Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC):
Supporting The Troops To Achieve Success In The Community College System

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(Poster Session Content)
Introduction:

- While there are systems in place to assist veterans and their families in paying community college tuitions, additional support on campus is needed to ensure their successful transition from deployment to the classroom.

- Many of our brave men and women who have served our country have sustained physical, psychological and/or spiritual injuries. DVBIC, governmental, and civilian partners are coming together to support the troops who have sustained traumatic brain injuries achieve success in the community college system.
The brain is the body’s most complex organ. It controls our physical movement and perceptions, stores our memories, and regulates our behaviors, thoughts and emotion.

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the result of a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI.

Often identified as the signature injury of the recent conflicts.
Traumatic Brain Injury:

- The severity of such an injury may range from “mild” - a brief change in mental status or consciousness - to “severe,” an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury. The terms "concussion" and "mild TBI" (mTBI) are interchangeable.

- Most TBIs are mild, and those who sustain them usually recover completely within 1 to 3 months. However, sometimes symptoms persist and help is available.
The DVBIC Mission

- To serve active duty military, their beneficiaries, and veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) through state-of-the-art clinical care, innovative clinical research initiatives and educational programs.

- DVBIC fulfills this mission through ongoing collaboration with military, VA and civilian health partners, local communities, families and individuals with TBI.
Who We Are

- In 1992, Congress created the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) - originally known as the Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program (DVHIP) - during the Persian Gulf War to integrate specialized TBI care, research and education across military and veteran medical care systems.

- A multi-site medical care, clinical research and education network.
Who We Are

- A unique collaboration between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare systems. Funded through the DoD.

- The primary TBI operational component of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE).
VHA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center

Sites

Minneapolis VAMC

Richmond VAMC

Palo Alto VAMC

Tampa VAMC
What We Do

- Develop and provide advanced TBI-specific evaluation, treatment and follow-up care for military personnel, their beneficiaries, and veterans with mild to severe TBIs.

- Conduct clinical research that defines optimal care and treatment for individuals with TBI.

- Develop and deliver effective educational materials and programming for the prevention, assessment and treatment of TBI including the management of its continuing effects.
What We Do

- Offer a number of free education products through our website to providers caring for service members or veterans who have sustained a TBI.

Please visit: www.dvbic.org. Under the Providers section you’ll find DVBIC Educational Materials.
Achievements

- DVBIC has been designated as the primary TBI subject matter experts (SMEs) for the DoD and VA. DVBIC neuroscientists and researchers have helped to establish the clinical standards and guidelines for care of service members and veterans with traumatic brain injury.

- DVBIC research and systems have been recognized by the Institute of Medicine, RAND Corporation, and NATO allies.
Achievements

Launched Regional Care Coordination Program Nov 2007

- Conduct follow-up of SMs symptomatic subsequent to TBI diagnosis and monitor functional outcomes at regular intervals to document quality of life issues related to home, work and social environments.

- Monitor TBI care to include rehab needs, education and advocacy.

- Provide support for SMs and families from injury to return to duty and/or community re-entry.

- Identify and connect SMs to regional care and TBI resources within DoD, VA and civilian communities.

- Assist in providing TBI-specific education, resources and support to other case management / care coordination programs.

- Identify barriers to service delivery, and gaps in availability of local TBI care as SMs transition between systems and settings.
Achievements

- Designated Regional Educational Coordinators in 2007 to further the mission to provide a comprehensive program of education on the prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injury for: Service Members, Veterans, Families, Clinical Providers, Commanders, and Community Partners.
Regional Education Coordinators

- How Your Regional Education Coordinator Can Support Your Efforts:
  - Provide education about TBI and strategies to promote academic success.
  - Coordinate educational presentations on campus and participate as exhibitors during outreach events.
  - Identify specific printed materials and online resources to support your efforts!
ONLINE RESOURCES
Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC): www.dvbic.org

- DVBIC Network Interactive Map of Education & Care Coordination
- TBI Surveillance
- Research
- Provider Information
- Friends and Family
- TBI Basics
Brainline (WETA): www.brainline.org

- Webcasts, Podcasts, Interviews
  - Substance Abuse and TBI
  - Caregiving and TBI: “What You Need to Know”
  - After the Injury: “Acute Care and TBI”
  - Concussion: “Understanding Mild TBI”

- Social Networking, Ask the Expert, Authoritative Articles, Book Excerpts, Daily updates
The Center of Excellence for Medical Multimedia

www.traumaticbraininjuryAtoZ.org

- Interactive brain
- TBI Overview – Levels of Severity
- Survivor Stories
- Family Caregiver Curriculum
Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)

www.dcoe.health.mil

- Information for Warriors, Families, and Health Professionals on psychological health and traumatic brain injury.
Additional Resources:

- After Deployment [http://afterdeployment.org](http://afterdeployment.org)
- America's Heroes at Work [www.americasheroesatwork.gov](http://www.americasheroesatwork.gov)
- Brain Injury Association of America [www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)
- Center for Deployment Psychology [www.deploymentpsych.org](http://www.deploymentpsych.org)
- Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress [www.centerforthestudyoftraumaticstress.org](http://www.centerforthestudyoftraumaticstress.org)
- Deployment Health Clinical Center [www.pdhealth.mil](http://www.pdhealth.mil)
- Student Veterans of America (SVA): Military to College Guide: “Navigating the Transition from Deployment to College” [www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org)
Thank you!
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