



2015 ASCC ANNUAL REPORT

FORTY YEARS OF HISTORY

ARKANSAS SPINAL CORD COMMISSION

The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission is a health related agency of the State of Arkansas, established by Act 311 of 1975 and administered in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated (ACA) 20-8-201 – 206.

At the 1975 legislative session, the members of the Arkansas Legislature established the Arkansas State Spinal Cord Commission. This was the first state agency in the United States to be responsible solely to individuals with spinal cord disabilities (SCD). In July 1975 the first Arkansas State Spinal Cord Commission was given the oath of office at the State Capitol by Governor David Pryor.

In 1977, the Arkansas State Legislature established the Arkansas Spinal Cord Disability Registry. Recognizing the value of the data collected, a mechanism was needed to identify and offer services to Arkansans with spinal cord disabilities. Act 330 of 1977 mandated the Arkansas State Spinal Cord Commission shall establish and maintain a central registry of persons with SCD. Every public and private health and social agency and attending physician shall report to the commission within five (5) calendar days after identification of any person with a spinal cord disability. However, the consent of the individual shall be obtained prior to making this report. The intent of the Registry is to ensure the referral of all persons with spinal cord disabilities and to assure that they receive appropriate rehabilitative and other needed services.

The ASCC registry was the first in the nation. The state of Florida mandated a similar registry in 1990. Today, Arkansas and Florida maintain dynamic registries that update contact information on the individuals, similar to that maintained by the federal spinal cord injury model systems.



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Chairman & Executive Director's Summary

For the past 40 years, the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission has been assisting people with spinal cord disabilities in rebuilding their lives. Our expertise has grown over the years. Each year brings more collective knowledge to implement best practices and a combined understanding to help our clients move forward to meet the challenges faced daily.

In 2015, we continued to champion excellence in service, advocacy and quality of life for Arkansans with spinal cord disabilities. We are proud of what we have accomplished.

We served 2,502 clients, 194 new referrals were received. It is of the utmost importance to reach people as soon as possible after a referral, as well as their family members, to offer assistance with restoring independence.

Our case managers leveraged \$803,162 to supplement our client service needs from third party resources for goods and services. Our clients simply would not receive the services they do without this assistance. We are deeply grateful and thankful to our case managers for leveraging additional financial assistance to help individuals who need our support.

Our staff continues to serve with integrity and purpose. They represent ASCC each and every day to our clients, partners, sponsors, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders.

The result was affirmation and refocusing of the following four strategic priorities:

- Excelling in advocacy that makes a difference
- Delivering only high quality, core services
- Securing sustainable and diversified funding
- Excelling at reaching and serving our clients and the broader population in rural areas of Arkansas

Thank You.



Jon Wilkerson
Commission
Chairman



Patti C. Rogers
Executive Director

ACHIEVEMENTS AND STATISTICS

Achieved excellence in service delivery and advanced services through access and innovation.

5,036

CLIENT VISITS

ASCC case managers accomplished client visits implementing personalized service needs

\$803,162

LEVERAGED

Funds leveraged to supplement client services from third party resources for goods and service needs.

61% of spinal cord injuries occur in people under the age of 34.

25% of spinal cord injuries occur in people between the ages of 35-49.

14% of spinal cord injuries occur to people over the age of 50.

25% Only 25% of individuals with spinal cord disabilities are eligible for Medicaid.

MISSION

The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission will administer a statewide program to identify and meet the unique and lifelong needs of people with spinal cord disabilities in Arkansas.

WHO WE ARE

Serving 2,502 individuals in 2015, ASCC is the leading case management source for information and guidance in all aspects of spinal cord disabilities in Arkansas.

There are ten (10) regional offices strategically located around the state with 15 case managers, including an intake coordinator, implementing client programs and services to all 75 counties. A staff of 9 orchestrates daily activities in the Little Rock Central Office in support of all clients with SCI/D. Our case managers undertake a pivotal role as qualified rehabilitation counselors knowledgeable in the medical aspects of spinal cord injuries, Spinal Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis, and other spinal cord disabilities. They provide lifetime case management to each client.

A partial list of responsibilities include: 1) needs and evaluations, 2) regional information services, 3) coordinate service delivery, 4) provide guidance and counseling, 5) advocate on client's behalf (resource provisions and technical assistance), and 6) assist families in identifying and applying for other available services.

PRIORITIES

The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission's main priority is to reach and serve all individuals in Arkansas living with spinal cord injuries and spinal cord disabilities including but not limited to Multiple Sclerosis, Spina Bifida, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

OUR VISION

Move knowledge into action. Champion excellence in service, advocacy, and enhance the quality of life for Arkansans with spinal cord disabilities.



WHAT WE DO

Maintain SCI/D state registry. Provide life-long assistive services.

Following the report of an individual sustaining a spinal cord disability (SCI/D), the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission obtains information to provide a picture of those newly referred. The ASCC Case Manager looks at the information and identifies service strengths, gaps, challenges, and the best resource opportunities to deliver services. The results help make the case for better delivery of services and improve the quality of lives of individuals with SCI/D.

ADVOCACY

ASCC is an advocate for the rights of Arkansans living with spinal cord disabilities. We provide resources and tools to assist them with developing self-advocacy skills.

RESOURCE SERVICES

We assist Arkansans by providing information available, resources, and disseminating ongoing information through our case management program. ASCC connects our clients to case managers who share their experience and knowledge of resources to the client and their family and caregiver.

Through the ASCC website and

social media we disseminate timely information, preventive guidelines, and new healthcare developments. This venue enables ASCC to communicate not only to our client base, but to other organizations and the private sector. Press releases about current SCI/D-related events can be viewed along with accessible resource information, forms, resource guides, and calendar of events.

PUBLIC POLICY

We provide disability-specific, policy analysis that bring awareness and education to elected officials, as we support our clients through advocacy initiatives that aim to create a more inclusive support across the state.

REGIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT

We encourage and support clients to be as independent as possible. We offer services and programs aimed to provide information, resources, education, and support in the adjustment to having a disability.

WORKING TOGETHER

We are instrumental in connecting Arkansans with SCI/D to collaborative network organizations and other individuals in the SCI/D community.

SCI/D Support Groups

In 2015 work continued to unite people and communities to share knowledge and drive change relating to spinal cord disabilities. Last year ASCC developed monthly support group meetings for ASCC clients in the Northwest Arkansas region. This year support groups in Searcy and Sherwood continued to provide clients needed support.

The program is designed to provide personal support and direct assistance. Clients, their families and those from the community meet and provide specifics about community information, resources and services.

Support group meetings give clients the opportunity to discuss and share experiences. For those who are successfully coping with an SCI/D to have the opportunity to give support to others who know firsthand about living with a spinal cord disability. The program encourages individuals to achieve greater levels of independence; to share coping skills used to effectively deal with primary health and attendant care issues; serves as support so newly injured SCI individuals and their families feel less alone; demonstrates functional skills and activities previously thought impossible by a client in an effort to encourage independence. Individuals share specific information on disability-related issues including accessible housing, transportation, legal rights, community resources and social, emotional and architectural barriers.

Accessible Parking Task Force

The taskforce actively advocated accessible parking issues and was instrumental in drafting an outline of issues to address current laws; provided

recommendations and other mandates. In 2016, this will remain a priority for the Accessible Parking Task Force.

Task Force members represent ASCC and its collaborative partners from state agencies, disability organizations, law enforcement agencies, concerned citizens and those with disabilities. We are united in an initiative to promote educational efforts statewide about accessible parking and the rights of those with disabilities. This effort continued with ambitious impact in 2015.

- Speaking opportunities to increase public awareness and knowledge of Arkansas laws. Emphasis was also placed on those with accessible license plates and placards to help educate them about the state laws governing usage.
- The Task Force developed and conducted training sessions for local, county, and state law enforcement agencies.
- An Accessible Parking brochure was distributed to law enforcement agencies and citizens. The Accessible Parking initiative received endorsement from the Arkansas Attorney General and the Arkansas Chief of Police Association Executive Board.
- Thirteen (13) supporting agencies and organizations continue to work together to defend the rights of all individuals with disabilities.
- A public awareness campaign about accessible parking was implemented in November prior to “Black Friday” through December. Local media supported the effort with news and special reports.

Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program

The Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program (ATRP) was established through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission (ASCC). Through educational and resource development initiatives, ATRP increases access to comprehensive, cutting-edge rehabilitation care to facilitate community integration for Arkansans who have survived traumatic injuries.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Central Registry

In 2015, the TBI registry received a total of 305 referrals. Since the registry began in November 2013, a total of 647 individuals with TBI have been recorded.

Arkansas Statute 20-14-703 requires that every public and private health agency, public and private social agency, and attending physician report persons who have sustained a moderate-to-severe brain injury to the Brain Injury Alliance of Arkansas (BIAA) within five (5) days of injury identification or diagnosis. The BIAA has signed an agreement with ATRP to assume responsibility for the Traumatic Brain Injury Registry.

TBI Resource

ATRP distributes a comprehensive resource guide and informational packet for survivors of TBI and their families. Packets are also provided to acute care hospitals to distribute to all patients who are referred to the TBI Registry.

ATRP maintains a web-based disability resource site. The site is used by healthcare professionals and individuals searching for resources to meet a variety of post-injury needs.

Trauma Rehabilitation Conference and Educational Initiatives

In 2015, ATRP co-presented and sponsored several continuing education opportunities to help uncover best

practices and raise awareness of resources to Arkansas' healthcare providers and consumers. ATRP co-presented the Assistive Technology Conference with ARS; presented the third annual Trauma Rehabilitation Conference; co-presented the fourth annual Brain Injury Conference with CHI St. Vincent and NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge; and sponsored the annual ASCC SCI/D conference—Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Part 2.

ATRP, with the cooperation of NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge, provided training to 15 individuals to receive their credentials as Certified Brain Injury Specialists.

TRIUMPH Call Center

In partnership with the UAMS Center for Distance Health and the Arkansas Spinal Cord Foundation, the TRIUMPH Call Center provides a 24/7 service linking patients, local primary care, and emergency physicians to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation board certified physicians from UAMS. The TRIUMPH program provides patient-to-provider consults through phone and/or interactive video. In its first year, TRIUMPH provided consultation to rural, primary care, and emergency physicians as well as patients with a spinal cord injury or disability. In 2015, TRIUMPH expanded to provide the same clinical guideline based consultations for traumatic brain injury.

305

PEOPLE WITH NEW TBI INJURIES WERE RECORDED IN THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REGISTRY IN 2015



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ASCC Expands its Annual SCI/D Educational Conference & Expo to a Regional 2-Day Event.

ASCC's annual conference "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Part 2" exceeded our expectations.

2015 marked the first year for ASCC's expanded 2-day SCI/D educational conference for healthcare professionals and an exclusive one-day educational training for clients and caregivers.

Through studies made in 2015, indications revealed gaps in healthcare delivery due to a lack of knowledge in caring for those with spinal cord disabilities. ASCC designed its first regional conference to center around the concept of empowering healthcare professionals and caregivers to provide better care and most importantly to drive empowerment within individuals with SCI/D. National and international speakers presented educational sessions addressing issues from acute care, to the clinic, to home.

The educational conference drew record attendance from across Arkansas and bordering



states including: Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Missouri.

National, state, and local vendors filled the exhibition hall. Exhibitors provided information and resources to conference attendees about durable medical equipment, medical supplies, non-profit disability organizations, human services agencies, rehabilitation hospitals, and assistive technology.

Spina Bifida CAMP FOR KIDS

ASCC, in cooperation with Camp Aldersgate and Med Camps of Arkansas, sponsored the 38th annual Spina Bifida Camp. The event was held in June 2015 and limited to a small group of 42 children with spinal cord disabilities.

The campers participated in activities including canoeing, fishing, swimming, archery, extreme sports, music, and crafts. These activities are designed to promote increased independence and mobility. The children have the opportunity to interact with other children

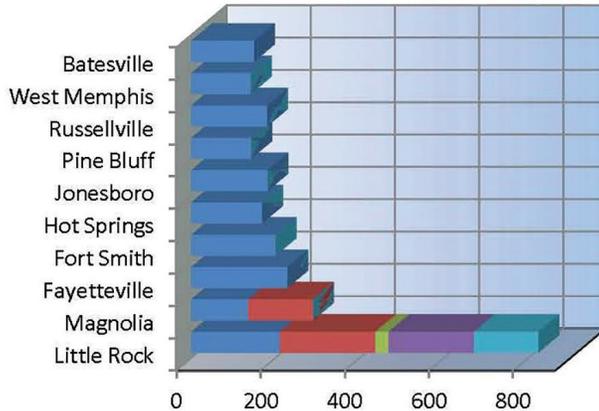
who live with spinal cord disabilities.

In addition to a great experience for the children, the week-long camp provides much needed respite for parents.



In 2015, Client Caseload was 2,502 with 194 New Cases Reported to ASCC in the 75-County Service Area.

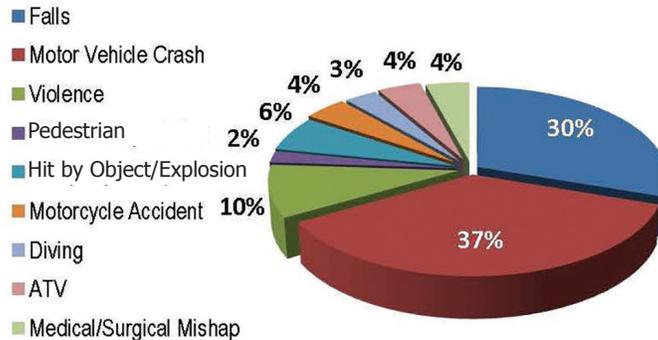
Cases by Regional Office



Open Cases by Office

Open Cases by Office	Number	Percent
Little Rock	815	33%
Magnolia	290	12%
Fayetteville	229	9%
Fort Smith	201	8%
Hot Springs	169	7%
Jonesboro	182	7%
Pine Bluff	143	5%
Russellville	181	7%
West Memphis	142	6%
Batesville	150	6%
Total	2,502	

Traumatic by Cause



Traumatic Cause

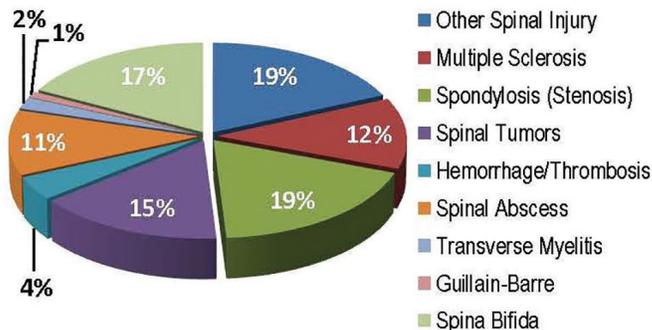
Traumatic Cause	Number	Percent
Motor Vehicle Crash	35	37%
Falls	29	30%
Violence (intentional)	9	10%
Hit by Object/Explosion	6	6%
Pedestrian	2	2%
Motorcycle Accident	4	4%
Diving	3	3%
ATV	4	4%
Medical/Surgical Mishap	4	4%
Total New Cases	96	

Vehicular accidents accounted for 37% of spinal cord injuries, which ranks 1st in causes of spinal cord injury nationally and in the state of Arkansas.

Falls accounted for 30% of spinal cord injuries, which ranks 2nd in causes of spinal cord injury.

Acts of Violence accounted for 10% of spinal cord injury, which ranks 3rd in causes.

Non-Traumatic by Cause



Non-traumatic Cause

Non-traumatic Cause	Number	Percent
Spinal Tumors	15	15%
Spondylosis (stenosis)	18	18%
Multiple Sclerosis	12	12%
Spina Bifida	17	17%
Hemorrhage/Thrombosis	4	4%
Spinal abscess	11	11%
Transverse Myelitis	2	2%
Guillain-Barre	1	1%
Other Disease Processes*	18	18%
Total New Cases	98	

*Cauda Equina Syndrome, 1; Cervical Myelopathy, 2; Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia, 3; Neurosarcoidosis, 1; Osteomyelitis, 1; Spinal Cord Infarction, 1; Spinocerebellar Ataxia, 1; Syrinx, 1; Thoracic Hematoma, 1; Thoracic Myelopathy, 2; Unknown, 4.

OUR FINANCIALS

CLIENT SERVICES	Actual 2014	Actual 2015
Medical Equipment Rental	1,215	718
Medical Transportation	1,558	4,485
Activities of Daily Living Supplies	10,718	13,262
Diagnosis & Evaluation	8,650	4,838
Vehicle Hand Controls	22,791	21,248
Specialized Goods & Services	3,933	6,981
Medical Supplies	11,790	10,738
Spina Bifida Camp	25,200	25,830
Home Modifications	8,050	24,524
Wheelchair Repairs	56,976	46,802
Wheelchair Ramping	64,581	76,698
Wheelchairs	116,146	149,702
Durable Medical Equipment	137,298	159,681
Short Term Attendant Care	0	480.00
Total	\$469,301	\$545,987

INCOME	Actual 2014	Actual 2015
General Revenue	2,223,823	2,331,275
TAC/ADH Contract	372,623	500,000
Title XX SSBG	106,005	73,673
Interest	2,223	5,696
Financial Revenues	20,985	57,998
Total	\$2,725,659	\$2,968,640

EXPENDITURES	Actual 2014	Actual 2015
Client Services	428,852	556,237
Professional Service Match	351,049	337,151
Long Term Attendant Care	212,584	205,014
Maintenance & Operations	232,536	260,019
Professional Service	85,813	95,161
Education & Training	9,226	
TAC/ADH Contract	372,623	432,592
Salaries	997,911	953,658
Total	\$2,690,594	\$2,839,833

ASCC also received approval to add two case manager positions; to date the funding for these positions has yet to be approved for implementation. 2015 proved to be a challenging financial year as client services appropriation was not increased. There has been no substantial increase in client service funding in the past five fiscal years.

In order to mitigate client services, all areas across the agency leveraged \$803,162 in goods and services from third party resources, to supplement client service purchasing. Purchases authorized by ASCC included medically prescribed equipment such as wheelchairs, therapeutic cushions, medical supplies and medications. In addition, ASCC also assisted with home modifications, ramping, driving evaluations, and seating and mobility evaluations.



Jon Wilkerson
Commission
Chairman
Center Ridge
Term expires
2017



Ronnie Wheeler
Commission
Vice Chairman
Crossett
Term expires
2021



Mike Cranford
Commission
Foreman
Term expires
2019



John Wyrick
Commission
Little Rock
Term expires
2023



Jimmy Ashley
Commission
Jonesboro
Term expires
2025



Patti Rogers
ASCC Executive
Director

ASCC COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission is overseen by five members who are appointed by the Governor to a ten-year term. To be eligible to serve on the Commission an individual must have a spinal cord disability, have a family member with a spinal cord disability, or have a vested interest in spinal cord disabilities.

The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission plays an integral role in community reintegration and is the only case management program for SCI/D. The Commission is committed to advancing policies that lead to greater civil rights and independence for Arkansans with spinal cord disabilities. We believe the disability community must be part of the legislative dialogue when policies are created that impact the lives and well-being of the clients we serve.

This past year our case management program continued to reach high levels of caseloads. We urged the Arkansas Joint Budget Committee to approve our request to add two critically needed case managers to our case management program. We received approval for the positions, but presently have not received any funding. Once these positions can be added it will strengthen our abilities to continue to provide comprehensive and specialized case management services to individuals with spinal cord disabilities—filling these positions will afford us the capability to physically serve over 2,500 individuals in the state of Arkansas. Eighty-five percent of individuals with SCI/D live in rural communities where resources are limited. This year alone we received 194 new referrals, on average there are 200 new cases per year.

As a Commission, we continue to urge our Legislators to do more to support and accommodate mandated services and programs; to stimulate employment opportunities and improve income security for Arkansans with disabilities; take a more balanced approach to financing Medicaid. Policies need to involve both expense savings and revenue enhancements to strengthen rather than diminish healthcare access, coordination, and quality.

We look forward to enhancing our delivery of services and expanding our programs in 2016.

ASCC PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The passion of our employees is one of ASCC's greatest strengths. Our mission, vision, and values best reflect what unites ASCC and what is captured in that spirit enables us to support individuals with spinal cord disabilities.

We are extremely thankful to our staff for their professionalism, motivation and diligence. With this remarkable group, we are able to continue to provide the best services to our clients.

ASCC Management Team

Patti Rogers

Executive Director

Terra Patrom

Client Services

Administrator

Virginia Combs

Agency Fiscal Manager

Jason Francis

IT Manager

“We are committed to helping individuals with spinal cord disabilities to live as independently and as productively as they choose.”

Patti Rogers

Executive Director



**Connect to more
Information and resources.**

Visit our website at:

www.ascc.arkansas.gov



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