



News from the States

The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado



Partnership at the Boulder County Jail

The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC) is part of a four year federal grant with the Colorado Brain Injury Program to connect TBI survivors incarcerated in the Boulder County Jail to services as they re-enter the community. The University of Denver is a partner on the grant and administers screening for individuals who participate in Jail Based Behavioral Services (JBBS) and have a history of TBI. Those that meet the threshold of deficits related to their reported injuries are automatically referred to BIAC.

BIAC has been able to establish a strong relationship with the Boulder County Jail JBBS staff and are often able to meet with clients before they are released from jail and get them started with case management services. Connecting with clients prior to release has helped establish rapport and assist them in making plans for life after release. This has resulted in 75% of all referred individuals entering services and having access to a case manager.

Have you heard about BIAC's new model of case management?

The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado's (BIAC) approach to case management services is one in which we are allies for our clients. Our staff are the

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USBIA Participates in Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill

The United States Brain Injury Alliance was proud to participate in the Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, which was held on March 22, 2017. USBIA joined other advocate groups to share information on brain injury and prevention with legislators and staffers. USBIA thanks Congressional Brain Injury Task Force co-chairs Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. and Thomas J. Rooney for hosting this important event!

Photo captions: Top - USBIA-NJ Executive Director, Rita Steindlberger with USBIA staff members Margaret Roberts and Colleen LoGrande. Bottom - Miss Pennsylvania, Samantha Lambert, shares a laugh with Dr. Alina Fong, a member of the USBIA Public Policy Committee and Utah BIA board member.



New President, new Congress... New opportunities to get involved with public policy!

We have a new President and a new Congress. In an effort to build our collective capacity to effectively address National proposed public policy relative to brain injury, we are encouraging all of you to register for updates from congressional committees. These updates can be a wealth of information; including announcements of hearings that address issues of interest to the brain injury community. In turn, you can bring your views on issues to the attention of the USBIA Public Policy Committee.

The following is a handy list of congressional committees that can have jurisdiction over brain injury issues and a link to register for updates:

- House Committee on Appropriations: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
- House Committee on Budget: <http://budget.house.gov/>
- House Committee on Education and the Workforce: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>
- House Committee on Energy and Commerce (IMPORTANT!): <https://energycommerce.house.gov/>
- House Committee on Veterans' Affairs: <https://veterans.house.gov/>

Public Policy Committee Update

New Co-Chairs of the USBIA Public Policy Committee Announced

Carrie Collins-Fadell, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona, has become co-chair of the USBIA-PPC along with Tom Grady, Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs for the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey. Carrie replaced Gavin Attwood, Chief Executive Officer of the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado and Chair, Board of Trustees for the USBIA as he is to focus his efforts on the Alliance's executive committee priorities.



Carrie Collins-Fadell (L) and Tom Grady (R) have been appointed to co-chair the USBIA Public Policy Committee.

The Public Policy Committee met on January 26, 2017 and February 15, 2017. The Committee intends to meet monthly. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Committee, contact either Carrie Collins-Fadell or Tom Grady, co-chairs of the Committee, at: carrie@biaaz.org or 888-500-9165 for Carrie; tgrady@bianj.org or 732-745-0200 for Tom.

Dr. Alina Fong Joins Public Policy Committee



Dr. Alina Fong of Utah has joined the USBIA Public Policy Committee.

Members of the United States Brain Injury Alliance Public Policy Committee are thrilled to announce that Dr. Alina Fong of Utah has stepped onto their committee. Dr. Fong is an active and engaged member of the board for the Brain Injury Alliance of Utah, an affiliate of the USBIA, and is a respected national expert in concussion. She will serve in an advisory role on the committee.

The Public Policy Committee reviews and endorses legislation for the entire USBIA network and works with the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, chaired by Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey and Todd Russell Platts of Pennsylvania.

"I am thrilled that Dr. Alina Fong has joined the Public Policy Committee and I look forward to working with her on important policy issues," said Gavin Attwood, the Chair of the U.S. Brain Injury Alliance Board and CEO of the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado, noting that Dr. Fong has incredible experience as a Clinical Neuropsychologist. "In addition to her continuing research activities, Dr. Fong is currently the Director of Cognitive FX, a premiere concussion treatment center that utilizes functional NeuroCognitive Imaging technology where she has honed a keen interest in public policy and how it can impact the brain injury community," Attwood continued.

Legislation endorsed by the USBIA Public Policy Committee

House Resolution No. 302

This bill extends the liability insurance coverage of a state-licensed medical professional to another state when the professional provides medical services to an athlete, athletic team, or team staff member pursuant to a written agreement. Prior to providing such services, the medical professional must disclose to the insurer the nature and extent of the services. This extension of coverage does not apply at a health care facility or while a medical professional licensed in the state is transporting the injured individual to a health care facility.

House Resolution No. 325

This bill requires the Administration on Aging (AOA) to initiate a comprehensive survey of current adult day programs that provide care and support to individuals with neurological diseases or conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, or traumatic brain injury. The AOA must identify ongoing successful adult day programs and which of these serve young adults with neurological conditions and develop best practices to guide the establishment of additional successful adult day programs. The AOA must award grants for adult day programs that serve younger people with neurological conditions.

An "adult day program" is defined as a program that provides comprehensive care and support services to individuals with neurological conditions and to their family caregivers and that may assist participants in ways that:

- Maintain or improve their functional abilities or otherwise help them adjust to their changing functional abilities;
- Prevent the onset of complications associated with severe forms of the condition;
- Promote alternatives to placement in nursing homes;
- Reduce the strain on family caregivers of individuals with neurological conditions;
- Focus on supporting the emotional, social, and intellectual needs of a younger adult population; or
- Address the needs of veterans with neurological conditions.

Committee Reports

Membership & Development

The Membership and Development Committee has successfully launched the new membership category we are calling Advocate Members. Hopefully, you have all had the opportunity to see the press release and perhaps even taken the time to register personally as an Advocate Member. We feel strongly that this creates a great opportunity for us to engage more individuals in our mission and to harness the power and the passion of all of the constituents that we are currently working with in our individual states!

In January, we held our quarterly Leadership call. This quarter's topic was Building Staff Cohesion. It was well attended and was a lively discussion. We are already beginning to plan our next call scheduled for May 11th.

We have also been busy working to update and renew all of our membership agreements. This year, we are adding one complimentary NASHIA membership to each of our member states. Our hope is that our members will find value in this membership and that it will encourage their attendance at the upcoming NASHIA SOS Conference scheduled for September in Tempe, AZ.

Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee continues to work on establishing our fiscal policies, procedures and practices. 2016 was a financially healthy year for USBIA and that has allowed us to offer several new initiatives. We are working to wrap up all of the financials for 2016 and set our sights on a financially healthy and productive 2017!

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knowledgeable, organized, positive, and professionally-connected supporters that not every survivor has as a resource in their life. BIAC staff are the collaborators and creative problem-solvers, helping to find resources survivors need to become their own self-advocates. Through this model we support:

- A team approach – clients may have multiple BIAC staff members working with them to achieve their case management goals.
- A local presence – BIAC has case management staff living in the home region of their clients.
- A proactive mindset – BIAC case managers contact their clients proactively at regular intervals to check in on them.
- A continuation of services from youth through adulthood.
- Classes and workshops tailored to brain injury.
- For youth – Specialized Support and Consultation for school-related issues for children/youth with TBI.

Brain injury Alliance of Idaho



Choosing to meet several times face-to-face is one of the most productive things the leadership of BIA-ID has accomplished this year. During BIA-ID meetings that are not taken via phone conference, with diligence we have been able to correlate the complete re-development of our new website. For our new website's design, we retained Harmony Design, who also re-designed the national USBIA website.

We were also able to successfully complete a brochure designed to assist students with BI at colleges/post graduate

institutions. The brochure entitled "Accessing accommodations & disability services, what you need to know" includes (a) lists rights and responsibilities, (b) direction to seek accommodations necessary to help students with brain injury successfully negotiate an academic course of study, (c) a copy of a short letter addressed to professor/instructors that is designed to help students with BI start an active dialogue with professor/instructors, and (d) contact information for various community resources.

All links on the website have been updated and the site is operational. After development the site was transferred over to Mad Hatters who will be responsible for making future updates to the site. Harmony Design provided training on the use of Word Press which was used to create the site. Google Analytics will provide general user statistics on a monthly basis.

We also had three board members attend and present at the Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon Conference on March 10-11th.

We also were successful with another fundraiser hosted by Telaya Wine Co. Over the past few years Telaya Wine Co. has been very supportive of the BIA-ID.

We were also able to send several board members to the disability advocacy day at the state capital in Boise to represent the BI population during BI Awareness Month.

Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance



The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance had an incredibly successful 2016. We saw a twenty-eight percent increase in the number of new referrals to our Resource Facilitation program with a final total of 1,020 new referrals. With an

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average of 3,180 open cases each month, our Facilitators made 27,289 individual contacts in 2016. A ten percent increase from 2015.

Our Education and Community Outreach department continued to grow with 14,156 individuals served (up 5 percent from last year) and an overall increase in community meetings and trainings.

Our Case Management department served 1,001 individuals (up nearly 14 percent from last year) and received 191 new referrals (up 41 percent from last year). The Speakers Bureau program had a major increase in presentations, up 83 percent to 75 with a total audience of over 2,500 people. That's 2,500 individuals hearing about brain injury from people who have experienced it. And, speaking of people sharing stories, our Public Policy's Citizen Advocate program continues to be a force at the state capitol with over one hundred Citizen Advocates helping to shape policy for everyone in Minnesota living with a brain injury.

Minnesotans are also sharing their stories of brain injury through our Unmasking Brain Injury in Minnesota project and have produced over 1,000 unique masks. Displays have gone up at local hospitals, the Department of Human Services and the Minnesota State Capitol. On April 1, all of the masks will be displayed at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, in a celebration of the amazing work done by all of these fantastic individuals. One thousand stories and masks will be on display in addition to special guests, Fox TV Channel 9's Tim Blotz and NHL Defenseman, Jordan Leopold. The award winning documentary "Unmasking" – which documents the entire project – will be shown with the filmmaker Jed Schlegelmilch in attendance.

Finally, the 2017 Minnesota Annual Conference for Professionals in Brain Injury was just held on April 20 and 21, 2017 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center. Harvey E. Jacobs, PhD, CLCP and Uzma Samadani, MD, PhD, presented our keynote presentations on Thursday and Friday mornings. Professionals from across the state and from all aspects of brain injury had the opportunity to meet, mingle and share their expertise with one another.

Brain Injury Alliance of Montana



2017 has started off as a great year for the Brain Injury Alliance of Montana (BIAMT)!

The 2017 BIAMT Board of Directors have already been incredibly involved with the community, and we look forward to seeing what influence they have across the state. We have also been incorporating a new marketing approach to increase awareness of our organization.

Our quarterly e-newsletter, Strides, has been a great success. The winter edition was viewed by over 3,000 people in Montana, and many companies have printed copies for their clients to read as well. Our new website has also been a key factor in our organization's growth over the past six months. Our Board Treasurer developed it himself, creating a user-friendly site with easy access to resources. We plan on finding new ways to best utilize the site as we move forward in the year, including putting together a promotional video highlighting our organization.

During Brain Injury Awareness Month in March of 2017, we partnered with yoga studios in four different cities across Montana. They handed out BIAMT resource materials to their clients and offered classes specific to neurological health at little to no cost for the local

Montana Brain Injury Support Group in their area. We also partnered with Karl Tyler Auto Group to give out over 400 bike helmets to youth in the Montana community.

The Montana Brain Injury Support Groups have been busy during the month of March as well. BIAMT Staff has coordinated a "Brain Strong Celebration" for each group to focus on celebrating life after brain injury. We sent the leaders each a packet containing fun questionnaires for members to answer together, as well as a document requesting topics to discuss at our Annual Conference. This October we will be kicking off our 30th year serving Montanans!

Finally, we will be hosting our annual Bowl for Brain Strong Fun!-raiser this April, followed by four helmet giveaways in conjunction with four different minor league baseball teams in the state. We are thrilled to see how many more Montanans affected by brain injury we can serve in the rest of 2017.

Brain Injury Alliance of Oklahoma



Alicia Murie, of Oklahoma, continues to push forward with her legislative efforts working with the Governor and her representatives for more services for TBI victims in her home state. Alicia works diligently on these efforts toward helping people who suffer with brain injury and she says that her perseverance is paying off. To follow Alicia's vigilant efforts go to <http://allie4tbihelp.tumblr.com>.

Brain Injury Alliance of Utah



The Brain Injury Alliance of Utah is celebrating its 33rd year of service to the

community and state!

The Utah State Legislature concluded its 2017 session earlier this month. The TBI Fund, supporting the BIAU and other contracted providers, remains intact and approved through February of 2019. Our annual ceiling of billable state funds stands at \$115,000.

U.S.MRI, one of the region's premier MRI testing facilities, has agreed to provide MRI exams for a cost of \$250, with this cost to then be reimbursed through the state legislative TBI Fund. The partnership has already been of great benefit to several families and is for us an exciting example of all the good work still to be done.

New monthly support groups in the St. George/Washington County region of the state were started.

Consistent increases in our number of intakes, resource facilitations, and educational presentations within the BI community, resulted in increased state support through the Utah TBI Fund.

BIAU is proudly offering its new Caregiver Support Program, entitled "Caring for Yourself and Your Family Member with Brain Injury." This free, four-module program covers multiple subjects important to anyone caring for someone with brain injury, and focuses specifically on managing challenges and presenting tools to help develop greater resiliency.

Over 350 attendees participated in our annual Family and Professionals Conference which was held in November 2016. Preparations are already underway for our 28th annual gathering, to be held October 13, 2017. This year's theme, "Building Connections for a Brighter Tomorrow,"

comes from our collective efforts to remind everyone of the importance of community – that brain injury survivors and caregivers are not alone – and that there is always hope.

And last but not least, don't forget the BIAU 5K! Our 23rd annual "Run, Walk & Roll" 5K will be held May 20, 2017. With over 500 participants last year in a cold, driving rain, we are excited about the possibilities for participation this year on what we know will be a beautiful, sunny day!

Brain Injury Alliance of Washington



The 10th Annual Brain Injury Gala, Dinner & Auction took place on October 29, 2016.

The theme of the Gala was "Decade of Difference," which celebrated the difference each year of fundraising has made for the survivors of brain injury, their caregivers, loved ones and the professionals who serve them. It is always a great opportunity to connect with those involved in creating a voice for the "Silent Epidemic" that is Brain Injury. Over 600 attendees from the Washington legal, medical and philanthropic communities came out to support the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington.

Thanks to our supporter's generosity, survivors of brain injury across the state have an advocate, access to the resources that they need and deserve, and most importantly, hope for their future.

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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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