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Denver Options Colorado Connections Program Launches Services for Veterans

April 18, 2008 Denver, CO– Denver Options' Colorado Connections TBI Program has been working with individuals with brain injuries since 2006 through the State of Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund Program. Effective April 2008, we will be launching a TBI program specifically for military personnel that served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

"We were fortunate that an anonymous donor provided money earmarked specifically for veterans," said Dr. Stephen Block, Denver Options Executive Director. Veterans and their families can call Denver Options to receive services. "We offer one-stop help so families can focus on reconnecting and stabilizing their lives. We know that readjustment periods are a challenge for every military family," Block said.

People who experience brain injury often feel anxious or irritable. They may experience memory loss, depression, blurred vision, dizziness and have trouble sleeping. Those symptoms can make the return to civilian life challenging. "We are here to help each Veteran find the community resources and supports he or she needs. We can find therapies, low cost housing, job help and anything else that's needed at no cost to the Veteran."

Denver Options' Colorado Connections Veterans Program provides statewide support for veterans who have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI). "We already provide case management to people with traumatic brain injury throughout Colorado, now we can concentrate on the unique needs of veterans," said Christen Mason, a manager with the program. Many veterans are returning home with brain injuries related to blast exposure from rocket-propelled grenades and land mine explosions. In 2003-2005, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at Walter Reed screened 862 injured soldiers who were at risk for brain injury and 51% of those soldiers were diagnosed with a TBI.

Lawrence, who has received help from the program said, "I don't know how I could have made it to where I am at without your help. I had lost hope and was so focused on how bad things were I could not see the future. I now have food stamps, AND, a section 8 voucher and am working on getting my disability rating and Social Security. Thank you – you gave me hope when I thought no one cared."

For more information about Colorado Connections Veterans Program and please contact 866-245-6600 or go to www.denveroptions.org/services_tbi.php

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About Denver Options

Denver Options is a non-profit organization that provides flexible, personalized services to help people with intellectual disabilities live active and purposeful lives. The Denver Options staff finds the services and resources people need to achieve optimum health and explore lifelong learning opportunities. They focus is on individual talents and interests, helping people turn personal goals into everyday reality. They offer wide ranging services that include helping families manage the demands of care giving, navigating funding resources and helping young people with disabilities connect to jobs and other resources.