A Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) may be caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. TBI can impact anyone of all age groups, cultures and races at any time, in any geographical area of the state. TBI planning, coordination, and service delivery must address broad needs across the life span. In Washington State, it is estimated that at least 30,000 individuals sustain a TBI each year. Conservative estimates indicate that 145,000 people in Washington State live with a long-term disability as a result of TBI. **The Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Strategic Partnership Advisory Council** (TBI Council) and the **Department of Social and Health Services** have collaborated to develop recommendations to address the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injuries, which are:

1. Continue with the foundational activities outlined in Chapter 74.31 RCW: Information & Referral, Public Awareness, TBI-related Support Groups and activities of the Council;
2. Build provider capacity through training and education of the medical community, insurance providers, housing and supportive service providers, schools and employers;
3. Improve coordination of policies, programs, and services;
4. Establish partnership agreements with the private sector, state agencies, schools, tribal governments, federal government and others to develop integrated services; and
5. Address other areas of focus including systemic reform and self-advocacy.

Chapter 74.31 RCW, also known as the Tommy Manning Act, addresses issues related to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). When it was enacted in 2007, the statute recognized that programs and services were not funded or designed to address the diverse needs of individuals with TBI. Over the last ten years, the TBI Council has helped fund the following programs and services.

Information and Referral Services:

* 24,000+ individuals and families served through the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington Resource Center.
* 17,000+ veterans and their families received information on TBI through Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.
* 75 active members at Seattle Brainworks, and is open 225 days per year.

TBI Support Groups:

* 76 TBI Support Groups with thousands of participants across Washington.
* 122 TBI Support Group Facilitators trained across Washington.

Public Awareness:

* Over 800 participants in two TBI Conferences.
* Sponsored 300 scholarships.
* Sponsored two FREE Eastern Washington TBI symposiums, for 100 TBI survivors and caregivers.

The future of the Traumatic Brain Injury Council will focus on touching as many Washingtonians as possible with:

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| * Targeted public awareness
 | * Prevention programs for all ages
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| * Outreach to underserved rural areas
 | * Transitional support for survivors/families
 |
| * Effective screening and intervention in youth sports
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