



## Call for Questions on Resource Management!

The next installment of the USBIA webinar series will focus on Resource Management and will feature Jessica Giordano, MA, CBIS, CIRS, Director of Support Programs with the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington (BIAWA). Jessica will discuss BIAWA's successes in providing in-person Resource Management to individuals throughout Washington State. She will also touch on ways BIAWA has utilized additional support services to increase the quality of care provided to our community.

## Don't miss USBIA's next webinar!

# Brain Injury Resource Management

Wednesday  
August 19, 2015



Jessica encourages you to submit any specific questions you have prior to the webinar so she can craft the presentation to the participant's needs. Please send those questions to Carol Blanton, at [cblanton@usbia.org](mailto:cblanton@usbia.org). Jessica will also take any questions you may have on the day of the webinar!

The webinar will take place on August 19th, at 1:00pm Central time (2:00pm Eastern). There is no charge to access the webinar, all you need to do is register by visiting the USBIA website, [www.usbia.org](http://www.usbia.org). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

## USBIA Board of Directors Meeting

USBIA will hold an "in-person" Board of Directors meeting during the annual State of the States conference of the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators. The meeting will start at 5:00pm Mountain time on October 28, 2015, at the Curtis Hotel in Denver, Colorado. All USBIA members are welcome to attend!

## News from the States

### The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado



BIAC's Annual Professional Conference will be held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver this November 5th and

6th. Our target audience is professionals in the brain injury field. More information to come and you can check out our website at [www.biacolorado.org](http://www.biacolorado.org).

Also mark your calendars for this year's Pikes Peak Challenge event that will be held on Saturday, September 12th. Go to [pikespeakchallenge.com](http://pikespeakchallenge.com) and register for the 2015 Pikes Peak challenge. Choose from four exciting options: The Summit Hike, to the summit of Pikes Peak, 13 miles. The Barr Camp Hike, halfway to the summit and back down, 13 miles. Or the The Manitou Walk, a family friendly walk of 3 miles.

### The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa



While the corn is more than knee-high by the 4th of July, it has been well trodden by more than our fair share of

Presidential "wannabe's." Meanwhile the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa has been cultivating a range of fertile projects.

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa has collaborated with Department of Corrections in two Iowa judicial districts to complete brain injury screenings and case consultations. BIA-IA staff have also provided training for District staff and increased referral rates to the Alliance Neuro-Resource Facilitation program.

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For more than a decade BIA-IA has developed and expanded the Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network (IBIRN). IBIRN is now a 180 site network of “doorways” to BIA-IA for individuals with brain injury and their families to access information whether they have a family member in an intensive care setting, or they are 20 years post injury with new questions and concerns. BIA-IA is able to offer information and, depending on what the client desires, short or long term Neuro-Resource Facilitation.

Iowa is poised to transition its full Medicaid program from state agency management into private managed care over the next six months. This ambitious timeline coupled with many systems and individual level uncertainties has required increasing systems advocacy collaboration. We are also struggling to anticipate a range of probable Medicaid changes and support lowans with brain injury that rely on Medicaid for health care access and community based supports.

BIA-IA is starting the second year of a four-year partnership with the Iowa Dept. of Public Health as this agency works with a Federal TBI Implementation Project. Our efforts will include School based “Concussion and Return to Learn” training for educators; Dept. of Corrections TBI Screening and Assessment; and education for providers serving lowans with Multi-Occurring disorders.

And finally our Alliance Gala planning committee is in the midst of logistics for the 2nd annual “Old Hollywood” Gala scheduled for October 24, 2015 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. If you are not running for President, maybe this is your excuse to come to Iowa?

### **The Brain injury Alliance of Montana**



The BIAMT recently completed our annual brain injury educational conference series, Building Your Brain Injury Toolbox. This conference series was made possible by special funds allocated during the 2013 legislative session for Education on Brain Injury and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The two-day conferences were held in Kalispell, Miles City and Great Falls, Montana on a Friday and Saturday throughout April and May. The format allowed for the conference speakers to focus on a different audience each day with the Friday conference for professional service providers, and the Saturday conference attended by brain injury survivors and their families and/or caregivers. With 400 plus attendees at our conference series, it was our most well attended educational event yet.

As the summer heats up, so will the annual Helmet Giveaway Events put on by the Brain Injury Alliance of Montana. For the past eight years the BIAMT has partnered with the semi-professional baseball clubs in cities around Montana in order to hold our annual Helmet Giveaway Event at the various ballparks. These events are great community events thanks to the support of the Montana Trial Lawyers Association (helmet sponsor) and volunteers from Missoula’s Community Medical Center, Helena’s St. Peter’s Hospital and Billings’ St. Vincent’s Hospital who provide medical professionals to fit the kids’ helmets. Our first event this year took place in June in Montana’s capital city of Helena, with the Helena Brewers. Next month, we’ll hold our 2nd annual Helmet Giveaway in Billings with the Mustangs and again with the Missoula Ospreys’ for the 8th annual Giveaway. This is a great way to bring

awareness of brain injury to the public and help focus on preventing brain injury in our youth by encouraging them to wear helmets. This popular event is becoming well known across the state.

Back at the office, our Fund Developer, Charney Gonnerman will celebrate her one-year anniversary with the organization in July! With her executive directorial experience and decades in social services, Charney has taken on the challenge to continue to develop resources to enhance programs for the alliance. Taking her place as outreach coordinator, Sahra Susman was pleased and honored to join the alliance this spring! With a decade of experience in media and communications, Sahra jumped right in to update supporters on legislative news, promote the educational conferences in the media and organize the helmet giveaways across the state. Also this spring, Program Director Kristen Morgan celebrated nine years with the organization! Finally, our Board of Directors recently expanded to eight members with the addition of Dr. Andrew Cole of Whitefish, MT who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Neuroscience & Spine Institute. We look forward to continuing to utilize all of our strengths toward the development of Montana’s Brain Injury Alliance.

### **The Brain injury Alliance of New Mexico**



Our support group hosted an eight week course on Cooking for Brain Wellness. The instructor was a nutritionist from the Extension office at NM State University. New Mexico is well known for its excellence in the world of cooking so this was well received by our group.

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## The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey



On March 31, 2015, the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey held its 9th Annual Gala at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, NJ to celebrate the leadership of our honorees and to recognize more than 30 years of service by the Alliance. The Gala – which raised funds to provide help, hope, and a voice to individuals and families in New Jersey living with brain injury – kicked off with a cocktail reception with buffet dinner and a silent auction, and concluded with an awards presentation featuring Co-Anchor of CNBC's Squawk Box and Mistress of Ceremonies, Becky Quick. To view pictures from the event, visit [www.bianj.org/annual-gala/](http://www.bianj.org/annual-gala/).

Over 200 people attended the Alliance's 33rd Annual Seminar, held at the Sheraton in Eatontown, NJ on May 14, 2015. Participants included professionals from brain injury allied services and individuals with brain injury and their families. A wide array of workshops were offered addressing multiple aspects of brain injury recovery, from current innovations in technology and treatment to emotional processing deficits, and environmental and personal factors like sexuality. To access the presentations from the seminar, [www.bianj.org/annual-seminar-archives/](http://www.bianj.org/annual-seminar-archives/).

On June 4, 2015, students from 59 high schools throughout the area put their teen safe driving campaigns on display at the Alliance's 5th Annual 'U Got Brains Champion Schools Program' Showcase and Awards Ceremony at Six Flags Great Adventure. These diverse peer-to-peer projects focused on the causes of teen crashes and offered solutions to reduce the number of teen injuries and fatalities on our roadways. The top three campaigns, selected by a panel of expert judges, were awarded the grand prize – a driving simulator donated by New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM). To view the 2015 winners, visit [www.ugotbrains.com/winners-circle](http://www.ugotbrains.com/winners-circle).

The Alliance continues to represent the interests of people with brain injury and their caregivers by identifying and advocating for important public policy issues. For the second year in a row, the Governor and the State Legislature included in the budget \$140,000 for specialized community-based services to be administered by BIANJ. BIANJ is also working to advance legislation, Assembly Bill No. 4207, which requires public school students with concussion to be evaluated by licensed health care professionals before returning to school, and requires school districts to provide restrictions or limitations to students as needed. The Assembly Women and Children Committee passed the bill and the next step is for the General Assembly to consider it. BIANJ is working to achieve this end now.

Finally, the Alliance is gearing up for our 13th Annual Walk for Brain Injury Awareness this fall. The walk is a community wide event designed to increase awareness about brain injury and raise funds for vital services and programs critical to enhancing the quality of life people experience after brain injury. The event will take place in three locations through New Jersey as follows:

- September 26, 2015  
Northern NJ – Saddle River County Park, Paramus, NJ
- September 26, 2015  
Central NJ – Mercer County Park West Windsor, NJ
- October 3, 2015  
Southern NJ – Cooper River Park Pennsauken, NJ

## The Brain Injury Alliance of Oklahoma



Allie Murie is a hard working survivor of Brain Injury from Oklahoma. Allie is working tirelessly to put together an event in Oklahoma to raise awareness and help Brain Injury survivors both on a

national and state level. Her proposed date is August 1-14, 2016. If you would like to help Allie her email is [osuallie@gmail.com](mailto:osuallie@gmail.com).

## The Brain Injury Alliance of Texas



The Brain Injury Alliance of Texas has elected a new board comprised of brain injury stakeholders with good geographic distribution across the state. We have reestablished our newsletter, with one issue distributed and the second almost ready to go out. As part of our community outreach efforts we exhibited at the conferences of the Alamo Head Injury Association, HealthSouth, Healthy Brain Foundation and the North American Brain Injury Society. In partnership with Rehab Without Walls we sponsored three CEU workshops in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. On the advocacy front, we continue to network extensively with the Texas Office of Acquired Brain Injury and participated in Brain Injury Awareness Day at the Texas Capitol. Last but not least, we have started planning for our annual conference, to be held at the JJ Pickle Center in Austin on Friday, December 11. Visit our website for more details as they become available: [www.texasbia.org](http://www.texasbia.org).

## The Brain Injury Alliance of Washington



On June 11, 2015 the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington hosted the 7th Annual Brain Injury Art Show at the Mercer Island Community Center in Mercer Island, WA. More than 100 attendees marveled at the work of 37 artists from around our state. Artists come from a variety of backgrounds, some having taught art or exhibited in prestigious galleries before their injury and others utilize art as a tool on their road to recovery. To view local TV coverage of the show visit the [www.king5.com](http://www.king5.com) and search for "brain injury" or visit the BIAWA Facebook page!

## Public Policy Updates

The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance had an exciting 2015 Legislative Session. On May 23, Governor Dayton signed the Health and Human Services Omnibus Finance Bill that includes two pieces of our Medical Assistance Reform Campaign. The Medical Assistance For Employed Persons With Disabilities (MA-EPD) premium will be lowered. Additional funding for the Minnesota Department of Health will allow them to focus on improving the Stroke System of Care in Minnesota. The Motorcycle Insurance Bill has been introduced and will be addressed by the Commerce Committees in 2016. Two Citizen Advocates, Rebecca Preston and Layne Beckman, received All-Star Advocate Awards from the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities for their extraordinary contributions to

the success of Medical Assistance (MA) Reform legislation. 2015 saw a dramatic increase in Citizen Advocacy at the State Capitol as well as a statewide expansion of the Citizen Advocate Academy. We are proud of our advocates' skills and commitment to improving the systems of supports and services for all Minnesotans living with disability due to brain injury and stroke.

During the 64th Montana Legislative Session, the Brain Injury Alliance of Montana was encouraged that Montana Senator Robyn Driscoll introduced a bill to strengthen concussion protections for youth. In support of the bill, the alliance worked with the Senator, communicated with the committee, and sent out communications encouraging the supporters to testify in favor of the bill. While SB304 was tabled in committee,

the good news is that HJ26, a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives from the state of Montana, sponsored by Representative Gordon Pierson (D) HD78 passed. HJ26 mandates an interim study of the implementation of the Dylan Steigers Protection of Youth Athletes Act, and is requiring the results to be reported to the 65th Montana Legislative Session.

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## ABOUT US

The United States Brain Injury Alliance (USBIA) was formed in 2012. The Alliance is comprised of 16 statewide brain injury organizations from all regions of the United States. The member states contain close to 100,000,000 people and represent slightly more than 30% of the population according to the 2010 Census.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the United States Brain Injury Alliance is to engage the community in preventing brain injuries and improving lives. We will accomplish this through awareness, prevention, advocacy, support, research, and community engagement.

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