



**Brain Injury
Alliance**
I O W A

**25th Annual
Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference**

**“Shattering the Myths,
Unmasking the Opportunities”**

**Break Out
Friday, March 3, 2017
2:15pm - 3:15pm**

Diane Hernandez, MS, CRC, CBIS

Diane Hernandez has worked in the field of brain injury in a variety of positions. Currently, she is the disability resource coordinator for Central Iowa’s Workforce agency through Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC. In this position, Diane provides employment and training services to people with a variety of disabilities, including brain injury. She also works with agencies throughout the region to bring about systems change that provides more opportunities for employment to people with disabilities in the region.



Unmasking the Magic for Dealing with Difficult Families

The family system gets a shock when a member experiences brain injury. The fear, confusion, frustration, and desire to protect and advocate can manifest in a variety of ways, some pleasant and some challenging. Providers will gain an understanding of the affect brain injury can have on the family system, and learn skills and techniques for building cooperative relationships. Emphasis will be placed on creating environments where everyone can support the individual with a brain injury while understanding how actions and reactions can help, shake up, redefine and provide healing to the entire family structure.

Objective:

- Participants will gain an understand of the affect brain injury can have on the family system and individual members
- Participants will learn how to assess each family member’s needs and how best to provide individual supports
- Participants will learn promising practices and skills for supporting all family members, from the “difficult” to the “delightful”

Target Audience:

Case managers, counselors, professionals

*Not limited to target audience