



Washington Update!

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Special Edition

March 2016

In This Issue

- [This Week in Congress](#)
- [NASHIA Educates Lawmakers](#)
- [CBITF Awareness Day Fair](#)
- [CBITF Holds Briefing](#)
- [CBITF Reception](#)



This Week in Congress

House Passes the Older Americans Act

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a bipartisan amendment to the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2015, S. 192. The House version clarifies caregiver support, defines Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and promotes chronic disease self-management and falls prevention.

The House and Senate leaders will now work together to work out differences before it can be sent to the President.

Dear NASHIA Member,

Last week, NASHIA members and other advocates were in Washington, DC to participate in the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day events; to make office visits; and to network with federal agencies, national organizations, and advocates from across the country. Advocates conveyed to lawmakers the need for increased funding for TBI Act programs, including an additional \$5M for CDC to implement a national concussion surveillance system, and increased funding for TBI Model Systems. This *Special Issue* is a summary of last week's activities to promote awareness regarding brain injury and issues impacting individuals with brain injury and their families.

NASHIA Exhibits at Awareness Day Fair

NASHIA exhibited information on State programs and services during the Awareness Day Fair held on March 16, the first of three sponsored events. The Fair provided the opportunity for congressional Members and staff to learn more about brain injury and efforts to provide prevention, awareness, research, treatment, rehabilitation and community services and supports from a number of national organizations and federal agencies.



The Brain Injury Association of North Carolina displayed their "Unmasking Brain Injury," to promote awareness. Behind every mask is a story told and illustrated by a person with a brain injury to help people understand what it's like to live with a brain injury.

Other stakeholder organizations and federal agencies included the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services and its agencies -- ACL, CDC, NIH and NIDILRR.

NASHIA Educates Lawmakers



NASHIA President Judy Dettmer (CO) and NASHIA President-Elect Stefani O'Dea (MD) made office visits to explain services in their States. Karen McAvoyn, PsyD, (CO), below, also visited with representatives!



House E&C Oversight Committee Convenes Roundtable on Concussions

On Monday, March 14, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee convened a roundtable discussion with brain injury, military, veterans, research and athletics communities with the goal of being able to identify opportunities to achieve meaningful progress in the ability to diagnose and treat concussions.

It is anticipated that the subcommittee will convene two more roundtable discussions for further deliberations.

Advocates Celebrate Awareness Day

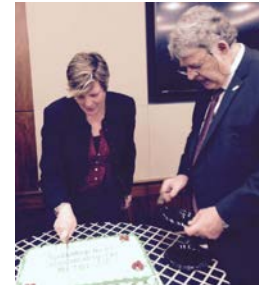


The CBITF Awareness Day ended with a reception bringing advocates, Congressional Members and staffers together to network and celebrate a successful Awareness Day. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), CBITF Co-chair, read a greeting from President Obama:

"On Brain Injury Awareness Day, we resolve to reverse the effects of TBI and to provide those affected with the care and support the need to lead safe, healthy lives. One of the major motivations behind the BRAIN Initiative, which my Administration launched in 2013, was to fight TBI. Much work remains and in order to

stay on the forefront of medical innovation, we must forge a future in which all people can overcome any disorder or condition that may hinder the way we live."

During the reception, NASHIA President, Judy Dettmer, and the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) Board Chair, Bud Elkind, cut a cake noting the upcoming 20th anniversary of the TBI Act of 1996.



Above, Rebecca Wolfkiel, NASHIA Governmental Relations, visits with a California representative. Pictured right are Judy Dettmer and Lorraine Wargo, RN, NASHIA Executive Director. Pictured below are Susan Vaughn and Amy Colberg, BIAA Governmental Affairs.





Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA), Chair, House Subcommittee on Health, listens to the discussion.

NASHIA Governmental Consultant, Rebecca Wolfkiel, along with Lorraine Wargo, RN, NASHIA Executive Director, and Susan Vaughn, NASHIA Director of Public Policy, attending the briefing.



Sponsoring the reception were: Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), Friends of TBI Model Systems, NASHIA, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), US Brain Injury Alliance and Wounded Warriors.

CBITF Awareness Day Reception Sponsors



Susan H. Connors, President/CEO of the BIAA and Curt Decker, JD, Executive Director of NDRN, take a few minutes to visit!



Cate Miller, PhD, NIDILRR, visits with John Corrigan, PhD, who also represented Friends of TBI Model Systems.



Karen McAvoy and Gavin Attwood, Brain Injury Alliance of CO and US Brain Injury Alliance engaged in the day's activities.

This Special Edition was prepared by:

Susan L. Vaughn
Director of Public Policy
email: publicpolicy@nashia.org

William A.B. Ditto, MSW, is
Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy
Committee
email: WilliamABDitto@aol.com

Rebecca Wolfkiel
Governmental Relations
email:
rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators,
PO Box 878, Waitsfield, VT05673