

Arkansas Brain Injury Council (ABIC)

- **Goal:** To produce a brain injury state plan for Arkansas.

Updated Committee names/members 2.11.25:

- **Funding/Access Committee:**

- Dianne Campbell
- Eddie Williams
- Gayla Caldwell
- Morgan Purkiss
- Laura Dina
- Tamika Washington
- Jan Williams
- Edward “Red” Rinehart

- **Education/Awareness Committee:**

- Susan Pierce
- Stacy Gravett
- Lorrie George-Paschal
- Jill Chamness
- Bethany Compton
- Jennifer Rizzo
- Sheila Beck
- Brandi Dawson
- Amber Watson

- **Advocacy/Policy Committee:**

- Jim Mather
- Kelly Urban
- Constance Tullis
- Claudia Sanders
- Ralph Lusher
- Anthony Thornton
- Danny Bercher
- Jonelle Tindall
- Gary Higgins

Retreat Notes:

- **Education/Awareness Notes from Group Discussions:**
 - Interdisciplinary training & workforce mobilization
 - Improved interdisciplinary services between providers
 - Service learning/leadership
 - Public awareness/literacy
 - Screening Programs
 - Justice System
 - Patient Awareness of resources
 - Big Statewide awareness event involving all TBI-related agencies

- **Advocacy/Policy Notes from Group Discussions:**
 - Identifying legislators and community leaders
 - Partners & networking
 - Health policy/law about things like telemedicine
 - Expanded waivers
 - Legislation to improve funding for better access

- **Funding/Access Notes from Group Discussions:**
 - Educational service and research grants
 - Comprehensive Rehab funding
 - Trust fund and/or Waivers
 - Rural resources and care coordination
 - Patient-centered resources
 - Better awareness of resources
 - Transportation
 - Populations:
 - Justice system
 - Children
 - Housing
 - ARS Surplus Money – May need a special session for this one
 - Pediatric Placement Issues

Education Awareness Committee

- Susan Pierce
- Stacy Gravett
- Lorrie George-Paschal
- Jill Chamness
- Bethany Compton
- Jennifer Rizzo
- Sheila Beck
- Brandi Dawson
- Amber Watson

Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

Overarching Goal:

To raise awareness and provide education for healthcare providers, key community members, and organizations on the needs of Arkansans with brain injuries, ensuring they are equipped to offer appropriate support and resources.

Goal 1: To increase professional awareness and education around brain injury in the state of Arkansas.

Objectives:

1. Provide outreach and education to inpatient rehab facilities and acute care hospitals across the state, focusing on resources and collaborative approaches.
2. Provide outreach and education to pre-service health disciplines across the state to highlight resources and emphasize collaborative approaches.
3. Enhance and expand the Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) Program by creating a more in-depth learning experience and exploring opportunities to offer the course in various regions across the state.

Outcomes: Workforce is mobilized and better prepared to serve people with brain injuries.

Goal 2: To educate insurance providers in the state of Arkansas on costs associated with brain injuries and treatment.

Objectives:

1. Explore data and research to create a summary of costs associated with brain injuries and alternative treatment and outcomes.
2. Identify and engage targeted insurance providers to educate them on the benefits and cost-effectiveness of co-treatments for moderate to severe brain

injuries. Highlight the advantages of extended care durations and alternative therapies, such as yoga and music, which can enhance recovery while reducing the need for pain medications.

Outcomes: Insurance providers expand coverage for brain injury rehabilitation services.

Goal 3: To educate families and caregivers in the state of Arkansas on brain injuries.

Objectives:

1. Build a mini workshop to orient and educate families who are new to brain injury.
2. Expand the Arkansas Brain Injury Resource Guide by incorporating caregiver and pediatric resources while broadening its reach to ensure greater accessibility and impact.
3. Create short intro videos to orient caregivers to brain injury.

Outcomes: Families and caregivers are better linked to education, services, and support to equip them after an injury.

Goal 4: To educate brain injury survivors in the state of Arkansas on life after brain injury.

Objectives:

1. Develop concise, easily accessible videos to educate new brain injury survivors on available resources and tools to enhance their quality of life. These videos will focus on service, leadership, mentorship, and fostering a sense of purpose. Additionally, create flyers with links to these videos to ensure wider reach and accessibility.
2. Build a robust peer support program to link people together with mentors for enhanced recovery and social support.

Outcomes: A tight-knit community of well-informed and well-supported brain injury survivors.

Goal 5: To bring awareness to the public in the state of Arkansas on brain injuries through improved literacy materials and other resources.

Objectives:

1. Create a bundle of flyers to disseminate in physician offices across the state, conferences, and public events. Brain Injury Council can also disseminate.
2. Launch an outreach campaign to educate faith communities, including those within jails, on brain injury awareness, support, and resources

3. Explore funding possibilities to strategically place a billboard with impactful messaging about brain injury awareness during key times to maximize outreach and education.
 - a. What does brain injury look like?
 - b. It is a journey, not an event.
 - c. Not all injuries are visible
4. Bring awareness about partner violence and related brain injury.

Outcomes: Increased referrals from the community, improvements in public understanding and awareness of the existence and nature of brain injury.

Goal 6: To educate law enforcement personnel in the Arkansas court system, prison, jail, and other settings on brain injuries.

Objectives:

1. Educate law enforcement personnel and court systems on brain injuries, including recognition, testing using the OBISSS screening, and de-escalation techniques both in the field and in the prison or jail setting.
2. Educate Arkansas court systems, including the circuit court, judges, and legal professionals on brain injury, including, how to recognize a brain injury and proper next referral steps for those suspected or known of having a brain injury.
3. Provide support and ongoing resource management for incarcerated Arkansas justice-involved individuals with brain injuries, including children in the juvenile court system. Ensuring appropriate interventions, rehabilitation services, and accommodations can help address their unique needs, promote fair treatment, and reduce recidivism.

Outcomes: Educating law enforcement personnel with assure appropriate use of resources to send justice involved individuals with brain injuries to get treatment, which will in turn lower the financial burden on the state, and with the long-term goal of decreased recidivism.

Advocacy/Policy Committee

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Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

Overarching Goals:

1. To bring awareness to the Arkansas Legislature of the problems and needs of the Arkansas brain injury community.
2. To advocate for the awareness and prioritization of the needs of the Arkansas brain injury community.
3. To provide Arkansans with brain injuries access to a continuum of care.

Goal 1: To establish a comprehensive definition of brain injury in Arkansas, encompassing all forms of acquired brain injuries.

Objectives:

1. Research the state code.
2. Summarize the Arkansas Trauma System rules and regulations.
3. Codify the definition of brain injury to improve access to resources.

Outcomes: A comprehensive, codified definition of brain injury will improve access to resources for Arkansans with brain injuries.

Goal 2: To legally recognize brain injury as a chronic condition by implementing legislative measures that acknowledge the long-term and ongoing nature of brain injuries.

Objectives:

1. Find and list other states' examples of legislation.
2. Ask NASHIA to request information from other states.
3. Find and summarize research supporting that brain injury is a chronic condition.
4. Draft model legislation.
5. Engage with legislators.

6. Contact the UAMS legislative council.
7. Obtain support from the Brain Injury Alliance of Arkansas.
8. Ensure therapy is not contingent on insurance requirements but based upon progress.

Outcomes: Brain injury legally recognized as a chronic condition will allow brain injury survivors in Arkansas more access to necessary resources such as therapies and insurance coverage.

Goal 3: To assure that people with brain injuries due to sexual assault or domestic violence have access to victim assistance.

Objectives:

1. Determine how individuals with brain injuries due to sexual assault or domestic violence can get access to victim assistance.
2. Educate individuals and/or families of individuals with brain injuries due to sexual assault or domestic violence about victim assistance.
3. Offer support during the victim assistance application process for individuals with brain injuries due to sexual assault or domestic violence.

Outcomes: Individuals with brain injuries due to sexual assault or domestic violence will have access to victim assistance resources to live independently.

Goal 4: To ensure early identification and treatment for youth who have sustained a concussion.

Objectives:

1. Provide concussion education for parents, coaches, officials, and healthcare professionals.
2. Create a healthcare system that supports youth concussion statewide including concussion clinics, athletic trainers, and primary care physicians.

Outcomes: The establishment of an integrated team approach between schools, parents, and the local healthcare system will help to identify and treat individuals who have sustained a concussion.

Goal 5: To ensure early identification and treatment for adults who have sustained a concussion.

Objectives:

1. Provide concussion education to adults who have sustained a concussion.
2. Create a healthcare system that supports adult concussion statewide including concussion clinics and primary care physicians.

Outcomes: The establishment of an integrated team approach between concussion clinics and primary care physicians will help to identify and treat adults who have sustained a concussion.

Goal 6: To reduce elderly brain injuries by establishing an elder fall prevention system.

Objectives:

1. Research and compile data on home environment assessment programs and post-injury assessment programs.
2. Research subsidies for walkers and home modifications to prevent falls to determine how to acquire these subsidies.
3. Determine who is eligible for allowances for Medicare Part D premiums and individual medical savings accounts.
4. Assist individuals eligible for subsidies and allowances in objectives 3 and 4 in applying for these services.
5. Research modern assistive technology to sense sudden falls (i.e., Apple Watch) and other medical emergencies (blood sugar levels, blood pressure, ECG) to determine feasibility for clients with brain injuries including how to apply for assistance to purchase items.
6. Provide education at senior centers around Arkansas about falls prevention.

Outcomes: Reduction in brain injury morbidity and mortality rates from falls in the elderly population of Arkansas.

Goal 7: To facilitate the disposition of patients with moderate to severe brain injuries to the most appropriate and optimal facilities for recovery.

Objectives:

1. Establish a monitoring system for moderate to severe TBIs nearing discharge from acute care to determine the most appropriate and optimal discharge facility for these individuals.
2. Establish physiatry consults for any moderate to severe TBI in the acute care (ICU) setting.
3. Establish a telemedicine system with immediate trauma surgeon consults.

Outcomes: A reduction in the number of ICU bed days for individuals with moderate to severe brain injuries and time to community engagement, resulting in lesser expenses.

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Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

Overarching Goals:

1. To establish funding and access opportunities to services and resources for Arkansans with brain injuries to improve their quality of care and improve outcomes.
2. To make brain injury resources more accessible to healthcare providers.
3. To build an Arkansas brain injury infrastructure, including establishing a trust fund, and Medicaid waiver program.

Goal 1: To secure grants and funding to enhance the quality of care, resources, and rehabilitation for Arkansans with traumatic brain injuries.

Objectives:

1. Identify potential funding opportunities by conducting comprehensive research with the UAMS grant writing team.
2. Acquire financial support to enhance the quality of care, resources, and rehabilitation services available to Arkansans affected by traumatic brain injuries within one year.
3. Conduct an analysis of existing Medicaid benefits and identify how they can be maximized for individuals with traumatic brain injuries.
4. Develop a comprehensive TBI Medicaid Waiver to cover all traumatic brain injury survivors without private insurance.
5. Explore the feasibility of an Arkansas TBI trust fund.

Outcomes: The quality of care, resources, and rehabilitation for Arkansans with traumatic brain injuries will have more funding which will lead to more resources and better outcomes.

Goal 2: To research, organize, and compile information on existing services, facilities, and resources available for Arkansas traumatic brain injury survivors to develop a resource profile and interactive map of the state of Arkansas for traumatic brain injury survivors.

Objectives:

1. Conduct research to identify all available resources including medical facilities, rehabilitation centers, support groups, and community services.
2. Compile a list of these resources including contact information, services offered, location, and other pertinent information and catalog in Salesforce.
3. Conduct a needs assessment for vulnerable traumatic injury survivors including the justice involved population, children, and unhoused individuals, compile results and analyze data to catalog in Salesforce.
4. Use the Salesforce data to work with UAMS IT to develop a resource profile and map of all available resources for traumatic brain injury survivors.
5. Create a marketing campaign to disseminate the resource profile and map.
6. Appoint someone to regularly monitor for new resources and update the resource profile and map.

Outcomes: All existing services, facilities, and resources available for Arkansas traumatic brain injury survivors will be centralized and more easily accessible to healthcare providers and others.

Goal 3: To leverage and maximize existing resources and services to develop a strategic plan for building a comprehensive infrastructure to support all Arkansans with traumatic brain injuries.

Objectives:

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing Arkansas traumatic brain injury resources.
2. Identify potential funding sources and partnerships.
3. Identify key stakeholders, including healthcare providers, policy makers, advocacy groups, community leaders, traumatic brain injury survivors, advocates, etc. and form a coalition.
4. Develop a strategic plan including specifics on funding sources, engaging potential stakeholders, community outreach and engagement, creating an evaluation framework to monitor, evaluate, report on progress, measure outcomes, and adjust goals and timelines as needed.
5. Implement, monitor, and report on progress of strategic plan.
6. Recognize brain injury as part of a statewide waiver program.
7. Provide accessible housing for the unhouse Arkansas brain injury community.

Outcomes: The development of a comprehensive infrastructure to support the Arkansas traumatic brain injury community will allow for better medical care resulting in positive outcomes and lesson the burden of misappropriate resources and finances.