



Working Together Promoting Brain Injury Awareness Month

NASHIA Celebrates March Brain Injury Awareness Month: Spotlight on Vermont

During March, the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) will feature stories 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 the work in Vermont to educate the public about brain injury and services provided by the state. Have a story to tell? Send to Susan Vaughn at publicpolicy@nashia.org. Meanwhile, you may access NASHIA's Awareness Campaign materials [here](#).



Brain Injury Association of Vermont Rolls Out Awareness Campaign

**Go Blue for Brain Injury
Awareness Month!**



In the spirit of “Working Together Promoting Brain Injury Awareness,” the Brain Injury Association of Vermont (BIAVT) reached out to NASHIA to share its theme for the 2020 campaign, “**Go Blue!**”

Go Blue for Brain Injury Awareness Month is a public campaign that provides a platform for educating the general public about the incidence of brain injury and the needs of people with brain injuries and their families. Individuals who join the association to help raise awareness with the **Blue Ribbon** and **#GoBlueForBI** for Brain Injury campaign are essential to:

- De-stigmatizing brain injury through outreach within the brain injury

- community;
- Empowering those who have survived brain injury and their caregivers; and
 - Promoting the many types of support that are available to people living with brain injury.

For more than three decades, the Brain Injury Association of Vermont (BIAVT) has proudly been observing Brain Injury Awareness Month by conducting an engaging campaign.

Why the Blue Ribbon?

Since coordinating the very first Brain Injury Awareness Month, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has recognized **blue** as the color for brain injury awareness activities. Years later, a generous supporter donated thousands of green wristbands to BIAA and they were distributed to supporters and advocates, likely leading to the confusion of color years later. Many websites recognize green as the color for TBI, and **blue for all brain injuries**. Regardless of blue or green, BIAA is simply pleased to see advocates working at raising awareness.

Download the **Go Blue for Brain Injury Toolkit** [here](#). There you'll find resources and information to get you started. During the month of March share the **Blue Ribbon** and use the hashtag **#GoBlueForBI** to raise awareness for brain injury and promote the campaign! And don't forget, March 4th is the National Brain Injury Awareness Day in Washington, D.C., and March 15th is the Vermont Brain Injury Awareness Day.

Have questions? Contact Marketing & Outreach Specialist, Frank Holiber at frank@biavt.org or go to the website: www.biavt.org/GoBlue.



Vermont DAIL's Brain Injury Program: Improving Service Delivery through Screening, Linkages to Services, and More!



Educating the public about brain injury is also a priority of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living's (DAIL) Brain Injury Program which works closely with the Brain Injury Association of Vermont, the Vermont State Brain Injury Advisory Board, and other stakeholders to improve service delivery through better identification, diagnosis, early referral to services and expanding provider capacity through training. Vermont has a long history of providing services and supports to individuals with brain injury, starting in 1991, when the department began the operation of a three-year pilot project offering community based rehabilitative services. The goal of this program was to divert from placement and/or return Vermonters with a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) from out-of-state facilities.

Effective October 1, 1994, this community based program, serving individuals 16 years of age and older, was approved and financed as a Medicaid Program, referred to as the TBI Program, under the administration of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and renewed in October 1997 and October 2002. Through collaboration with the Division of Mental Health, a long-term option for individuals requiring ongoing intensive one-to-one support was also added. In 2005, the program was shifted from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to the Division of Disability and Aging Services (DAIL). The major goal of this short-term program is to assist individuals obtain their optimal level of functioning and to successfully resume living and working in their own home community among family, friends and neighbors.

Today, individuals with brain injury may be served by the Global Commitment to Health Waiver, which was established with a 1115 demonstration waiver, approved by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) initially in 2006.

DAIL is a recipient of a 3-year grant project awarded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI State Partnership Grant program that started June 1, 2018. This grant project makes it possible to bring existing partners and new allies together to focus on the health and well-being of Vermonters with acquired brain injury (traumatic and non-traumatic) to focus on screening and identification of TBI in new populations, improve linkages to services and to improve care coordination services.

For further information, contact Sara Lane, Quality Management Nurse in DAIL's Adult Services Division, who was selected as the Professional of the Year, awarded at Vermont's 31st Annual Brain Injury Conference on October 8, 2019! You may contact her at: sara.lane@vermont.gov.