

## FY 2026 Council Priority Thoughts:

**1: Data from current Commonwealth investments in brain injury services.** Council requests updated data from services being delivered around the state using state dollars. Council requests that DARS, BIAV, and VABISP share their recently developed task force work and recommendations around output and outcomes of state funded services. VBIC would seek to use this data to identify additional needs across the Commonwealth for services.

**2. Increased Neurobehavioral Services and/or Medicaid Waiver funding for services for people living with brain injury.**

Persons with brain injury continue to lack in-state intensive neurobehavioral service options, resulting in persons being sent out of state for services and/or being served in a variety of inappropriate placements including in our state hospital system, nursing homes, jail/prison systems and not being served at all. BIAV and VABISP have proposed a 1115 demonstration Medicaid waiver for the Commonwealth that includes access to intensive neurobehavioral services with appropriate step down-transitional services to allow individuals to return to community living as a potential solution. BIAV and VABISP also had significant concerns regarding the previously proposed full brain injury waiver whose regulations would create significant disruptions and threats to our state funded service system and whose price tag makes it unrealistic for being funded.

**3. Cognitive Rehabilitation Bill:** Several states have passed mandated insurance coverage for cognitive rehabilitation services. BIAA is currently encouraging and working with states to get similar bills passed in state's lacking these services and has developed model bill language to facilitate states in pursuing this. BIAA has reached out to VABISP and BIAV about this legislation. A recommendation here could involve inviting BIAA to a Council meeting to learn about the Cog Rehab bills impact and benefits to citizens and encouraging advocates to pursue legislation in the 2026 session.

: