



Utah Traumatic Spinal Cord (SCI) and Brain Injury (TBI) Rehabilitation Fund SFY2014 Report (10/7/13 to 6/30/14)

Section 26-54: FY2014 Legislative Report

The SCI/TBI Rehabilitation has made a positive impact on clients' lives.

A total of 36 TBI and SCI clients received 488 physical, occupational, or speech therapy visits, resulting in the following outcomes for clients:

- 69% Returned to work and/or school. One client received only \$600 of speech therapy services through the SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund and was able to return to work; if they Fund didn't exist, he would still be unemployed.
- 78% Demonstrated improved quality of life.
- 89% Demonstrated improvement in ambulation with or without assistive devices.
- Collective client group exceeded 5 of the 7 preset goals for the group.

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Walter was struck by a car while walking to school in March 2013. He suffered multiple fractures and a significant brain injury.

Thanks to the SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund, he is now walking with assistance, communicating appropriately, and even joking with his family and therapists.

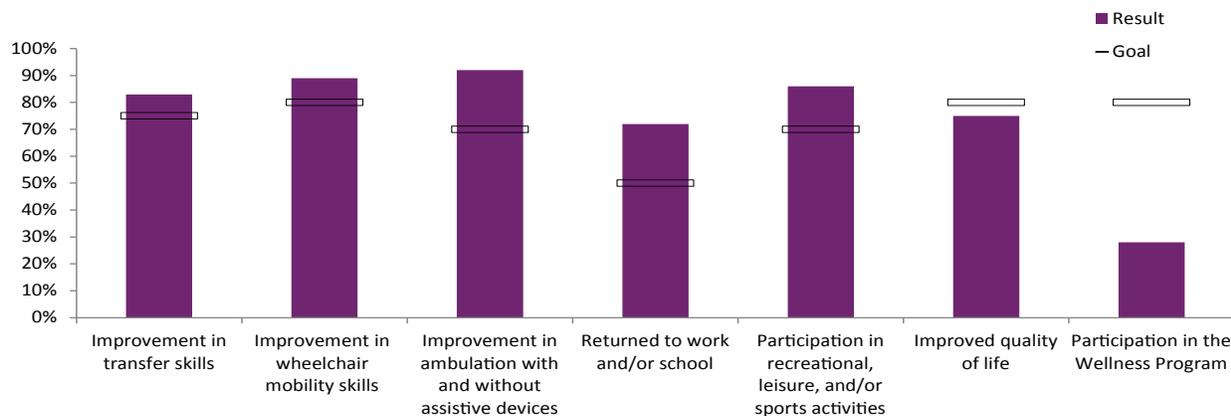
When Walter was able to return to school, his principal recognized him in a school-wide assembly with the inaugural 'Hunter High Students Never Quit Award.'

–Walter P., age 17,
West Valley City, Utah

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SFY14 SCI and TBI Rehabilitation Fund Group Goals and Results:
Percentage of Patients Achieving Goal



Accomplishments

Five year contracts were prepared and awarded to Neuroworx and the University of Utah Sugarhouse Clinic. Standardized outcome measures were negotiated with each contractor. Each contractor received \$100,000 for services and \$50,000 for approved equipment purchases in SFY14. Contracts were finalized in October 2013 and clients are currently being seen.

In addition to the accomplishments listed on the front page, in SFY14:

- 100% of eligible clients received a 90 day evaluation.
- 85% of clients participated in recreational, leisure, and/or sports activities.
- 53 presentations were held, reaching 532 professionals and members of the community to educate and train on SCI, TBI, and the SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund.

“ Sheri W., a former truck driver who owned her own trucking company, sustained a high-level spinal cord injury from a car crash, resulting in the loss of the ability to use her hands and legs. The crash also left her uninsured, unemployed, and unable to drive.

Fortunately, she was able to find funding through the SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund for a driving evaluation and extensive adaptive driving training with a certified occupational therapist.

Now, Sheri is certified by the DMV to drive her personal vehicle and attends work and SCI wellness and recreation activities daily.

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Needs and Concerns Documented by Contractors

- Outreach efforts have been limited to local organizations and referral sources.
- More education and awareness about the SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund services is needed among providers outside the Wasatch Front.
- A great deal of time is spent to identify additional potential funding sources and assuring the Fund is the payor of last resort.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee met four times during the SFY and conducted business according to the Open and Public Meetings Act. Minutes were posted at <http://pmn.utah.gov>. Reports from the contractors were received and reviewed with the Committee.

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Eric experienced a spinal cord injury and substantial paralysis from the waist down after a 30 foot fall. He spent hours in strenuous rehabilitation, and thanks to the SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund, is now able to stand and walk with the aid of leg braces and a walker.

Eric is a living example that consistent and aggressive therapy can greatly benefit those on the difficult journey with paralysis.

–Eric S., age 43,
West Jordan, Utah ”



“ Brandon W. sustained a TBI after being involved in an auto-pedestrian accident. The SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund paid for speech and occupational therapy, allowing Brandon to return to work as an independent contractor and producer in the music and concert industry.

Orlando W. fell from a ladder while putting up Christmas lights in 2013. The SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund made it possible for Orlando to continue working with his physical therapist after losing his insurance. He can now walk independently with a walker and long leg braces, which has greatly improved his mental health and well-being.

David F. suffered a TBI while skiing and lost his ability to move his left arm. Since David worked a seasonal winter job and was a student at UVU in the summer, he was not insured. The SCI/TBI Rehabilitation funding allowed him to access occupational, physical, and speech therapy. David has since returned to school and work and has regained most of his strength. ”

Overview

An average of 140 Utahns suffer a spinal cord injury (SCI) each year. In addition, every day in Utah, 54 people visit an emergency room and 8 people are hospitalized or die from a traumatic brain injury (TBI). The causes of SCIs and TBIs are similar with falls and motor vehicle crashes accounting for the majority of injuries. Older adults are most likely to suffer from a SCI or TBI than other age groups.

The SCI/TBI Rehabilitation Fund was established during the 2012 Utah Legislative Session (Section 26-54) as a restricted special revenue fund that consists of gifts, grants, donations, etc. that may be made to the fund from private sources; a portion (\$20) of the impound fee as designated in Section 41-6a-1406; and amounts as appropriated by the Legislature. The fund shall be administered by the executive director of the Department of Health in consultation with the advisory committee. Funds shall be used to assist “qualified IRC 501(c)(3) charitable clinics” to provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy; and equipment necessary for daily living activities for people with spinal cord and brain injuries.

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Our Mission...

VIPP is a trusted and comprehensive resource for data and technical assistance related to violence and injury. This information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.

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