
Further details will be provided as they become available.*

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Virtual

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

DARS Central Office



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Accommodations

If you need accommodations or assistance to participate on Council or on Committees, contact DARS staff:

- Donna Cantrell, MEd, DARS Brain Injury Services Unit
- Voice or Text: 804-662-7069
- Email: donna.cantrell@dars.virginia.gov or vbic@dars.virginia.gov



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What's the Difference?

VBIC, VABISP, BIAV

**NO
LOBBYING!**

- Virginia Brain Injury Council (VBIC)

LOBBYING

- Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers (VABISP or the Alliance)

LOBBYING

- Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV or the Association)

Lobbying is defined as “a form of [advocacy](#), which lawfully attempts to directly influence [legislators](#) or government officials, such as [regulatory agencies](#) or [judiciary](#).” (Wikipedia)



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STATE-FUNDED SERVICES

- With funding allocated by the General Assembly, DARS supports a network of entities that provide brain injury services across Virginia
- Virginia currently has 8 service providers:
 - Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley
 - Brain Injury Services, Inc.
 - Brain Injury Solutions (formerly Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia)
 - Community Brain Injury Services, Inc.
 - Eggleston Services, Inc.
 - No Limits Eastern Shore
 - The BridgeLine
 - SupportWorks Housing (formerly Virginia Supportive Housing)
- Virginia has 1 provider for statewide resource coordination
 - Brain Injury Association of Virginia



STATE-FUNDED SERVICE MAP

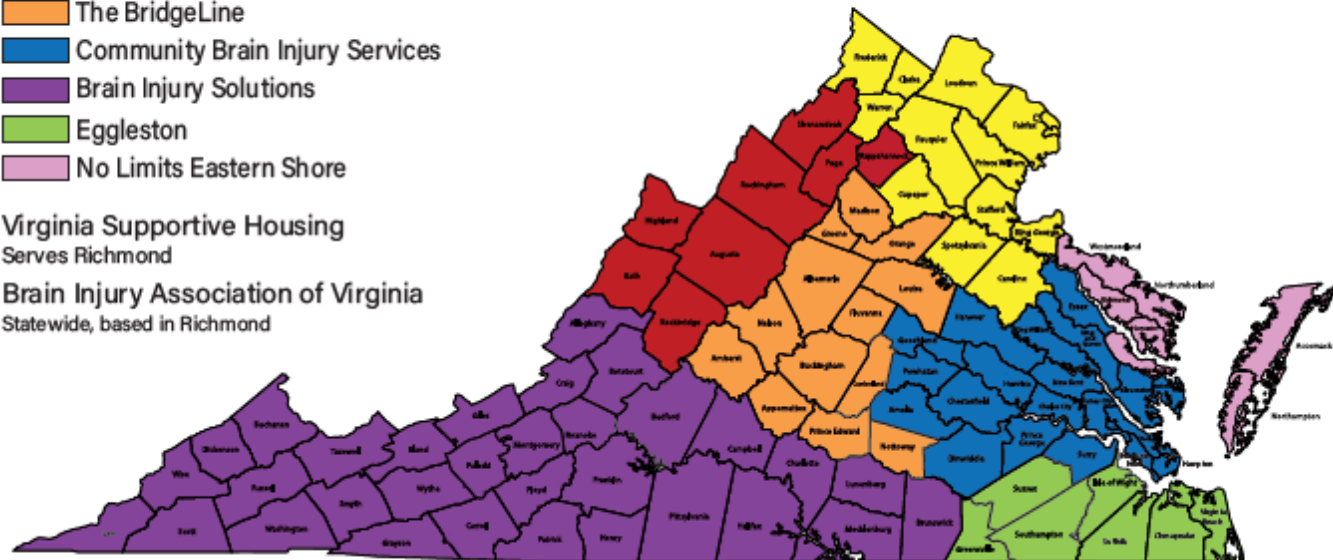
Virginia State Funded Brain Injury Organizations and Their Service Areas



- Brain Injury Services
- Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley
- The BridgeLine
- Community Brain Injury Services
- Brain Injury Solutions
- Eggleston
- No Limits Eastern Shore

Virginia Supportive Housing
Serves Richmond

Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Statewide, based in Richmond



This project is supported [in part] through state general funds (Contract #16-002A) administered by the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).



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FIND SERVICES

To find services or resources in Virginia:

- Contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV)
- By Phone: 804-355-5748
- Toll-Free Help Line: 800-444-6443
- By Email: info@biav.net
- Online <http://www.biav.net>



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QUESTIONS? DISCUSSION?



Thank you for serving on the Council!



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