

June 2024

Alabama Head Injury Task Force News



Survivor Spotlight – John Arrington, Loxley, AL

In 2021, I was in a car accident that left me with a TBI. I went to the Shepherd Center where I had PT, OT, and speech therapy, and I've also had PT and speech therapy at Thomas Hospital. I have been participating in the Adult TBI Program for a little over a year. Last year I attended the AHIF Bright Ideas Camp at the University of South Alabama where I enjoyed being around people my age. And I am looking forward to serving on the Alabama Head Injury Task Force Advisory Council.

I continue to struggle with my short-term memory and the use of my left hand. I often feel angry that I'm not fully recovered yet and I'm worried I'll be like this forever. However, I can now remember where stuff is in my uncle's house. And the last time I went to Disney I could stay out the whole day without needing to rest!

I have learned that a TBI doesn't affect everyone the same way. A TBI isn't something that you can snap out of, it takes time and effort.

TBI Grant Updates

The ADRS Federal TBI Grant continues to provide free online screening for history of a head injury with the OBISSS (Online Brain Injury Screening and Support System). Currently it is expanding into crisis centers and the unhoused population in the Birmingham area.

LINK: <https://www.online.nashia.org/surveys/?s=ELNECFTK9EKW7ALK> PW: AL23 (case sensitive)

Congressional Brain Injury Awareness

The Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act, which provides much needed funding to improve rehabilitation and community support for people with brain injury was recently approved, unanimously. The prior Act was set to expire in 2024 and has now been authorized until 2029. This reauthorization act provides the following: Reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act; Increase the authorization level for the TBI State Partnership Program from \$7.3 million to \$19 million for fiscal years 2025 to 2029; Federally designate brain injury as a chronic condition; Prioritize clarifying service eligibility for the TBI Act to make distinctions between external force injuries and internal force injuries; Continue to Authorize the CDC TBI Programs and National Concussion Surveillance System.



Congressional Brain Injury Awareness advocates wearing their blue scarves to celebrate Brain Injury Awareness on Capitol Hill.



From left: Haleigh Cushen, Carmen Frias, April Turner, Scott Powell, and David White visit US Rep. Terri Sewell's office.

Visit AlabamaTBI.org



2024 Task Force Meetings

Thursdays, 10am-12pm

September 5th, December 12th



The **American Stroke Association's Stroke Family Warmline** connects stroke survivors and their families with an ASA team member who can provide support, helpful information or just a listening ear. Call the Stroke Family Warmline at 1-888-4-STROKE (1-888-478-7653) or learn more by visiting <https://www.stroke.org/en/help-and-support/for-family-caregivers/stroke-family-warmline>.

The **Georgia RSVP Clinic** provides free outpatient rehabilitation care, resources, some supplies and equipment, education that maximizes independence, wellness, and community participation for uninsured people with brain, stroke, and spinal cord injuries who are under 3 years outside of discharge from post-acute care. Clinics take place once a month at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta.



[Learn more about the GA RSVP Clinic.](#)



Greater Birmingham Project Access focuses on specialty care provided by volunteer physicians. Patients have access to specialty care, and ancillary health care services are also provided for free or at significantly lower costs through the generosity of our community hospitals and other service providers. [Learn more about Project Access.](#)

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text **988** or chat 988lifeline.org.



TBI Navigation Program & Helpline

The TBI Registry Helpline had a total of **134** referrals through the 2nd quarter of FY24. The statewide TBI Navigation Program had a grand total of **176** referrals.

Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF)

A sample of AHIF's summer offerings for clients and caregivers. [Learn more about AHIF's activities and programs.](#)

Recreational Camps: Camp ASCCA Week-Long Camp – August 4th-9th
Camp McDowell Weekend Camp – October 18th-20th

Therapy-Based Camps: Samford Bright Ideas TBI Camp – June 11-13
University of South Alabama Bright Ideas TBI Camp – June 25-June 27
University of South Alabama Pediatric Speech Camp – July 17-19
UAB Bright Ideas TBI Camp @ Lakeshore Foundation – Fall (Date Pending)

Online Support Groups: Client Support Groups – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m.
(Zoom) Caregiver Support Groups – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 10-11 a.m.
Summer Caregiver Series: Sustainable Caregiving Every Wednesday at 10 am through July 31st



Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)



ADAP seeks to hire a dynamic Executive Director. This individual will be at the forefront of championing disability rights, steering the organization towards impactful advocacy, and ensuring the enforcement and protection of these rights across the state. ADAP invites candidates who are strategic thinkers, passionate about the rights of people with disabilities, and possess a proven track record in leadership and organizational excellence. [Access the application link.](#)

The **Adult TBI Program (ICBM)** pre-vocational program for adults served **227** caseload consumers and their families through the 2nd quarter of FY24. 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 Services (CRS)** PASSAGES Pediatric TBI Care Coordinators have served a total of **342** consumers through the 2nd quarter of FY24 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.](#)

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 FY24, **2,249** new records were received from Alabama Dept. of Public Health and **1,128** individuals were eligible to be contacted to provide information and referral assistance from ADRS, AHIF, and other community agencies.