

Brain Injury Association of Connecticut operating grant Testimony

My name is Craig Sears; I am a person with a traumatic brain injury speaking up. In an effort to advocate for myself and all of US with ABI/TBI here in the State of Connecticut as a survivor of a brain injury my journey made me all-too familiar with the difficulties of individuals and families working through this arbitrary system of care!

In CT there is a large contingency of people who have struggled with the effects of brain injury it is random from school district to school district and completely haphazard from one doctor's office to the next.

In the 1990s I became a spokesman for the Connecticut Brain Injury Association, advocating for Connecticut's Acquired Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver, implemented in 1999. This waiver allows the state to permit organizations to provide non-medical services to people with TBI enabling them to live in the community outside of nursing homes and institutions.

BIAC has been contracted by state government since 1984 to provide essential services which the state government cannot provide, including resource facilitation, information, telephone support and outreach. There is no one else in the state of CT that does what, BIAC does. There is nowhere else to go.

BIAC saves the state money each day through fewer institutionalizations, ER visits, incarcerations and by helping to reduce rates of recidivism. Despite huge increases in need,

BIAC has continually provided its services with dwindling resources. Shared sacrifice is important; however total elimination of this funding will severely curtail BIAC's ability to respond to the needs of the community while costing the state money.

If you are questioned about any specifics regarding our funding, simply ask them to refer the question to the Executive Director of BIAC.

Julie Peters, CBIS Executive Director Brain Injury Association of CT | 200 Day Hill Road, Suite 250, Windsor, CT 06095 | 860-219-0291 www.biact.org

Please see below for my TBI story this will tell you why we need The Brain Injury Association of CT etc! If you need more let me Know. Please help me get this message to the Governor's office and feel free to pass it on to anyone

I'm posting online some of my experiences as a survivor of a traumatic brain injury. It is to show the way the States - United States is not dealing with brain injury and the human cost associated with this neglect.

Thank you,
