

## ***The Minnesota Educational TBI Network: Historical Background & Current Framework***

### **Purpose**

The Statewide TBI Educational Network is a representative network that was created in 2000 to bring individuals together who share a common goal of meeting the needs of children and youth with traumatic brain injury and their families. Toward this end, Network members address the issues of regional and state training, dissemination of/access to materials and resources, and special project development. Additionally, the Network serves as a link between regional teams and the statewide TBI specialist in an endeavor to identify local issues, training needs, and available resources. Educational regions throughout the State identify TBI specialists to serve as representatives on the Network, and are joined by other stakeholders, such as representatives from the Brain Injury Association of MN, rehabilitation and hospital programs, state and local agencies, parents, and advocacy organizations.

### **Framework**

- Meetings held twice a year, first Mondays in November and March (although Network committees meet throughout the year to work on projects/activities)
- Full day meetings; agendas electronically sent 1 month prior to meeting
- Electronic registration; no cost to members
- ½ day devoted to training opportunities, i.e. speaker/topic of interest, identified through annual surveys
- ½ day devoted to business meeting and committee work on various initiatives (additional committee meeting time is done outside the semi-annual Network meetings, based on need)
- Meetings facilitated by Statewide TBI Specialist

### **Member Responsibilities**

Networking activities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Members serve as regional representatives regarding the dissemination of TBI materials, resources, and training to school staff, families, and other community agencies within their respective regions.
- Serve as a regional point of contact for the state TBI specialist as regional issues/training needs arise.
- Participate in and/or conduct periodic training activities and regional/state conference activities, in collaboration with the MN Low Incidence Projects, the Brain Injury Association of MN, and other agencies.
- Participate in other TBI-related activities as needed, i.e. special projects, development of resource materials, trainings, input with grant writing proposals, TBI manual updates, etc.

### **Funding**

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