

What Is Traumatic Brain Injury?

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury to the brain caused by external force. TBI can vary in degree of severity.

- Over one million people in the country experience a TBI each year.
- Each year more than 20,000 people in Indiana experience a TBI.
- Of those, about 1,600 will have long term disabilities related to their injury.

Barriers to Recovery

When transitioning from the hospital to the community, individuals may experience many barriers. One of them is the return to school or employment because of the:

- Fragmentation and gaps between medical, rehabilitation, and vocational services.
- Different organizations and funding mechanisms involved.
- Shortage of service providers with TBI experience..
- Lack of awareness of available services.

Resource Facilitation

Resource Facilitation (RF) is the process of assessing an individual's needs and the provision of information and referrals. RF may also include advocating for, obtaining, and accessing services and supports.

An Indiana study showed the effects of Resource Facilitation on individuals' employment and school status. The results showed that 64% of those receiving RF were able to return to work or school within six months of their injury versus 36% of those not receiving RF.

Indiana is developing support and services related to traumatic brain injury (TBI) for professionals and survivors. A recent federal grant provides opportunity for those who want to be involved in a new step towards changing outcomes of individuals with a TBI.

Indiana is one of sixteen states in the USA that has been awarded a TBI Implementation Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The lead agency for the Grant is the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration-Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

2009-2013 HRSA Grant

“Developing and Translating a Statewide System of Support and Collaboration into Local Support Networks Integrated through Resource Facilitation”

The HRSA Grant calls for the creation of the Indiana Brain Injury Leadership Board which includes individuals representing the private and public sector to facilitate the advancement of support and services for TBI in Indiana.

The development of the statewide system of support involves the creation of 3 to 5 Local Support Networks (LSNs) to assist providers and consumers of services.

Local Support Networks

LSNs will be the single point of entry for individuals dealing with TBI to access support through Brain Injury Association of Indiana support groups, through a directory of TBI providers, and Resource Facilitation as appropriate.

Local Support Networks are a coordination of systems to address:

- system access
- assistance in coordination
- a partnership approach to service and support provision
- an education and training system
- flexible and coordinated long term services and supports
- a method for using research outcomes to drive policy development

Development of the LSN will depend on its local community. The LSN will expand on local Brain Injury Association of Indiana support groups, local providers of services and the community to mobilize into a coordinated system. These efforts will result in support and access for return to school and or work for individuals with TBI.

Join The Local Support Network

The LSN Needs

- Service Providers
- Employers
- Advocates
- Integration with and support from the community

The Local Support Network is a collaborative initiative through the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Foundation; and the Brain Injury Association of Indiana.

If you are interested in being involved in the development of the LSN please contact Alan Neuenschwander at 260-715-0605 or by e-mail at alan.neuenschwander@rhin.com



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To locate a local Brain Injury Association of Indiana support group visit their website at:
<http://www.biausa.org/Indiana/support.htm>

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BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT NETWORK

of Fort Wayne

Providing a system of support and services for survivors, caregivers and providers