



8/3/10

I am pleased to introduce you to the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Trust Fund which was established to improve the lives of Colorado residents who have survived traumatic brain injuries. Title 26, Article I, Part 3 of the Colorado Revised Statutes created the TBI Trust Fund (Trust Fund) to finance program activities, and the TBI Board to advise the Director on the operations of the Trust Fund. The Trust Fund revenue is generated through surcharges on certain traffic offenses including DUI/DWAI (\$20), speeding (\$15) and recently, juvenile helmet law infractions (\$10); our 2009-2010 operating budget was nearly \$3 million. The Trust Fund supports three programs to benefit the TBI community—services for persons with TBIs, research and education. By statute, no less than 55 percent of our budget funds services, no less than 25 percent goes to support research and no less than five percent goes to educational initiatives.

Our board members are appointed by the Governor and each application is carefully vetted by the State of Colorado Office of Boards and Commissions. Once nominated by the Governor, candidates are confirmed in a State Senate hearing and receive a three year appointment (and a maximum of two terms) to the Trust Fund Board. Last year, the General Assembly amended the statute to give us the flexibility to recruit and select candidates who offer expertise in any area relevant to TBI. We feel very strongly that the board reflects the diversity of TBI stakeholders: from survivors and family members to providers and researchers. We are also committed to building diversity in other areas including gender, ethnicity and disability status.

Our board meets monthly on the third Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Meetings are usually held at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) building at 1575 Sherman Street in Denver. Of note, ours is a working board. Board members are expected to attend meetings regularly and participate on at least one subcommittee (education, services, research and futures). Subcommittee meetings are scheduled in addition to the full board meetings and typically happen monthly. Because we value the time and participation of our members, lunches are provided, parking is reimbursable and meetings are scheduled in advance for the entire year. There are additional, though intangible benefits as well. I feel rewarded to be in the company of such an esteemed panel of experts and have been gratified by the collegial relationships we share.

For more information about the TBI Program or the Trust Fund Board, please visit www.tbicolorado.org. If you are interested in serving on our board, please contact me or our TBI Program Director, Judy Dettmer or Program Assistant, Regina Rodriguez. From there, application materials for the board position can be found at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1216893915555> (click on the 'Apply for a State Board or Commission' link). Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our programming and your commitment to meet the needs of the TBI community in Colorado.

Warm regards,

Kim Gorgens

Kim A. Gorgens, Ph.D.
Chair, TBI Trust Fund Board
University of Denver
2450 South Vine Street
Denver, CO 80208
303-871-4160 (Fax 303-871-4220)
kgorgens@du.edu

Judy L. Dettmer
Director, Traumatic Brain Injury Program
Colorado Department of Human Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
303-866-4085
judy.dettmer@state.co.us

Regina M. Rodriguez
Program Assistant II
Traumatic Brain Injury Program
Colorado Department of Human Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
303.866.4779 Phone
303.866.4905 Fax
regina.rodriguez@state.co.us