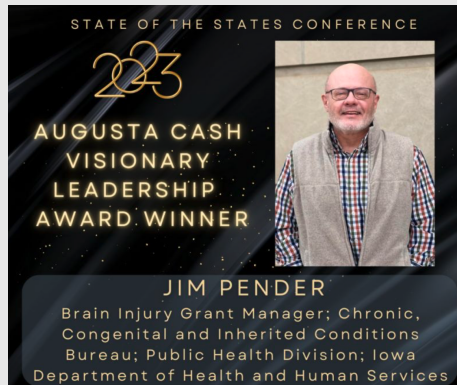


Augusta Cash Visionary Leadership Award



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) annually recognizes the contributions of a member whose tireless efforts directly and significantly contribute to the Association's achievements and growth. This year, to further clarify the intention of the award, the NASHIA Board voted to rename NASHIA's annual Katie Cash award, to the Augusta Cash Visionary Leadership Award. This award is given to a state agency employee who holds a Full or State Agency membership with the organization.

NASHIA's Past Presidents presented the Augusta Cash Visionary Leadership Award at NASHIA's Annual 2023 Meeting based on the nominee's: effort and accomplishment(s); ability to see opportunities, communicate possibilities, and foster innovative thinking; ability to lead others, gain cooperation, and work through difficulties; and loyalty to NASHIA and its members. This year's awardee embodies all of these traits.

Jim Pender, was awarded the inaugural Augusta Cash Visionary Leadership award for his dedication to improving the lives of children and adults in Iowa who are supported by the Child Welfare System. The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa has had the pleasure to work with Mr. Jim Pender who works with the ACL TBI TARC, co-leading the development of a national best practices guide focused on supporting a state system that interfaces with a significant number of families impacted by brain injury.

Iowa has participated in NASHIA's Leading Practices Academy in Criminal and Juvenile Justice, paving the own path and focus: Child Welfare. Mr. Jim Pender brought together partners from across state government agencies to formally integrate identification and support for people with brain injury among Iowa's Child Welfare System through a pilot that has engaged the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa to create a foundational program that supports both children and adults living in Iowa.

Brain Injury Alliance exhibit at the 2023 Five Seasons Stand Down Event

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa Neuro Resource Facilitators attend and exhibit at a variety of trainings and events. In September 2023, BIAIA had the opportunity to exhibit



at the Five Seasons Stand Down Event. This event is designed for veterans who are homeless or experiencing other difficulties after serving our country. According to dav.org, from 2000-2017, over 375,000 veterans were diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury.

During this event, many organizations from all around Iowa came to exhibit to provide information regarding supports and services available to those veterans that included food, drink, free haircuts and a variety of organizations seeking to share information and resources. We provided information on brain injuries and offered brain injury screenings to attendees, some of which resulted in having a likelihood of lifetime history of acquired brain injury. BIAIA shared a variety of resources that included the [screening tool](#) and additional resources that can be found on our website at www.biaia.org

Several attendees had access to a variety of resources they were not aware of. It is an honor to see attendees light up as they learned about resources and noting they now know "that they are not in this alone."

Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME)

Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) is a project in Iowa that is working to improve and ensure that everyone has access to high-quality behavioral health, disability and aging services in their communities. To achieve this, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) collaborated with partners at Mathematica and The Harkin Institute. They conducted an evaluation of community-based services and published a [final evaluation report](#) in early 2023. The report provides recommendations on how Iowa can improve these services.

Based on those recommendations, the team created a [transformation plan](#) to guide the next steps and implement the suggested improvements.

HOME will be coming to communities across Iowa soon. To help us connect with invested Iowans, Iowa HHS will be hosting events across the state to share information, provide HOME updates and hear community voices to inform the project. We need and value your perspectives and feedback to inform HOME decision-making and to make community-based services better. These in-person events are a great way for you to voice your challenges and discuss solutions. The map with dates and locations is [here](#).

Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Applications

The taskforce is currently in need of three new members. In general, the taskforce looks for people who have lived experience with a disability, a

family member with lived experience of a disability, or someone who works with individuals with disabilities. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

Free HHA Training Opportunity

The Iowa Heart Foundation and the Cardiovascular Health Program at Iowa HHS are offering our second Healthy Heart Ambassadors Training opportunity! The evidence-based blood pressure self-monitoring program helps to empower participants to manage their own blood pressure with non-clinical support. For more information, [DOWNLOAD FLIER](#). To register, [CLICK HERE](#).



32nd Annual Best Practices in
Brain Injury Services
Conference
**Bridging the Gaps:
Integrating Research,
Practice,
& Adaptation**
March 7-8, 2024 | Coralville, Iowa

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NeuroResource Facilitation



[BIAIA
Satisfaction
Survey](#)

Nobody plans for a brain injury. One day you wake up every morning to start your daily routine and the next you're trying to navigate the challenges that are being thrown at you after your life altering experience. It's not easy, especially when you grieve the life you once lived. You may find yourself getting recurring headaches. You may experience a type of fatigue you did not know existed. Easily agitated? That may be new for you.

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



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.