

December 2021

BrainStorming



BIAIA Virtual Events and Support



**So What? Service Planning
Following Brain Injury Screening**
June Klein-Bacon, BSW, CBIST

- Review prevalent information regarding brain injury and multi-occurring conditions, why does it matter?
- Establish framework for thinking about programming through the lens of brain development/functional building blocks
- Review accommodation strategy examples to address in service planning

December 16, 2021 @ 11AM-12PM CST

Learn more and register at our website
WWW.BIAIA.ORG and click on Events



The development of this project is supported through the Brain Injury Services Program (BISP) of Iowa, through contract 5482006, with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The content and the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of IDPH.



While much of our communities continue to meet virtually, the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa would like to remind you that we continue to work to deliver virtual support groups, webinars and other web-based learning. Opportunities are highlighted on our social media pages in addition to the [BIAIA events](#) tab on our website. If you are unsure how to access event information, reach out to us at info@biaia.org or contact your Neuro Resource Facilitator.

Updates with BIAIA:

**Child Welfare
Collaborative**



The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa (BIAIA) engages with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS) on a Child Welfare Collaborative. Using the 2018-2021 three year Federal Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, TBI Partnership grant awarded to the Iowa Department of Public health as a spring board by diving deeper into the use of Iowa's Lifetime History of Brain Injury Screening Tool ([LINK TO TOOL](#)). Previous work has underlined the significant prevalence of brain injury among underserved populations; IDPH identified additional pathways and partnerships to launch the Child Welfare Collaborative and was awarded funding for a 2021-2026 grant. BIAIA has engaged in a pilot project with IDPH and IDHS in South East Iowa to support implementation of brain injury screening for parents involved in the child welfare system and provide Neuro Resource Facilitation services for those who screen positive for brain injury with the goal of supporting family cohesion.

Research Studies Added to Our Website!



Stay up to date on research studies looking for participants. Access this information by going to the *NEWS* tab on our website and click on [Research Studies](#).

Winter Celebrations



Assistive Technology: Funding Support

Easterseals Iowa is offering funding to Iowans who need assistive technology (AT). The funding is available for Iowans with disabilities over the age of 18, or for Iowans over the age of 60. The AT devices must help an individual:

- Increase their independence in activities of daily living
- Remain in their home, and/or
- Have access to the community.

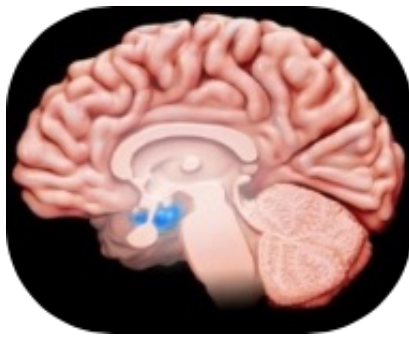
There is a \$750 limit per person. For questions, get in touch with **Tracy Keninger** at tkeninger@eastersealsia.org

Advocacy: More Virtual Medicaid Town Halls Announced



"This is a great opportunity for you to bring up your ideas to make Medicaid better, or talk about the challenges you face in living, working, and getting around in your community." **All 2022 meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month** (February 24, March 25, April 22, May 27).

Learn more: [infoNETIowa](#)



Mental Health and Brain Injury: The Anatomy of PTSD

"From the frontal lobe (which houses our emotions) to the amygdala (which oversees our fight or flight response), Michael Roy, MD, Col. (Ret.) explains how parts of the brain are affected when injured by brain injury or a traumatic experience." *Posted on BrainLine June 4, 2014.*

Learn more: [BrainLine](#)

Stroke Highlight: Million Hearts Initiative



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal agencies have implemented a Million Hearts initiative focusing on the **ABCS** of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention:

- **Aspirin:** Increase low dose aspirin therapy according to recognized prevention guidelines
- **Blood Pressure:** Prevent and control high blood pressure; reduce sodium intake
- **Cholesterol:** Prevent and control high blood cholesterol
- **Smoking:** Increase the number of smokers counseled to quit and referred to quit lines; increase availability of no or low-cost cessation products

Learn more: [MillionHearts](#)

Iowa Department of Public Health:

[Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program](#)

JUSTICE IN AGING
FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Health Benefits: Medicare

"Half of Medicare enrollees—31 million aging adults and people with disabilities—have very limited income and savings and cannot afford to pay

out-of-pocket for home-based care or vital dental, hearing, and vision services. In two new factsheets, Justice in Aging describes how policies Congress is considering right now would help millions of low-income Medicare enrollees while also strengthening the Medicare program."

Learn more: [JusticeInAging](#)

Employment: Returning to Work After Brain Injury



- Obstacles to Returning to Work after Brain Injury
- Understanding Your Employment Rights After Brain Injury
- Accessing Disability Benefits After TBI
- Social Security Incentives for Returning to Work After Brain Injury
- Preparing to Return to Work After Brain Injury
- Finding Employment Again After Brain Injury

Read the article: [KnowYourRights](#)

Staff Highlight: Maureen

Maureen started at BIAIA this fall as a Neuro Resource Facilitation Associate. She custom-prints, assembles, and ships informational materials (especially brain injury tote bags) to both Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network (IBIRN) sites and individuals served by our Neuro Resource Facilitators.

So far, her biggest project outside of her core work of IBIRN totes has been reorganizing the BIAIA's physical space after our consolidation to a single office. Maureen enjoys working at BIAIA for many reasons, but two reasons in particular stand out:

First, she is proud to help provide access to crucial information in physical, printed form, which works better for many kinds of people. It's easy to find endless amounts of brain injury information online, and we ourselves have a digital resource library on BIAIA.org ! However, the printed material in our tote bags still serves a very important purpose. Many groups of people benefit from the printed material we send in our tote bags, including: those in

rural areas who have difficulty accessing the internet, older populations, and the many people whose brain injuries make using screens challenging for long periods of time.

Second, she is glad that the behind-the-scenes work she does helps connect people with brain injury (as well as their families, friends, and caregivers) to information that can allow them access to Home and Community-Based Services. This means many people with brain injury can stay out of institutional settings and instead remain integral members in the daily life of their current homes, families, and communities.

In her free time, Maureen enjoys sci-fi and fantasy media, collecting enamel pins, and corresponding with her friends from around the world.

Neuro Resource Facilitation

Neuro Resource Facilitation is a fee-free service offered by the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa to support people with brain injury, their family members, caregivers and community navigate life after brain injury.



- To reach a Neuro Resource Facilitator please contact 855-444-6443 or email info@biaia.org.
- The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa desires to share your success stories in various publications such as newsletters, website or social media accounts. Click [HERE](#) to share your story!
- Consider a donation to the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa, as we continue to support lowans to "live well" after brain injury. Click [HERE](#) to make a donation today.
- lowans affected by brain injury, family and caregivers are invited to our support group communities. Click [HERE](#) to learn more, register to join and share.

Thank you to our corporate members! Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our corporate members and corporate membership benefits.

Our mission at the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is to create a better future

through brain injury prevention, advocacy, education, research and support.
Join us on our platforms to obtain the latest and most relevant information
pertaining to brain injury.



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