

Florida Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program
(BSCIP) and Paralyzed Veterans of America
Partnership
Task Force Initiative
June 15, 2010

The
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
Ramond Bruce, National Service Officer
Ken Weas, National Director, CFPVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

- Founded in 1946, the PVA is a nonprofit organization chartered by the United States Congress and dedicated to serving the needs of our members—all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury or disease.
- Since our founding, our programs and activities have expanded dramatically in size and scope to meet the needs of paralyzed veterans and all other Americans with disabilities such as a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

- PVA National Service Officers (NSO) are located at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Offices and VA Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) centers across the country as well as Puerto Rico. They are professionally trained in VA law and benefits, which enables them to assist veterans and their families in obtaining monetary VA entitlements and benefits and medical care services. PVA has generated millions of dollars in retroactive awards and benefits for its members and other veterans.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) In Florida

- PVA National Service Officers (NSO) are located at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Office, St. Petersburg, FL
- VA Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Centers are in Tampa and Miami
- VA SCI Clinics are at Bay Pines, Ft. Myers, Daytona Beach, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Lake City, Orlando, Pensacola and Viera and are covered by NSO's from the Orlando and St. Petersburg Offices

BSCIP and PVA Partnership

- To develop an immediate, automatic system to educate the BSCIP Case Workers and Social Workers at the 29 Designated Facilities (DF) to inform the veterans of the VA health care, benefits and entitlement programs available to them.
- To include the info in the admissions process when a newly injured SCI/D veteran's request has been submitted from one of the States 29 DFs to a VA SCI Center.
- To ensure the VA SCI Centers are supporting referrals of these veterans from the Case Workers and Social Workers.

How To

- **Add a field** to the Brain & SCI Registry Form to identify a newly injured veteran with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or a Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)
- **Train the** BSCIP Case Workers and the Social Workers to immediately contact the PVA to discuss the veteran's VA health care, benefits and entitlements programs
- **Train the** VA SCI Center staff (Social Workers) on how to process a referral when they receive a newly injured veteran identified by the BSCI Case Workers or Social Workers
- **PVA will ensure** the VA SCI Centers are supporting and receiving the referral veterans from the BSCIP Case Workers and Social Workers

Florida Department of Health
Brain and SCI Program
Headquarters – Tallahassee
29 Designated Facilities
5 Regions

- **Region 1** – Jacksonville / Pensacola / Gainesville
- **Region 2** – Orlando
- **Region 3** – St. Pete / Winter Haven / Bradenton
- **Region 4** – Ft. Lauderdale / Ft. Pierce / West Palm Beach / Cape Coral
- **Region 5** – Miami

PVA Points of Contacts for Centers for Independent Living

- **CIL Disability Resource Center - Pensacola:**
- Anthony Steele, (800) 795-3581
- **Ability 1st - Tallahassee:**
- Belton Smith, (386) 755-3016 - Ext 2236
- **Disability Resource Center – Panama City:**
- Anthony Steele, (800) 795-3581
- **CIL North Central FL – Gainesville:**
- Belton Smith, (386) 755-3016 - Ext 2236
- **Independent Living Resource Center of North FL – Jacksonville:**
- Belton Smith, (386) 755-3016 - Ext 2236
- **Caring and Sharing CIL – Largo:**
- Yvonne Woodward (800) 795-3594

PVA Points of Contacts for Centers for Independent Living Contacts

- **Sun Coast CIL, Inc. - Sarasota:**
 - Yvonne Woodward (800) 795-3594
- **Self Reliance CIL, Inc. – Tampa:**
 - Ramond Bruce or Stephen Bush, (800) 795-3595
- **Space Coast CIL - Cocoa:**
 - Belton Smith, (800) 795-3593
- **Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc. – West Palm:**
 - David Weinstein, (800) 795-3591

PVA Points of Contacts for Centers for Independent Living Contacts

- **CIL of Southwest FL – Ft. Meyers:**
- Yvonne Woodward (800) 795-3594
- **CIL of Central FL – Winter Park:**
- Belton Smith, (800) 795-3593
- **CIL of the Keys – Key Largo:**
- David Weinstein, (800) 795-3591
- **FL Assn. of Centers for Independent Living – Tallahassee:**
- Belton Smith, (386) 755-3016 - Ext 2236
- **FL Independent Living Council, Inc. – Tallahassee:**
- Belton Smith, (386) 755-3016 - Ext 2236
- **Div of Vocational Rehab-FL Dept of Education-Tallahassee:**
- Belton Smith, (386) 755-3016 - Ext 2236

PVA Points of Contacts for Centers for Independent Living Contacts

- **CIL of South FL - Miami:**
- David Weinstein, (800) 795-3591
- **CIL of Broward – Ft. Lauderdale:**
- David Weinstein, (800) 795-3591
- **disAbility Souldtions for Independent Living, Inc. – Daytona Beach:**
- Belton Smith, (800) 795-3593

Summary

Identify

Newly injured SCI/D Veterans who are entitled to use the VA SCI/D Specialized Services Programs

ENSURE

That Healthcare is Available and Provided!

ENSURE

That Veterans and their Families are experiencing a Healthy Quality of Life!