



Brain Injury Alliance I O W A

33rd Annual Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference

REGISTRATION OPEN!

SCAN HERE



Weathering the Storm
Together: Collaborative Care
in Brain Injury Services

March 6 - 7, 2025 West Des Moines, Iowa

A few days left before the [33rd Annual Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference](#)! This conference will provide emerging, evidence-based, best and promising practices for: medical treatment, rehabilitation, adaptation, and accommodations after brain injury, responding to the bio-psychosocial and financial impact of the injury on individuals and caregivers, policy and practice change, mild brain injury/concussion, and prevention of and/or navigating secondary outcomes (i.e. mental health, unemployment, substance abuse). Explore our event hub to learn more about the conference! Don't miss out and register now!

Online registration closes February 28, 2025 (11:59pm CST). Day of registration will be available.

Event Hub

Register Now!



Brain Injury Alliance I O W A

Brain Injury Advocacy Day

March 18th, 2025
10am - 2pm CST

State Capitol Rotunda West and South

www.biaia.org
info@biaia.org
1-855-444-6443



SCAN TO REGISTER

Join us for Brain Injury Advocacy Day! This is your chance to make your voice heard, meet with legislators, and connect with fellow advocates. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or new to the process, your presence makes a difference. Don't miss this opportunity to stand up, speak out, and make an impact! Learn more and visit our [ADVOCACY PAGE](#).

FREE Registration



The International Stroke Conference (ISC) 2025, organized by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Stroke Association (ASA), is the world's premier meeting dedicated to the science and treatment of cerebrovascular disease and brain health. This conference brings together professionals from around the globe to share the latest research, clinical practices, and advancements in stroke care.

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa was pleased to have representation at ISC! Our Project Director, Allison Andrews, co-authored an abstract, “Service Navigation for Individuals with Stroke Proactively Referred to Neuro Resource Facilitation at Discharge from Inpatient Rehabilitation”, with Dan Logan, Director of Performance Management & Quality Improvement at On With Life, and Dave Anders, Chief Clinical Officer at On With Life. The

abstract was selected to be among 37 posters in the Quality Showcase at ISC, **nine** of which were **Iowa** projects! Additionally, Allison participated in the Mini Lecture Series, providing more information about our Neuro Resource Facilitation services to ISC attendees in her presentation titled, “Bridging the Gap: Cultivating Partnerships for Continuity of Care in Secondary Stroke Prevention”.

We want to thank Mission: Lifeline for this opportunity and On With Life for our ongoing collaboration and partnership on these efforts!

Court Preliminarily Approves Settlement Agreement Filed to Ensure Iowa's Children Receive Vital Mental Health Services

State submits Implementation Plan outlining steps for improving the delivery of responsive, effective mental and behavioral health care services for children

Des Moines, IA – Last Friday, a federal court preliminarily approved a Settlement Agreement in a class action lawsuit brought against the Director of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) to ensure that children with mental health disabilities receive the legally required and medically necessary mental health care services they need when and where they need them, without being segregated from their loved ones and communities.

The proposed Settlement Agreement requires Iowa HHS to develop and roll out a set of key services statewide, including care coordination, in-home mental health services, and mobile crisis services. It also requires a new screening and assessment process, to ensure children with mental health disabilities are screened for appropriate services.

Through the settlement agreement process, Iowa HHS has agreed to develop a new array of services through the Iowa Responsive Excellent Care for Healthy youth initiative (Iowa REACH). Iowa REACH is a new approach to mental and behavioral health services, aimed at helping youth remain in their communities, and connecting the development of community-based services across Iowa.

“The agreement and our REACH strategy signify a major step in the right direction for Iowa youth and their families. We’ve spent several years seeking input from stakeholders, individuals and families directly affected and believe REACH is a comprehensive approach focused on providing core services and path forward to meet the unique mental and behavioral needs of Iowa’s children. Iowa HHS is fully committed to implementing new strategies and evaluating current outcomes to ensure we are meeting the needs that our children and youth deserve and families expect,” said Iowa HHS Director Kelly Garcia.

The Settlement Agreement also includes an Implementation Plan that will serve as a blueprint for improving and strengthening the delivery of intensive home-and community-based behavioral health services for children and establishing effective quality management and accountability systems.

The case was filed in early 2023 by Disability Rights Iowa, the National Health Law Program, Children's Rights and Ropes & Gray on behalf of Medicaid-eligible children under the age of 21 with serious emotional and behavioral health conditions. The complaint alleges instances where a child was denied access to intensive services in their homes and communities,

separated from their families and placed in psychiatric hospitals and similar institutions for extended periods, where their mental health deteriorates further.

“Disability Rights Iowa commends the significant work that has been done by all parties to develop this settlement agreement. The partnership between our agency, Children’s Rights, the National Health Law Program, Ropes and Gray, and Gov. Reynolds and her administration enabled this move towards addressing the needs of children with mental health conditions in Iowa. For decades, the lack of services available has put the effected children at a greater risk for institutionalization which takes them away from their families or caregivers who are best able to love and care for them. We are pleased to be a part of this monumental change in addressing the pitfalls of the current system and finding solutions to improve the mental and physical wellbeing and safety of Iowa’s youth,” adds Catherine Johnson, Executive Director of Disability Rights Iowa.

"The National Health Law Program is committed to defending the rights of people with disabilities to access high-quality, community-integrated health care, free from discrimination, including vital mental health services. This commitment includes ending the unnecessary institutionalization of children and youth by ensuring they receive the care they need within their homes and communities,” said Kim Lewis, Managing Director, California Advocacy, and Practice Area Managing Director, National Health Law Program. “This Settlement Agreement marks a crucial step toward securing robust Medicaid home- and community-based services for Iowa’s children, along with better care coordination services and mobile crisis response services. We will continue to advocate for policies that ensure children in Iowa and across the country have access to essential mental health services.”

About Disability Rights Iowa

Disability Rights Iowa is part of a nationwide network of protection and advocacy systems established in the 1970s by the U.S. Congress to respond to abuse and neglect of lowans with disabilities. DRI defends and promotes the human and legal rights of lowans who have disabilities. We promote safety, opportunity, access, and self-determination for all lowans. For more information, please visit www.disabilityrightsiaowa.org.

About Children’s Rights

Every day, children are harmed in America’s child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and healthcare systems. Through relentless strategic advocacy and legal action, we hold governments accountable for keeping kids safe and healthy. Children’s Rights, a national non-profit organization, has made a lasting impact for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children. For more information, please visit www.childrensrights.org.

About National Health Law Program

National Health Law Program (NHeLP) protects and advances the health rights of low-income and underserved individuals and families. NHeLP advocates, educates and litigates at the federal and state levels. Our lawyers and policy analysts stand up for the rights of the millions of people who struggle to access affordable, quality health care. We are guided by the belief – a challenge – that each generation should live better than the last. For more information, please visit www.healthlaw.org.

About Ropes & Gray, LLC

Ropes & Gray is a preeminent global law firm with approximately 1,400 lawyers and legal professionals serving clients in major centers of business, finance, technology and government. The firm has offices in Chicago, New

York, Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Silicon Valley, London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul, and has consistently been recognized for its leading practices in many areas, including private equity, M&A, finance, asset management, real estate, tax, antitrust, life sciences, health care, intellectual property, litigation & enforcement, privacy & cybersecurity, and business restructuring.

Ropes & Gray's public service commitment is a hallmark of the firm, rooted in the example set by the firm's founders more than a century and a half ago. From securing asylum for endangered immigrants, to helping people keep their homes, to winning the release of the wrongly convicted, Ropes & Gray strives to provide the highest level of pro bono legal advice and support to those who need it most. For more information, please visit www.ropesgray.com.

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Iowa HHS Releases Behavioral Health Frequently Asked Questions

In collaboration, Iowa HHS' Aging & Disability Services and Behavioral Health divisions have launched a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage designed to provide stakeholders and clients with easy access to important information. This resource, available [here](#), will be updated frequently to ensure the latest and most accurate details are readily available. Regular updates will help address emerging concerns, clarify policies, and keep the community informed.

Additionally, the next Behavioral Health Town Hall is scheduled for [February 27, 2025, at 4 p.m.](#) This event serves as an opportunity for stakeholders, clients, and community members to engage with Behavioral Health representatives, ask questions, and stay informed about key initiatives. To enhance the discussion and ensure a productive session, participants are encouraged to submit their questions in advance via the [Behavioral Health feedback form](#) or [Disability Services feedback form](#).

Webinars

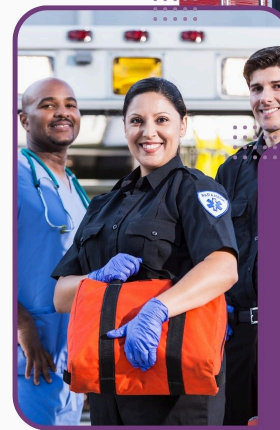
CEU opportunities available for these webinars!

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

EMS in Stroke: The First Line of Defense

Matt Imming, Paramedic
*Iowa Mission: Lifeline Stroke
Task Force*

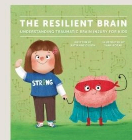
March 12, 2025
12:00-1:00 PM CST



WEBINAR



HOW TO EDUCATE AND BUILD AWARENESS IN CHILDREN AND OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY



Katianne Olson
Best-selling Amazon author of
"The Resilient Brain: Understanding
Traumatic Brain Injury for Kids"

WEBINAR
March 27, 2025
12:00-1:00 PM
CST



Period of **PURPLE** Crying:

An Effective and Memorable Abusive
Head Trauma Prevention Program

Shantel Wakely, BS – PURPLE Program Director,
National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025
FROM 12:00-1:00 PM CST



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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!

Monica W. Rodcliffe
Occupational Therapist – On with Life

[Participate in the survey](#)



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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 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.