



Working Together Promoting Brain Injury Awareness Month

NASHIA Celebrates March Brain Injury Awareness Month: Spotlight on Missouri

During March, the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is featuring articles about the impact of brain injury on individuals and families; state resources and services; and initiatives promoting awareness and improving service delivery. This week, NASHIA features how Missouri's Adult Brain Injury Program's service coordinators impact the lives of Missourians with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Have a story to share? Send to Susan Vaughn at publicpolicy@nashia.org. Meanwhile, you may access NASHIA's Awareness Campaign materials [here](#).



Service Coordinators Impact Lives of Missourians with TBI

Meet two individuals who have received service coordination services through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Adult Brain Injury Program.

"Joe" -- Independence Through Supports

Growing up, "Joe" participated in sports, primarily baseball, and had a number concussions along the way. In November of 2014, he was at work when he had a seizure, fell and hit his head on the concrete floor. He was diagnosed with yet another concussion, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The cumulative affect created so many changes in his ability to function



independently.

At age 28, he could not work; so he moved back to his parents' home, as he was sensitive to light, had balance issues, daily headaches and constant fatigue. Any activity, such as looking at a computer screen or his smart phone, triggered nausea, dizziness, and a need to rest to alleviate the symptoms.

Enter the service coordinator, who, in 2017 provided Service Coordination and Case Management support to help him become independent. After eight months of Transitional Home & Community Support Services, he can now organize his own schedule. Joe now drives independently; he is working part time and has slowly re-established contact with friends. His goal is to work full time and to create new goals to become fully independent once again.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI State Partnership Grant partially funds the Adult Brain Injury Service Coordination program through contracts with the Local Public Health Agencies, along with state general revenue and dedicated funding through a trust fund. Through these contracts, Service Coordination is delivered to Missouri residents, ages 21 to 65, who are living with a traumatic brain injury. Through service coordination, the program links individuals to resources to enable each person to obtain goals of independent living, community participation, and employment. Eleven service coordinators provide services through assigned catchment areas, providing statewide services.

Service Coordination is provided to all ABI Program participants, regardless of financial status. Rehabilitation services are provided to participants who meet financial guidelines and when it has been determined that the services are necessary to facilitate a long-term goal as indicated in the Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) Service Plan. Rehabilitation services include:

- Neuropsychological, Evaluation and Consultation
- Adjustment Counseling
- Transitional Home and Community Support Training

Patrick - Independence Through Employment

After surviving a brain injury as a child finding employment opportunities as an adult were difficult for Patrick - until he came to Ability KC.

[Read more](#)
www.youtube.com

Meet Patrick, who tells his story on YouTube. The video was put together by the Ability KC employment team while he was at his job.

Patrick was injured at age 5, when he was a pedestrian hit by a car and sustained a TBI, as well as physical injuries. After he sought services from the Missouri Adult Brain Injury (ABI) Program years later, the ABI Service Coordinator referred Patrick to the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. He worked for about 18 months at the movie theater on the Kansas City Plaza until it closed. Then, he tried security, but didn't feel it was a good fit for him. He found the job at Walgreens while working a 3rd time with the assistance of KC Ability, his employment provider, and he is very happy in his job there.

He has had many struggles in his life. In addition to the TBI he has had to fight to get the many services he has needed to be healthy, both physically and mentally, but has never given up. He has worked with the same provider through the ABI Program. The provider staff has worked with Patrick since beginning Transitional Home and Community Support services in December 2016.

He has also received Adjustment Counseling through the ABI Program twice a month for the past year. Patrick is truly a success as he has been living in his own apartment for 3 years, pays \$575 a month rent, and has finally obtained Medicaid in the past couple of months to cover his health care needs. He reports his independence and his entire life

- Pre-vocational/Pre-employment Training
- Supported Employment/Follow Along
- Special Instruction

For further information contact Jennifer Braun, MO Adult Brain Injury Program Coordinator: Jennifer.Braun@health.mo.gov

has improved significantly. He has learned to have a good balance of work and learning to take the time to do things he enjoys. Patrick states that he feels very fortunate to have had the support of the ABI program and is thankful for the services he has received to help him live a healthier, happier life.

The Missouri Adult Brain Injury Program was created in 1985 through general revenue appropriations.



BIAMO Offers Supports and Resources



The Missouri Adult Brain Injury Programs partners with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) on a number of activities, including the upcoming Survivor and Family Regional Seminars, which provide helpful information, practical suggestions and support for life with brain injury. Each year, regional Seminars are held in Southwest and Western Missouri in Spring and Eastern Missouri in October. Seminars are free, but registration is required. Other sponsors include the Missouri AgrABILITY Project, The

Whole Person, and the Independent Living Center. BIAMO has just finished the *Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers* Seminars, also supported by the state program, which offered a professional development opportunity for youth sports team and school personnel to reduce the risk of concussions and improve concussion management protocols.

Founded in 1982 by a group of parents, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is a community-based organization serving persons with brain injury, their families, caregivers, professionals, and the general public throughout Missouri. The Association offers an array of services and supports and advocates on behalf of brain injury. Maureen Cunningham is the Executive Director. Learn more about their work from their [website](#).