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http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/brain_injury.asp

October 4, 2019

To: Individuals who work with Iowans who have sustained possible brain injury

From: Michael J. Hall, Ph.D., Chair, Advisory Council on Brain Injuries

Re: Lifetime History of Traumatic Brain Injury and other Acquired Brain Injury Screening

Brain injury is a leading cause of both death and disability in the United States and Iowa. While awareness of brain injury has increased, many survivors continue to go unidentified and untreated. A sizable minority of those individuals with a history of brain injury, whether they have or have not been identified by medical professionals, experience problems in major aspects of living.

Brain injury can result in cognitive, behavioral and/or physical problems, and those who have experienced a brain injury are at greater risk for multi-occurring mental health issues, substance abuse problems, problems with employment including inability to work, involvement in the criminal justice system, and homelessness. Thus, it is critical to attempt to identify individuals who have suffered brain injury so appropriate services can be provided.

Therefore, the Governor's Advisory Council on Brain Injury, in collaboration with key stakeholders, adapted a single page brain injury screening tool (*Lifetime History of Traumatic Brain Injury and other Acquired Brain Injury*) for professionals from diverse backgrounds to help with screening. It is important to note that this is a screening measure and should not be used for diagnosis of brain injury or determination of eligibility for services. Rather, this tool is meant to provide a starting point to help assure we identify those who have experienced brain injury and may be in need of help. The measure conforms to the different types of brain injury identified in Iowa Administrative Code.

When an individual screens positive for a potential brain injury, referral for a more in-depth assessment is recommended. Also, individuals who are experiencing lasting problems from brain injury and their loved ones are encouraged to utilize resources available through the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa, a non-profit agency that partners with the State of Iowa (www.biaia.org; 855 444-6443). A copy of this screening measures along with instructions can be accessed on the Iowa Department of Public Health's brain injury services website (<http://idph.iowa.gov/brain-injuries>) or by contacting Mr. Jim Pender at 515 725-7519 or james.pender@idph.iowa.gov

MISSION OF THE COUNCIL

Study the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families • Promote and implement injury prevention strategies • Make recommendations regarding the planning, development, and administration of a comprehensive statewide service delivery system.