



Alaiedon Township brain rehab facility to treat local veterans

Written by

Kevin Grasha
kgrasha@lsj.com

11:57 PM, Aug. 11, 2011|

A local brain injury rehabilitation facility is one of 21 nationwide selected to treat veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury, currently considered the signature wound of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Alaiedon Township announced this week that it will work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to treat veterans who suffer from moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, or TBI, which typically requires intensive, long-term care.

"It gets veterans back to their home communities, where their family support systems are," said Tammy Hannah, the nonprofit's co-executive director.

Hannah said family and friends are an essential part of treatment. Veterans with brain injuries often are treated far from home at Veterans Affairs facilities.

It's not yet known how many patients will be in the program, which officials said

specifically is for those with diagnosed TBI that requires long-term, 24-hour residential care. The injuries do not have to be combat-related.

In the last few years, Congress has pushed Veterans Affairs to utilize outside specialized facilities, like the Origami center, said Adrian Atizado, an official with the nonprofit Disabled American Veterans.

The extensive treatment severe TBI requires does "create a resource strain" for Veterans Affairs, Atizado said.

He said Congress has authorized funding allowing Veterans Affairs "to seek specialized care outside the VA to meet those needs."

A 2008 study by the RAND Corp. found that nearly 20 percent of service members from Iraq and Afghanistan suffered some form of TBI. That means its possible more than 400,000 suffered or still suffer from a TBI.

Advertisement

**Protect Your Home
with ADT!**

**Click Here
to Learn More!**

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™



The severity ranges from mild, such as a concussion, to moderate and severe, which can involve brain damage. Symptoms of the more severe cases include problems processing information and difficulty making decisions.

Last year, according to Department of Defense statistics, more than 31,000 service members were diagnosed with TBI. Of those, 4,431 suffered what it classified as a moderate, severe or penetrating injury.

Those numbers include service members located anywhere in the world.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the most common cause is exposure to improvised explosive device blasts, according to the RAND study. Motor vehicle accidents and shrapnel or gunshot wounds also are causes.

[Get Listed Here](#)

Ads by Pulse 360

Mason: Dermatologists Hate Her!

Local Mom Exposes an Anti-Aging Miracle. Her \$5 Trick ERASES Wrinkles!
www.uslifestyle.com

Unemployed or Laid Off?

Go Back to School. Take College Classes Online, On Your Own Time.
www.YourDegree.com

SHOCKING: Mom is 53, Looks 23!

Dramatic Results of Popular Skincare System STUNS her Friends & Family
www.consumerlifestyledeals.com

Advertisement

Protect Your Home with ADT!

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

Click Here to Learn More!

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™