

"Brain Injury as a Chronic Health Condition and Resource Facilitation as the Community Based Treatment for Brain Injury"

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**Brain Injury
Alliance**
IOWA



About the Speaker

Lance Trexler is the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Neuropsychology, Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana, Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of PM&R, Indiana University School of Medicine, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Indiana University, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences at Purdue University. He is the Board of Directors Chair for Brain Injury Association of Indiana, the Board of Directors Chair for the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund, and Co-Chair for the Indiana Brain Injury Leadership Board. He is a clinical neuropsychologist by training and has been specialized in brain injury rehabilitation since 1982. His research has focused on interventions for people with brain injury, including pharmacological, rehabilitative, and social interventions. Dr. Trexler is an author on over thirty peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters.

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Description

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is seen by the insurance industry and many health care providers as an "event." Once treated and provided with a brief period of rehabilitation, the perception exists that patients with a TBI require little further treatment and face no lasting effects on the central nervous system or other organ systems. In fact, TBI is a chronic disease process, one that fits the World Health Organization definition as having one or more of the following characteristics: it is permanent, caused by non-reversible pathological alterations, requires special training of the patient for rehabilitation, and/or may require a long period of observation, supervision, or care. TBI increases long-term mortality and reduces life expectancy. Over the past decade an innovative, community-based response for individuals with brain injury has been developing across the country. Known as "Resource Facilitation" or "Neuro Resource Facilitation" this service is emerging as a best and evidence-based practice and may be described as "the" essential long-term treatment for brain injury.

Objectives

1. Recognize the emerging evidence that supports brain injury as a chronic condition.
2. Evaluate the benefits of referring Iowans with brain injury to Resource Facilitation services.
3. Develop linkages within organization referral systems and the Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network.
4. Distinguish between the need for a medical referral and one to Neuro Resource Facilitation for long-term services and support.