ALABAMA HEAD INJURY Task Force
Developing the ideal service delivery system for Alabamians impacted by traumatic brain injury

December 2025

BrainLINERS

Priority Areas
Education & Awareness
Community Reintegration
Infrastructure
Service Access
Pediatrics

Alabama Head Injury Task Force News

Survivor Spotlight – *Ronni Vinson, Lapine, AL*

In May of 2021, Ronni was swinging from a vine at our home and hit her head on a trailer. She had mild discomfort initially but almost four hours after injury she worsened. She ended up at Children's Hospital of Alabama and underwent a craniotomy to clear a grade 4 right sided epidural hematoma. She made a remarkable recovery, only needing to be hospitalized for two days. The past four years have been anything but easy, but she continues to persevere and fight daily. She has been able to participate in several deer and turkey hunts as a survivor of TBI.

Ronni struggles with cognitive delays that affect her schoolwork as well as some daily activities. Emotional regulation is also difficult for her. On hard days, she still asks why things happened the way they did and why to her. She has done many therapies, including extensive speech and vision therapy. As a family, we have continued in mental health counseling to help process and work through the trauma of that day.

The biggest thing we have learned through all of this is that not all disabilities are visible. So many times, we have heard, "Well, she looks fine". And we thank God for that but looks can be deceiving. She has many struggles that no one sees except her immediate family. We are also big advocates of being your advocate. We have been blessed with amazing physicians, but even they miss things sometimes. However, I have always been taken seriously when a new concern arises.

Central Alabama Veterans Coalition (CAVC) and Lawson State Community College hosted a **Veteran Suicide Prevention Summit** on November 21st. Topics included VA Signs, Ask, Validate, and Encourage (S.A.F.E) intervention training, the TBI intersection and screening, Post Traumatic Growth (PTG), and Safer Together Alabama safety initiative - the Houston Hunter Act. The ADRS TBI Program was honored to participate as a sponsor and presenter for this event.

Tarnisha Johnson & Attallah Cotton

Tammy Lovell & Alisa Busbin

The ADRS TBI Program welcomed two TBI interns this fall semester. Alisa Busbin (University of West Alabama) shadowed TBI Care Coordinator Tammy Lovell in the Homewood office and Tarnisha Johnson (University of Phoenix) shadowed TBI Care Coordinator Attallah Cotton in the Dothan office. Many thanks to Attallah and Tammy for the experience and guidance they gave to our interns!

2026 Task Force Meetings
Thursdays, 10:00am–12:00pm
March 19, June 11, September 10, December 10

March is TBI Awareness Month!

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) will be presenting the National Brain Injury Conference and Awareness Day from March 9-11, 2026 in Washington D.C. Learn more about the 2026 conference and awareness day.

PTSD Study Commission in First Responders

On November 18th, the ADRS TBI Program visited the Statehouse with the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) to address TBI within the first responder community and how TBI runs alongside PTSD. They also shared about the ADRS TBI Program's resources including the statewide TBI Helpline (1-888-879-4706). Read the article in the Alabama Reflector about the Alabama study commission exploring resources for first responders with PTSD.

The **Connect Alabama** app is a behavioral health services and treatment finder application which provides individuals instant access to education, information and services related to substance use, mental health, and prevention. The app is available for download on iOS and Android devices. Learn more about the Connect Alabama app.

2026 ASADS Conference

The Alabama School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies (ASADS) will host their 50th annual conference March 23-27, 2026. For updates and additional information, please visit their website at asadsonline.com.

Alabama Head Injury Foundation's 2026 Recreational Camp Dates: Camp ASCCA Weekend Camp –March 6-8, 2026 | Camp ASCCA Week-Long Camp –August 3-7, 2026 | Camp McDowell Weekend Camp –October 16-18, 2026. Applications for recreational camp will be available in late December. Our first of six Bright Ideas Therapy Camps is scheduled for the spring. Our Auburn/ Faulkner BIC will take place on the Auburn Campus on March 31-April 2, 2026. Learn more about AHIF.

The **State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL)** Homebound program is 50 years old this year! This is a state-funded program similar to Medicaid waiver programs. It is featured in this year's ADRS Annual Report. Learn more about the 50th anniversary of the Homebound Program.

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. Through the 4th quarter of FY25, **9,188** new records were received from Alabama Dept. of Public Health and **5,577** individuals were eligible to be contacted to provide information and referral assistance from ADRS, AHIF, and other community agencies.

The **Adult TBI Program (ICBM)** pre-vocational program for adults served **461** caseload consumers and their families through the 4th quarter of FY25. ICBM provides individual cognitive remediation, counseling, TBI education, and accommodations to transition to community and/or employment. Learn more about the Adult TBI Program.

The **Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS)** PASSAGES Pediatric TBI Care Coordinators have served a total of **346** consumers through the 4th quarter of FY25 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.

TBI Navigation Program & Helpline

The statewide TBI Navigation Program had a grand total of **510** referrals.
The TBI Registry Helpline had a total of **282** referrals through the 4th quarter of FY25.

AlabamaTBI.org