



Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's conference! We are grateful to our speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees who made the event such a meaningful and engaging experience. Your participation and commitment helped make the conference a success.

See you next year for the **35th Annual Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference – March 25th and 26th, 2027 at The Gateway in Ames, Iowa!**

### BIAIA Celebrates Partnership and Advocacy with Iowa Disability Policy Alliance

At this year's Brain Injury Association of Iowa (BIAIA) conference, leaders, advocates, professionals, and volunteers gathered to celebrate something deeply meaningful: the collective commitment to ensuring Iowans living with brain injury are **seen, supported, and empowered**.

The conference awards ceremony recognized individuals and organizations whose work strengthens systems, builds partnerships, and improves the lives of Iowans affected by brain injury. Among the honorees was a powerful coalition making an impact across the disability community.

#### **Advocate of the Year: Iowa Disability Policy Alliance**

The **2025 BIAIA Advocate of the Year Award** was presented to the **Iowa Disability Policy Alliance**, recognizing its leadership in advancing policies

that protect and empower Iowans with disabilities.

The Alliance began to take shape in the summer of 2025 as organizations across Iowa recognized the growing importance of coordinated advocacy at both the state and federal levels. As BIAIA's new Executive Director began engaging with advocacy partners across the state, conversations quickly evolved into a shared vision: bringing organizations and individuals together to strengthen the voice of Iowa's disability community.

BIAIA is proud to serve on the **steering committee** of the Alliance and to work alongside partners committed to meaningful policy change including Disability Rights Iowa, DD Council, ARC of Iowa, ASK Resources, Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and two seats filled by individuals with lived experience.

The Iowa Disability Policy Alliance's mission is to **bring people and organizations together to empower the disability community, raise voices, take action, and shape positive policy change**. In just its first year, the Alliance has already grown to include **24 member organizations and partners**, including individuals with lived experience. Partners include:

- The Common Coalition
- Epilepsy Foundation
- Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
- The Arc of Iowa
- Autism Society of Iowa
- Central Iowa Independent Living Center
- Disability Rights Iowa
- Easter Seals Iowa
- Brain Injury Association of Iowa
- Olmstead Consumer Task Force
- Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
- Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
- The Village Community
- ASK Resource Center
- The Harkin Institute
- CSAVR
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- DMARC
- Iowa Cancer Consortium
- Child Health Specialty Clinics
- Iowa Coalition for Integration and Employment
- The ACE Initiative

Through collaboration, education, and strategic advocacy, the Alliance is elevating the voices of individuals and families impacted by disability — including those living with brain injury.

### **Strength in Partnership**

Advocacy changes systems, but lasting change happens through partnership. BIAIA's involvement in the Iowa Disability Policy Alliance reflects its continued commitment to strengthening policy, expanding awareness, and ensuring the needs of people living with brain injury are represented in statewide conversations.

As shared during the awards ceremony:

*“Today, we celebrated leaders, volunteers, advocates, and professionals — but more than that, we celebrated people who refuse to let brain injury remain invisible.”*

BIAIA is grateful for the collaboration and leadership of the Iowa Disability Policy Alliance and looks forward to continuing this work together.

### **Building a More Resilient Future**

Together with partners across Iowa, BIAIA remains committed to strengthening systems, empowering families, and ensuring that every Iowan living with brain injury is **seen, supported, and valued**.

Congratulations to the **Iowa Disability Policy Alliance**, the 2025 recipient of the **BIAIA Advocate of the Year Award**.

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## Disability Advocacy Day at the State Capitol



Disability Advocacy Day brings advocates, self-advocates, families, and community partners together at the Iowa State Capitol on April 1st for a day of connection, learning, and action.

Attendees will gather in the Rotunda, hear from alliance leaders, engage in conversations with legislators, and stand together to support policies that help Iowans with disabilities Live, Work, Play, and Flourish.

[Learn more about the event and register HERE.](#)

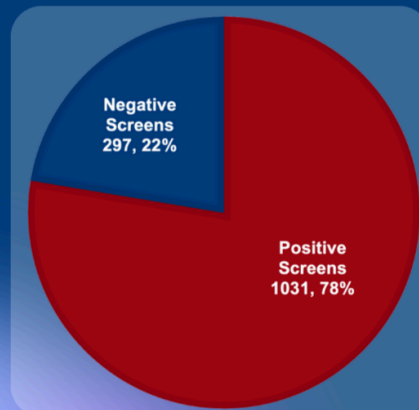
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OBISSS Q4 Reports Are Live!

# OBISSS by the Numbers

Online Brain Injury Screening and Support System

Fourth Quarter 2025



1,328

Total Screens

48-71%

of respondents reported challenges with symptoms



Thanks to our dedicated subscribers, **1328 screenings** were completed in Q4, with **78% positive** for potential brain injury and **48-71% of participants reporting challenges** with symptoms. Your commitment to helping identify and support individuals living with brain injury is unmatched.

**Want to make a difference in your state or community? Use the OBISSS and help expand access to vital brain injury screening.**

[Webinars](#)

[Read Full Q4 Report](#)

FREE CEU opportunities available for the webinars!

Visit our [webinar page](#) to learn more and register.



WEBINAR  
APRIL 2, 2026  
12:00 - 1:00 PM CST



## MASTER THE 5 KEY PILLARS FOR BRAIN INJURY RECOVERY

Kelly Tuttle, Brain Injury Survivor and Author of "After the Crash: How to Keep Your Job, Stay in School, and Live Life After Brain Injury"

[www.biaia.org](http://www.biaia.org)

[info@biaia.org](mailto:info@biaia.org)

855-444-6443



## Validation as a Tool for Connecting and Understanding

Troy Ward, LMHC-T, Counselor and  
Owner of Ward Counseling Services, LLC



WEBINAR  
May 13, 2026  
12:00 - 1:00 PM CST

Support Groups



Our support groups are where individuals can connect, share experiences, and find encouragement. Together, we provide understanding, resources, and community to help one another navigate challenges and celebrate successes. Visit our [Support Group page](#) for more information.



### Educational Topics Survey

What topics related to brain injury would you like to see in upcoming webinars hosted by the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa? Your feedback is valued and appreciated! [Participate in the survey.](#)



### Call for Webinar Proposals

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is looking for presenters to deliver webinars on topics related to brain injury treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and support. Presentations can target professionals or survivors and their loved ones. [Submit proposal](#)

## Brain Injury Resource Facilitation



Brain Injury Resource Facilitators are available to serve Iowans; to answer questions and connect those with a brain injury to resources and information. [Learn more about this program.](#) BIAIA is one call away.

[BIAIA Satisfaction Survey](#)



**Our mission at the Brain Injury Association 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.**