ALABAMA HEAD INJURY Task Force

Developing the ideal service delivery system for Alabamians impacted by traumatic brain injury

June 2026

BrainLINERS

Priority Areas
Education & Awareness
Community Reintegration
Infrastructure
Service Access
Pediatrics

Alabama Head Injury Task Force News

Survivor Spotlight – *Hunter Uhrig, Madison, AL*

In May 2024, I was involved in a car accident when another driver pulled out in front of me. Initially, I tried to keep up with work and daily responsibilities, but my mind and body were overwhelmed. I experimented with cold therapy and other approaches, but my symptoms persisted. Eventually, I was diagnosed with persistent post-concussion syndrome, along with depression and cervical spine dysfunction. Doctors started helping me combat my pain and mental struggles. I went to physical therapy for concussions and did vestibular, proprioceptive training, and balance, and started getting specialist care from a neurologist and pain management doctors. I continue with PT at home, and I have group and one-on-one therapy weekly.

I loved kayaking, driving, and playing with friends; I was a baseball coach, and I found joy in work and community. In the wake of the accident, I faced significant struggles, persistent pain, difficulty with daily tasks, and the loss of activities I cherished. I experienced a wide range of emotions: anger, sadness, loneliness, helplessness, misery, exhaustion. I felt trapped and like I was a burden. Yet, I also found victories along the way. Getting into specialized therapy and finding the right medication helped improve my daily functioning. I adapted to new routines and continued supporting my kids. There was gratitude for progress made and resilience that carried me forward.

I've learned many important lessons. Be patient with yourself and know when to rest. The value of seeking specialized help is big. It's essential to give yourself grace and understand that some part of the grief will affect you every day. Having a therapist who truly understands your experience can make all the difference. Find solace in simple, meaningful moments, like cuddling with a pet, and remembering that things don't have to be perfect. Enduring daily life can be a struggle. It's okay to feel bad for yourself. Masking your symptoms will make others think you are magically healed. It's okay to tell people the truth.

The ADRS TBI Program, Children's of Alabama, University of Alabama's COMPASS Initiative, and Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) traveled to Washington, D.C. for Congressional Brain Injury Awareness Week to engage with lawmakers on Capitol Hill and advocate for reauthorization of the TBI Act.

The Alabama Head Injury Task Force and Advisory Council would like to congratulate member Matt Beth who recently graduated with his doctoral degree from Auburn University's College of Education. Matt was chosen to represent the graduate school as the student marshal for Spring Commencement. Congratulations, Matt! We are proud of you!

In honor of TBI Awareness Month, the Alabama Head Injury Task Force conducted the 2026 Brain Forward Collectives in Montgomery and Birmingham. These collectives provided a non-digital approach to gather insight and ideas to share how the Task Force could make a greater impact for individuals with TBI for the next TBI State Plan.

Save The Date
Virtual TBI Summitt – August 24-25

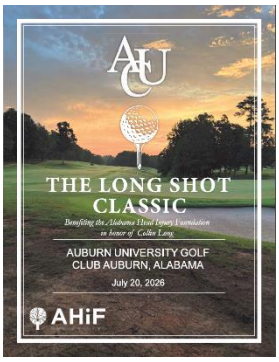
2026 Task Force Meetings
September 10 & December 10, 10:00am–12:00pm

The Alabama Head Injury Task Force and Advisory Council completed the goals of the Alabama State TBI Plan from September 2021-September 2026. The full report was delivered in today's meeting and can be found on AlabamaTBI.org. Special thanks to our Priority Group chairs (Scott Powell, Michael Washington, Jenny Marwitz, and Laura Ferrill), Advisory Council members, Task Force members, and Jill Ferrington from NASHIA for 5 years of dedication and determination in making a difference in the lives of individuals with TBI in Alabama.

"What is Dementia" Captioned Video

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has developed a captioned "What Is Dementia?" video designed to explain dementia in clear, easy-to-understand language. This resource is especially valuable for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as for anyone seeking a simple introduction to dementia. Watch "What is Dementia?"

The **Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)**, a federally designated Protection & Advocacy (P&A) agency, sets our priorities each year based directly on input from people with disabilities, their families, and community members. That means you help decide what issues we work on, what cases we take, and where we focus our advocacy efforts in the year ahead. We need to hear from YOU! Your feedback shapes our work and ensures we're addressing the real, everyday barriers our community faces. You can participate by completing the online survey or written survey, joining a focus group, or calling 1-800-826-1675. Learn more about ADAP.



Alabama Head Injury Foundation is pleased to announce the 1st Annual Long Shot Classic! This will be a charity golf tournament benefiting AHIF in honor of Collin Long. It will be held at the AU Golf Club on July 20th. Learn more about the Long Shot Classic.

State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) The SAIL Waiver will continue to operate under the 2020 SAIL Waiver Medicaid Document until the new application is approved. That date is anticipated to be October 1, 2026. This document is usually renewed every five years. However, in 2025 there was a government shutdown, which delayed the review of many documents—including this one. The only requested change for the 2026 document is an increase in monthly medical supply funding. Learn more about SAIL.

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 2nd quarter of FY29, **1,587** new records were received from Alabama Dept. of Public Health and **1,074** 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 **262** caseload consumers and families through the 2nd quarter of FY26. 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 **271** consumers through the 2nd quarter of FY26 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

Through the 2nd quarter of FY26, the statewide TBI Navigation Program had a grand total of **426** referrals and the TBI Registry Helpline had a total of **282** referrals.

AlabamaTBI.org