



Strategic Plan Goal / Objective 1.3 Ideas

Pacific Disabilities Center / Hawaii Neurotrauma Registry Project

1. How can we identify which disability/ health care providers have the greatest need for increasing awareness and knowledge of neurotrauma?

Who interacts most often with persons with neurotrauma injuries?

1. Medical professionals – doctors, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, etc.

- Those whose background and / or work are in neurotrauma – no need to focus on them
- Those who do not have a background or work in neurotrauma but still see persons with these injuries
- Neighbor island general practitioners and internists who see these patients since there are few / no specialists

1. How can we identify which disability/ health care providers have the greatest need for increasing awareness and knowledge of neurotrauma?

Who interacts most often with persons with neurotrauma injuries?

2. Non-medical professionals

- Social workers, case managers, navigators
- Domestic violence advocates
- Those who work with persons who are homeless
- Legal professionals – judges, attorneys, etc.
- Legislators

Who else? Need to prioritize the list we come up with.

2. What type of information should be provided to this/these providers?

- It depends upon what the ultimate goal is: Increase awareness and knowledge of neurotrauma identification – because why?
- Some of it depends upon if they are medical professionals or not
- For example, during HNTR presentations with some non-medical professionals, we:
 - bring attention to the possible links between domestic violence, homelessness, and military service and TBI
 - identify possible causes, signs and symptoms of TBI, key points to be aware of, etc.
 - list concrete things they can do

3. How will we know if we were successful in increasing providers' awareness and knowledge in these areas?

- How we answer this will depend somewhat upon what we decide our goals are in increasing awareness and knowledge
- Pretests given before presentations, and posttests given after presentations
- Checking with presentation attendees at 6 months and 12 months to see what (if anything) they are doing differently after the presentation
- Watching to see if there is any more media attention – newspaper articles, TV segments, etc.

However -

If one of the goals is to increase the number of persons who receive treatment for neurotrauma injuries, that will be an issue given that there are nowhere near enough specialists, especially on Neighbor Islands.

One long-term idea regarding workforce development is to find donors who will pay for a medical school student's tuition and books if they attend the John A. Burns School of Medicine and specialize in neurotrauma. Students perform their internships on Neighbor Islands.

They “pay back” the financial aid by agreeing to practice on a Neighbor Island for a set amount of time (e.g., at least 5 years.)