

September 2022

Alabama Head Injury Task Force News



Survivor Spotlight – Randy Hunt, Roanoke, AL

On the evening of March 29, 2013, I fell out of a moving vehicle. I was taken by EMT to the E.R. where they airlifted me to Columbus Hospital and put me in a medically induced coma due to severe brain swelling and 8 hematomas. A drainage port was put in to release the swelling. I was in the hospital from March 29 to May 3 then was transported to Shepard Hospital in Atlanta where I gained consciousness. When I awoke from the coma, the doctor asked me how I was doing and if I knew my name. I said, “My name is Crimson. Crimson Tide.” One thing the brain injury didn’t take away from me was my humor and it has helped me a lot in my long recovery over the past 9 ½ years. I stayed at the Shepard Center in Atlanta for 2 ½ months. After being released, I spent 2 weeks at the Shepard Pathways Day Program. We attended classes every day, all day; classes to write, talk, and read every day. We also did physical activities, like walking up and down and back upstairs. There were lots of tests, which I didn’t really enjoy, but I worked so hard that I graduated 3 days ahead of schedule. They said they had never had anyone progress so fast in their program. I told them that I really wanted to go home, to be back in “God’s Country” because it is Crimson and White there, and I was in Georgia which wasn’t. I met with April Turner in 2015, and she got me started going to the AHIF support groups. This helped me to walk on my own two feet and got me to talk to people without wanting to kill them. I could see that the Lord had opened my eyes in my heart to see that I was going to get better and that it was only up from here. I learned how to slow down and concentrate, and to know that things will get better, it just will take time. I was in the Army National Guard in 1986 for 13 years until 1999 when I ended service after 13 years to be with my family. I have worked as an electrician since I was thirteen, and post injury I have been working at my own business as a handyman. I enjoy it because I get to help people and use the many skills I have gained over the years. I have been living independently since my injury, which is something I am proud of. Without the Lord’s presence in my life, I wouldn’t be here today. And without Angels in my life like April Turner, I definitely wouldn’t have made it through this long process of recovery. I know that I have a purpose on this earth.

New Public Health Grant Update



Eunice Blakely, LPC, from Mobile, was recently hired to provide mental health counseling state-wide for TBI care coordination consumers and/or family members. Welcome, Eunice!

Kayla Freeman, Adult TBI Care Coordinator



Kayla Freeman, M.S., was recently hired as the ADRS Adult TBI Care Coordinator in the Mobile office. Kayla comes to us after working in Vocational Rehabilitation Services for 12 years of service and with 5 years of experience working with individuals with TBI.



TBI & Behavioral Health Training Video



The TBI & Behavioral Health Training Video is available to watch online. You can click [here](#) to watch the video, and click [here](#) to access the informational one-pager to follow along with during the video.

 **Toll Free TBI Helpline** 
1-888-879-4706

 **SAVE THE DATE!** 

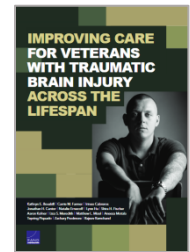
The first Task Force meeting for 2022-23 will be *Thursday, December 8, 2022.*

The **Registry Helpline** had a total of **149** referrals and/or phone calls through the 3rd quarter of FY22.

Free eBook...Caring for vets with TBI

Improving Care for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Across the Lifespan

This report presents findings from a study to identify long-term outcomes of TBI for veterans serving since the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001, the future needs of this population, effective treatments for TBI, and the availability of community-based resources. The eBook can be used to better understand which approaches may offer the best care for vets with TBI and help inform the care and support offered to vets and their caregivers. Download your copy [here](#).



ACL TBI TARC Behavioral Health Guide by NASHIA

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI Technical Assistance and Resource Center's (TARC) Behavioral Health Guide has been designed to provide state brain injury professionals with the tools to effectively partner with their state behavioral health entities and improve outcomes for this population. Click [here](#) to access the guide.



NASHIA



GrandCare is a feature-rich telehealth platform offering HIPAA-compliant video conferencing and remote patient monitoring for seniors and persons with health concerns and disabilities. GrandCare can also empower the individual to remain safer, happier, and healthier, no matter where they choose to live. Designated caregivers can be alerted if something seems amiss or if a potential health concern is detected and can log into the website or app to communicate, monitor, and manage the GrandCare System. Learn more [here](#).

State Head Injury Coordinator Presents to APEC

April Turner, State Head Injury Coordinator, was requested to present TBI Screening, Diagnosis, Services and Supports in Alabama at The Alabama Parent Education Center's



Annual Raising the Standards Conference this quarter.



Visit AlabamaTBI.org

AHITF Priority Group Annual Reports

Many thanks to our Priority Group Chairs for their leadership on the 2021-22 Task Force!

Education and Awareness - Scott Powell, Chair
Community Reintegration - Anna Taylor, Chair
Infrastructure - Jenny Marwitz, Chair
Service Access - Dr. Elaine Mahoney, Chair
Pediatrics - Dr. Erin Swanson-Kimani, Chair



Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) Zoom Client Support Groups meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. For more information, email info@ahif.org. Zoom Caregiver Support Groups meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, with special information sessions as well. For more information, please contact us at caregiver@ahif.org. Support Groups in Mobile, Calhoun, Randolph, and Jefferson County have returned in person, with more to come. For dates and times, please visit www.ahif.org. AHIF will be returning to Camp McDowell October 7-9! If you are interested, please contact us at info@ahif.org. AHIF will also hold its final Bright Ideas TBI Camp of the year on September 7-9 at Lakeshore Foundation, in partnership with UAB, the University of Montevallo, and Jeff State Community College.

Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) The PASSAGES Pediatric TBI Care Coordinators have served a total of **378** consumers through the 3rd quarter of FY22 assisting children and youth with transition from hospital to home, community, school, and providing information/education on TBI residuals to families and school systems. Learn more about CRS [here](#).



The **Adult TBI Program (ICBM)** pre-vocational program for adults served **320** caseload consumers and their families through the 3rd quarter of FY22. ICBM provides individual cognitive remediation, counseling, TBI education, and accommodations to transition to community and/or employment. ICBM has a total of 4 full time staff that cover the entire state. Learn more about the Adult TBI Program [here](#).

The **Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry (AHSCIR)** requires hospital trauma TBI records be collected, reviewed, and eligible individuals contacted for needed linkage to crucial services and supports statewide. For 3rd quarter FY22, **3,837** new records were received from the Alabama Dept. of Public Health and **1,396** individuals were eligible to be contacted for information and referral assistance from ADRS, AHIF, and other community agencies.