

Alabama Head Injury Task Force News





Survivor Spotlight – Mike Bradley, Centre, AL


On July 24, 2018, I was a passenger in a motor vehicle accident. The driver and I were under the influence of drugs, and she thought she saw a deer and swerved. I flew out the window and landed 57 feet and we ended up hitting a church. Twenty-eight days later I magically woke up at UAB and was like “nice to see you.” While I was in the coma, they took me off oxygen and I was able to breathe on my own and that gave hope to my family. My Mom was so loving that she said she was going to take me home from the hospital and take care of me even if I was in the coma, but amazingly that didn’t happen and a few days later I woke up.


I went to three different rehabs, two times for physical therapy and once for cognitive rehabilitation and occupational therapy. I spent a total of nine months in rehab including three months in Spain Rehabilitation and 6 months at the Tyler Center for outpatient rehabilitation. Throughout my recovery, my parents helped me a lot through their constant support and encouragement. What helped me the most during my time in rehabilitation was practicing walking every day around a track and using weights. I still struggle with balance but continue to walk and use exercise machines. There is a walking track around my church, and I walk about a mile by myself three times a week; I also do yoga twice a week. Before my injury I was working as a welder, and I would like to go back to that someday after I go back to school to relearn my welding skills. I am currently working with Lisa Miles with the ADRS Adult TBI Program and VR Program; and I am planning to attend AHIF’s Bright Ideas Camp this summer.

One thing that I learned is substance use can change your life in a bad way. Since my injury, I have been sober. It helps to have parents like mine, who I wake up to every day and I have their eagle eyes on me, they keep me on the right path.

TBI Federal Grant Updates

 April Turner, State Head Injury Coordinator, and David White, Grant Project Coordinator, attended [NASHIA's](#)  SEED Summit in Washington DC with other TBI State Partners to learn more about Resource Facilitation, Peer Supports, Data Collection, and State Needs Assessments. Hill Day visits were made along with Alabama Head Injury Foundation’s Scott Powell to Senator Britt, Senator Tuberville, Representative Sewell, and Representative Aderholt’s offices. The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Chairmen, Congressman Bill Pascrell and Don Bacon, addressed TBI State Representatives before the Premier of the Sundance Festival Movie [#MoCrazyStrong](#) – a documentary of Jamie Crane-Mauzy and her advancement of TBI Awareness.

 The TBI Grant team met with the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs (ADVA) to begin planning a one-day TBI Summit in the Fall focusing on TBI and Behavior. It will take place in Birmingham.

 TBI Grant Navigators continue in developing the new TBI Navigation System through the grant in providing information, referral, education and resource facilitation to community providers, healthcare professionals, caregivers, and individuals with TBI. The Navigators continue to work directly with survivors in developing and sharing their stories featured in our Alabama Head Injury Task Force Newsletter, *BrainLiners*, which they produce quarterly and publish on [AlabamaTBI.org](#).

Next Task Force Meeting
Thursday, 10am-12pm
September 21, 2023



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

The **Registry Helpline** had a total of **111** referrals and/or phone calls through the 2nd quarter of FY23.



The **Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA)** together with the City of Enterprise, ADRS, and other state, federal, and local agencies will host a free one-day, one-stop Veterans Resources Fair at the Enterprise Civic Center. The event is part of a statewide outreach campaign to help Veterans and their families obtain info and receive state and federal benefits and services in addition to offering employment opportunities. It will be held on Friday, June 9th from 1:00-4:00pm. The [ADVA](#) also plans to distribute Veteran pocket cards to address suicide, TBI, PTSD in June to medical clinics in Enterprise.



The **Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF)** is pleased to announce that we have hired

AHIF Mental Health Counseling Intern Miguel Torres as a new, full-time mental health counselor. We are excited to have Miguel continue with us and bring his valuable counseling skills and personal knowledge of veterans through his own military service. We are also pleased to announce a new partnership with the University of South Alabama for our first Pediatric TBI Camp, scheduled for July 10-14. The lessons learned from this pilot program will hopefully allow us to expand this program next year to include a multitude of disciplines to help our young people living with TBI. Learn more about AHIF [here](#).



The **Adult TBI Program (ICBM)** pre-vocational program for adults served **248** caseload consumers and their families through the 2nd quarter of FY23. ICBM provides individual cognitive remediation, counseling, TBI education, and accommodations to transition to community and/or employment. Learn more about the Adult TBI Program [here](#).



Beginning July 1st, the **State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL)** SAIL Waiver Personal Choices participants will have an assigned Personal Choices counselor who will help decipher and navigate the ends and outs of the Personal Choices program. The counselor will have contact with each participant at least once a month and in person every six months. Case managers will remain in the mix as usual for all other SAIL Waiver services. We expect this to be a tremendous service for participants. Learn more about SAIL [here](#).



The **Children's Rehabilitation Services (CRS)** PASSAGES Pediatric TBI Care Coordinators have served a total of **327** consumers through the 2nd quarter of FY23 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](#).



Alabama Department of REHABILITATION SERVICES

Visit AlabamaTBI.org



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 the 2nd quarter of FY23, **4,514** new records were received from Alabama Dept. of Public Health and **1,148** individuals were eligible to be contacted to provide information and referral assistance from ADRS, AHIF, and other community agencies.



Emory Healthcare Veterans Program has partnered with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) to provide free and confidential treatment for eligible post-9/11 veterans and service members living anywhere in the United States, regardless of discharge status, deployment history, or length of service, for conditions such as PTSD, TBI, military sexual trauma (MST), anxiety, and depression related to military service. The traditional outpatient treatment or the two-week Intensive Outpatient Program is offered in person or via telehealth. Learn more [here](#).

Assistive Technology Resource Expo and Learning Event Hosted by United Ability

Resource Expo on July 10th and Learning Event for Teachers on July 11th (Birmingham)
Click [here](#) for more information.



POWER OF PATIENTS **Power of Patients** is a free, customizable, and easy-to-use dashboard for tracking brain injury symptoms and triggers. In combination with educational resources and clinical trial opportunities, Power of Patients is here to engage, inform, and empower the brain injury community. Learn more [here](#).

Love Your Brain Community Retreats The first retreat of its kind designed to transform your healing journey. People with TBI & caregivers will experience the benefits of our mindfulness, movement, nutrition, art, and community building curriculum, and explore what it means to love your brain. Learn more [here](#).

