

INOVA Commonwealth Care and Brain Injury Services Partner to Develop Model Nursing Home Program

Brain Injury Services is proud to announce that they have been awarded a three year grant through the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund. The purpose of this project is to develop a collaborative model brain injury person-centered program designed to maximize rehabilitation gains and quality of life for younger adults living in nursing homes. INOVA Commonwealth Care Center, through their innovative and patient-directed care philosophy, is one of three partners with BIS in implementing this grant. Another major partner is Dr. Alec Lebedun, a psychologist specializing in working with individuals with brain injuries and neurobehavioral issues. INOVA and its' staff have committed to developing a specialized unit for younger adults with brain injuries.

In 1997, the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative was established through the strong support of the late Senator Emily Couric but with no mechanism set into place for funds. In 1998, the General Assembly passed an amendment establishing a source of revenue for the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Fund which included a special nonreverting fund in the state treasury consisting of funds collected through a reinstatement fee charged before restoring an operator's license to any person whose driver's license has been revoked or suspended upon conviction for specified dangerous driving offenses.

The Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund is administered by a governor-appointed Advisory Board; funds are available to Virginia-based organizations, institutions and researchers to address the needs of people with acquired neurotrauma. Through a grant application process, the Advisory Board disburses CNI funds for both research and community-based projects.

BIS received one of the first CNI grants which contributed to the development of the Model Program for community-based brain injury case management for children and adolescents. This enabled the organization to demonstrate the need and success of the model which was then funded through a State Budget Amendment passed in the General Assembly in 2004.