



BRAINSTORMING

News you can use from the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa

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The mission of the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, advocacy, education, research and support

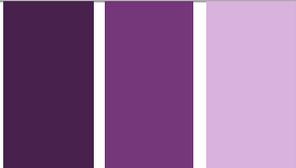
Summer Playground Safety

The weather is getting warmer, so, it's the perfect time to review some safety tips and talk with your children about being safe while having fun on the playground!

1. Supervise Kids Using Playground Equipment
2. Choose the Right Play Area Based on Your Child's Age
3. Ensure Safe Surfacing Beneath and Surrounding Playground Equipment
4. Check That Playgrounds Are Inspected and Maintained by Qualified Personnel



Click here for more info



Meet the BIA-IA Neuro-Resource Facilitators!



Annie Randolph

Annie is a Neuro-Resource Facilitator at the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa and has been with BIA-IA since September of 2014. She helps to connect survivors and caregivers to necessary and needed supports in their communities. Prior to Annie's time at BIAIA, she worked at the Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS) in Ames, IA where she provided advocacy for domestic and sexual violence victims. She obtained her Bachelor of Sciences degree in Child, Adult, and Family Services at Iowa State University in May of 2012. She completed her Certification as a Brain Injury Specialist in 2015. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband and son.

Brandi is the Director of Programs and Services at the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa. She leads the Neuro-Resource Facilitation program, a team of facilitators who provide resources and advocacy to Iowans affected by Brain Injury. Prior to her 7 years at BIAIA, she worked with 2 neuropsychologists at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, where she performed formal neuropsychological assessments for patients. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, from Iowa State University in 1998. She has a minor in Sociology, and has been a Certified Brain Injury Specialist since 2010. In her free time she enjoys cooking, reading, and watching her kids activities with her husband, which includes sports, dance and horsemanship.



Brandi Jensen



Melissa Morford

Melissa is the Manager of Neuro Resource Facilitation Outreach at BIA-IA in our Iowa City office and has been with the agency since March of 2015. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 2012 in Child, Adult and Family Services, with a minor in Psychology. Prior to her time at BIA-IA, Melissa worked as a Family Development Specialist at an Iowa Community Action Agency working in the Early Head Start program. In her free time, Melissa enjoys spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys outdoor activities, doing crafts, and spending time with her dog on hikes and walks. Melissa and her husband are also in the process of remodeling their home, which is a century old farmhouse that Melissa grew up in.



Lisa Jenison

Lisa is the Neuro Resource Facilitation Team Lead at the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa. Lisa provides support and advocacy for Iowans with brain injury, family, and professionals. Lisa has been with the organization for almost 3 years. Before coming to the BIAIA Lisa worked a Supported Community Living Supervisor at On With Life for 15 years. Lisa also has experience in working in long-term care and supported employment for persons with disabilities. Lisa obtained her AA degree from NIACC in Mason City Iowa in 1991 and Bachelors degree at ISU in 1994. She has been a Certified Brain Injury Specialist since 2006. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family and pets, running, camping, and traveling.

Krys is a Neuro Resource Facilitator at BIA-IA. She completed her undergraduate degree at Grand View University. Krys has been working the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa since March 2015. She has been working non-profit since 1994 and has a background in Direct Service and Case Management support services. Throughout this time, she has been blessed to work with children, adults, and seniors through numerous disabling events in their life such as chronic mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and brain injuries. She has learned so much about resiliency from those she has been privileged to work with. Her time outside includes family friendly activities with her family leading an active lifestyle.



Krys Purscell

June BIA-Iowa in October 2013 as a Neuro-Resource Facilitator in our Waterloo office. In addition to providing Neuro-Resource Facilitation to Northeast and North Central Iowa, she also serves as a support to the BIA team, as Project Manager coordinating deliverables on our Administration for Community Living contract. June is also involved at multiple tables for systems and public policy advocacy.

June graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Southwest Minnesota State University before moving back to the Cedar Valley. She joined BIA-Iowa with experience in Mental Health, Intellectual and Brain Injury Home and Community Based Services, disability services staff development, options counseling and case management with the Department on Aging.

June is a dual licensed for foster and adoptive care by the State of Iowa, enjoys time supporting children in her community, and spending time at her acreage with her family and wildlife. June is passionate about human rights, family, and positivity.



June Klein-Bacon

Survivor Story

Daniel K.

On April 21, 1979, Daniel, was running a low fever. He was two years old. His parents rushed him to the emergency room. At the ER, the doctors said he had a throat infection. They prescribed medication and released Daniel. While at home, Daniel had a seizure. His father was at work; thus, he was rush to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics via helicopter. At the hospital, he was in coma for 3 weeks. The doctor said Daniel had viral encephalitis, and was hospitalized for 6 months. Viral encephalitis, is an acquired brain injury, that causes brain swelling. The doctors said Daniel had very little chances of surviving.

Daniel's family followed up with therapy care at home. It was not easy seeing their baby struggle to keep up with the others, but they never lost hope for Daniel. Daniel was getting better, and started progressing even more at his church. His doctor decided for Daniel to be moved to a special education program, where he demonstrated excellent improvement. His parents continue to shower with



compassion and understanding.

Daniel is now an adult who has a beautiful daughter. He does not remember his life before his brain injury. This is something very interesting about Daniel's survival story because many times brain injury survivors remember their life before the accident. In Daniel's case, he does not know any other life than the one he is living. He keeps motivated by seeing his young daughter grow each day. Daniel also enjoys working out and running. He is also very involved in community events. Daniel mentions these two activities are great sources to release stress and stay healthy.

(continued)

His participation with Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa has been fundamental to his success. He remains very informed on hot topics involving advocacy and justice for brain injury survivors by attending conferences, events, and meetings sponsored by BIA-IA. For example, Daniel

“Daniel wants others to always keep trying and remind other survivors that the resources you need are out there to help you”

attended the annual conference, where he networked with other professionals and survivors about brain injury. He stresses that there is a lot of help out there, and people are willing to do everything they can to help.

In addition, Daniel attends support group meetings in northern Iowa. He has learned valuable lessons in the support groups, and has viewed different perspectives from brain injury survivors. This is very special to him because it allows him to grow. It is important to know that no one is alone; although, everyone might have a different story to share. Daniel has a strong support system that consists

of BIA-IA, friends, and family. Daniel says BIA-IA has given him the opportunities to network, access services, community outreach, and participated in fun events.

Daniel is a strong, intelligent, and hard-working individual who makes a difference in this world. He encourages others to go out there and search for answers. He mentioned that no one knows how much effort you put to each and every day better than yourself. His daughter is his biggest cheerleader, and the most precious part of his life. Daniel wants others to always keep trying and remind other survivors that the resources you need are out there to help you.

Interested in sharing your story of survival or caregiving after a brain injury? Want to help spread stories of hope and inspiration?

Contact BIA-IA at (855) 444-6443 or info@biaia.org to find out more!

Upcoming BIA-IA Webinars



July 12th - 11:30a-12:30p

Pediatric Neuropsychological Evaluations:

What are they and how can they help my child?

Please check out our [website](#) for upcoming info and details!

Click to Register

Brain Injury Support Groups

Come receive support and encouragement from other survivors and caregivers with shared experiences!

Click below for a link to our current list of brain injury support groups.

Support Groups

Iowa Resource Highlight

ASK (Access for Special Kids) Resource Center is a parent training, information, and advocacy center for families of children with special needs across the state of Iowa. ASK is a family-driven, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to empower individuals with disabilities and their family members.



[Click For More Information](#)

Technology Corner



Talking Rx is base for a medicine bottle. There is a button on the inside of the base that can be pressed. While pressing the button a recording will be played. The recording can be done by a caregiver, pharmacist, or individual, to remind themselves of the appropriate medication instructions.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council develops a five-year plan as a basic framework for how Council resources will be used. Resources include staff time, Council Member time, partnerships, relationships and funding.

The Council would welcome your comments, suggestions and feedback on the draft goals and objectives.

Please provide comments and suggestions for activities for each of the objectives. This document will be open for comment until July 5, 2016.

**Complete
Survey**



Research Volunteers Needed

The Brain Injury Research Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center is seeking people who had a **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** when they were at least **40 years old**, are at least **1 year post injury** and were hospitalized for the injury.

Interested individuals will have the opportunity to participate in either 1 or 2 interviews designed to learn more about brain injury and aging. Interviews will include a brief test of thinking abilities and questions about health and functioning after brain injury.

If interested, please call the **Brain Injury Research Center** at
(212) 241-5152



GCO# 11-1455, Project 2, Approved 8-7-2015 to 8-6-2016
Compensation is provided

Parents of children with special health and behavioral needs, you are invited to attend Powerful Tools for Caregivers. This 6 week series, meeting once a week, will provide you with an opportunity to network with other parents and gain knowledge on available resources, along with a plethora of other tools to add to your caregiving toolbox.

When:

- Thursdays July 28 – Sept 1 (9-11a)
- Mondays Sept 19 – Oct 24 (6-8pm)

Where: Easter Seals Iowa Camp Sunnyside

- 401 NE 66th Ave, Des Moines, IA 50313

Cost: \$25 to cover cost of required book.

Class size is limited, registration required by July 14 or September 5.

Powerful Tools
FOR Caregivers

Contact Kim Karwal to sign up!

515-309-2394

515-289-4069 (TTY)

kkarwal@easterseals.org (email)



The Month of June is...

National Aphasia Awareness Month



- ✓ Aphasia is usually due to stroke or traumatic injury to the brain
- ✓ The ability to communicate using language is affected, including speaking, understanding the speech of others, reading, gesturing, etc.
- ✓ Aphasia is a communication disorder affecting over 2,000,000 Americans
- ✓ Intelligence is not affected by aphasia
- ✓ While there is no medical “cure” for aphasia, people’s aphasia can be helped even 10 or more years after onset if they have access to appropriate intensive treatment.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa

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