



Members of USBIA



The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is part of the United States Brain Injury Alliance. As part of this larger Alliance we have the opportunity to collaborate with our other State Partners for best practices in supporting families affected by Brain Injury.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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Support Groups



There are currently several support groups around the state for survivors and family members affected by brain injury.

For information about groups this month, please [CLICK HERE](#).

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Did You Know?

Falls Are the Leading Cause of Brain Injury in the State of Iowa

Falls are a significant concern for Iowans, especially with Iowa's aging population. For all age groups, falls are the second leading cause of injury deaths in Iowa, and the leading cause of injury hospitalizations and emergency visits in Iowa.

For those over the age of 65, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths with the highest rate in those over the age of 84. The causes of falling vary with contributing factors including: reduced strength in lower extremities, use of four or more medications, poor vision, chronic health problems and unsafe home conditions.

The 10th annual **Falls Prevention Awareness Day** (FPAD) will be observed on **Sept. 22, 2017**—the first day of fall. In honor of this notable milestone, the theme of the event will be 10 Years Standing Together to Prevent Falls. This event raises awareness about how to prevent fall-related injuries among older adults.

To find out more about events that are happening in your area, please click on the "More Information" button.

Click Here for More Information





30th Anniversary Celebration: Join Us In Honoring Marilyn Price Spivack

Marilyn Price Spivack, who co-founded the National Head Injury Foundation (now the Brain Injury Association of America) with Dr. Martin Spivack and co-founded the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts – will receive the *Founder's Award* in honor of her hard work and dedication in the field of brain injury. She has been a Neurotrauma Rehabilitation Outreach Coordinator at Spaulding Rehabilitation Network for more than 15 years.

Spivack, whose daughter Debby suffered a brain injury as a teenager, started the National Head Injury Foundation at her home in Framingham, Mass. with a small group of 17 families and professionals in August of 1980. “Our loved ones had sustained severe head injuries,” explains Spivack. “Their prognosis was grim, and services were nonexistent.” With few professionals to turn to for help, the group was determined to build an organization which was based on their needs and deep frustrations as they searched for treatment options and services for individuals with brain injuries, she adds.

The organization was the first of its kind and not easy to build. “We learned from one another and we listened,” Spivack says. “Our accomplishments took time, patience, resources and many voices along with helping hands.”

While BIAA and BIA-MA have come a long way and had many successes, Spivack hopes the national organization and its chapters will continue to flourish and expand their visions by adding their voices to the health care reform discussions, tireless advocacy work on behalf of survivors and families and by taking advantage of the exciting advancements in the field of neuroscience.

Currently, Marilyn serves as a member of the BIA-MA Board of Directors and continues to advocate for brain injury services. Her tireless efforts have lent to legislative victories as well and she continues to travel extensively for conferences and speaking engagements. She is an advocate, through and through.

It's a Small World!

It is a small world! Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa founders Jerry and Joann Kramer (couple on left) met up with their old friends and colleagues Marilyn Spivack and Dr. Marty Spivack (couple on right), founders of Brain Injury Association of America!

These two families have been driving forces for improving brain injury services and supports in our country for more than 40 years.

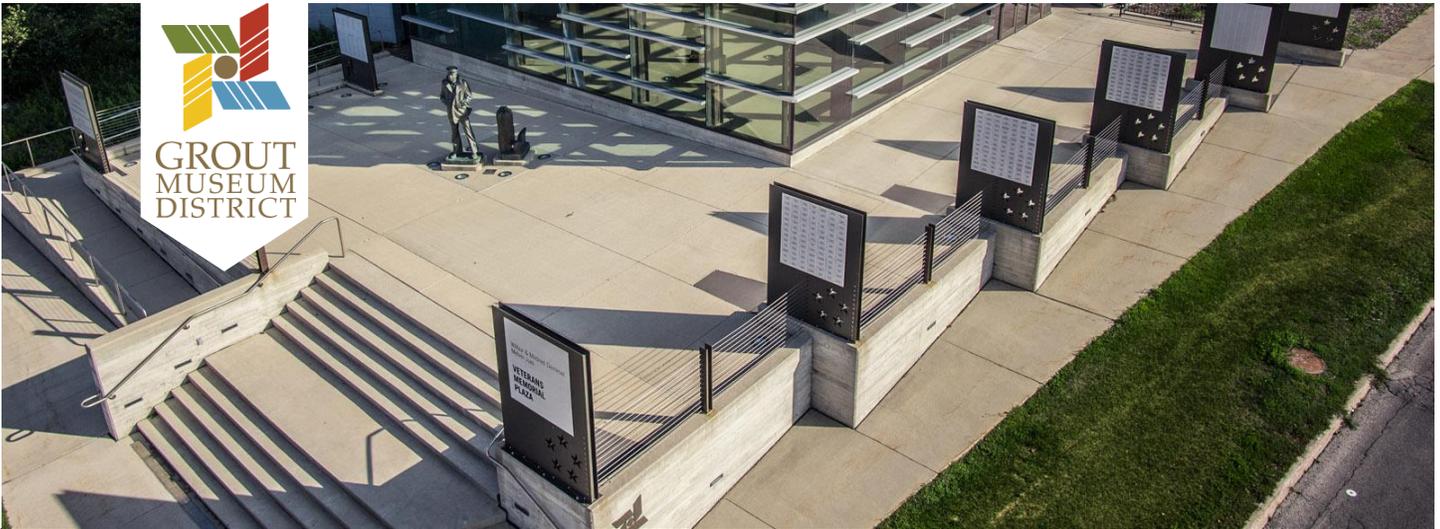
We owe them a GREAT debt of gratitude and honor them for building the foundation for the successful programs we have today!



Need a Reminder?

Check out this short video of the services and supports offered by the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa!

[Click Here
for Video](#)



Hosted by County Social Services and Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa:
Annual Best Practices and Supports Conference

Friday, September 22nd, 2017
9:00am-4:00pm

[Click Here for More Information](#)



Cost to Register:
 Exhibitors—\$100
 Professionals—\$75
 Individual/Family—\$30

NAMI | **2017**
 National Alliance on Mental Illness
Walks | **Save the Date!**

#StigmaFree

National NAMIWalks Elite Sponsor
Alkermes
 The Allergan Foundation
 National NAMIWalks Sponsor
 Takeda | National Walk Partner

Saturday, September 30, 2017
 Terra Lake Park, 6300 Pioneer Parkway,
 Johnston, Iowa

Join us at NAMIWalks Iowa as we raise awareness & funds for our mental health programs and support services:
 Family Education & Support | Peer Education,
 Support & Speaker's Bureau | Anti-Discrimination & Advocacy



[Click Here for More Information](#)

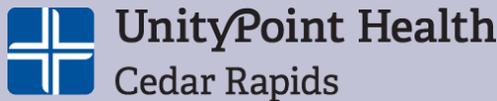
Online registration ends September 7th. Race Day registration available. T-shirts guaranteed for entries by September 3rd. You will be able to register at packet pickup the evening before the race and the morning of the race.

START TIME: 8:00am CDT
END TIME: 9:30am CDT
PRICE: \$30.00 Race Fee + \$2.50 SignUp Fee
REGISTRATION: Registration ends September 6, 2017 at 4:00pm CDT



Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa Meet and Greet

October 5 from 6-7:30
 at St Anthony's Regional Medical Center



Thank you to our corporate members!

Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa Membership

Become a Member!

Thank you for your interest in joining the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa (BIAIA). BIAIA is a not-for-profit, statewide membership organization whose endeavors are funded by special events, memberships, contributions, and grants. Join BIAIA and work toward a richer, brighter future for all survivors. By working together to promote a better system of care, we all benefit greatly.

Please select if you are an Individual or a Corporation below:

[Individual Membership Information](#)

[Corporate Membership Information](#)

You may also join BIAIA by sending an e-mail to info@biaia.org with your name, address, and telephone number or contact our office by telephone at 1-855-444-6443.

Neuro Resource Facilitation

There is a service in Iowa dedicated to helping Iowans with brain injury choose, get, and keep needed services and supports. Neuro-Resource Facilitation (NRF) is a free service through the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa that helps people with brain injury, their families, caregivers, and professionals find answers to their questions while providing ongoing follow up to assess needs.

This is How We Can Help!



Learn what to expect following a brain injury



Guidance with insurance, transportation, housing, mental health, and more



Assistance navigating complex local, state, and federal programs



Support with locating professionals and resources that are available in your area



Connecting you to local support groups in Iowa



Advocating for services and teaching self-advocacy skills

Call Us Today!
 (855) 444-6443
info@biaia.org



New Qualifying Conditions Added for Brain Injury Waiver in Iowa

The state of Iowa currently has seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers available to eligible individuals that can help provide services and supports in their own homes or communities who would otherwise require care in a medical institution.

The Brain Injury (BI) Waiver is one of the HCBS Waivers that offers services for those who have been diagnosed with a brain injury due to an accident or illness. Along with Medicaid eligibility requirements and Level of Care (LOC) assessments, an individual must be determined to have a brain injury diagnosis included in a definitive list identified by the State of Iowa.

The State of Iowa recently increased access to its Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program via the addition of three diagnoses to its recognized definition of "brain injury" (see [Chapter 83 of the Iowa Administrative Code](#)). These are:

- 1) [Cerebral edema](#)
- 2) [Cerebral palsy](#)
- 3) [Status epilepticus](#)

[Click Here for More Information](#)

The Brain Injury Alliance supported this increase in access to services and supports for Iowans with brain injury and their families.

Reminder: 2017 Annual Provider Training

The Iowa DHS and IME have announced dates and locations for the 2017 Annual Provider Training. Sessions will be offered in nine different communities throughout Iowa, with two sessions in each location. Attendance is not mandatory, but highly encouraged.

This is an opportunity for providers to receive information directly from IME and each MCO. Providers are also able to ask questions and meet with the IME and MCO's.

Seating is limited in all locations so it is important to register for the location and session that works best for your schedule.

For locations, registration and additional information, please review the following DHS Informational Letter: https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1817-MC-FFS-D_AnnualProviderTraining2017.pdf

