

March 2025

## Alabama Head Injury Task Force News



*Shana Howard is an educator, athlete, author, and speaker.*

### Survivor Spotlight – *Shana Howard, Huntsville, A*

I was in a car crash when I was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The car crash left me in a coma for one month. Once I became conscious, I was paralyzed for 2 years, lost my speech for 2 years, forgot how to eat, lost my vision in my left eye, and did not recognize life (family, friends and me). After a while, I began the rehabilitation process which consisted of speech therapy, physical therapy, recreational therapy, etc. As I mainstreamed into life with new thoughts and new actions, I hated how people underestimated my answers to intelligent questions. I became suicidal and was entered into the hospital for more in-depth meetings and therapy. After that experience, I chose to live my life with new thoughts and new actions and not hide behind the new me.

My experience with a Traumatic Brain Injury is a new adventure every day. It is new because I am exposed to people who have different thoughts and actions than me. The hardest part of my experience is figuring out how to respond the way I want but to also have grace. I must give grace to keep myself happy. I have figured out the best way to respond to life is with manners and a smile. Since I am very good at this technique, I am able to do many things in the community and my feelings are never affected. Having a Traumatic Brain Injury is a Testimony Beyond Imagination because it has given me a POWER that I can't keep to myself.

[Learn more about Shana's non-profit organization Swim with Spice.](#)

### Alabama's First TBI Awareness Day at the Capitol



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

**Alabama's  
Traumatic Brain  
Injury Awareness  
Day**

10:00 AM  
MARCH 13, 2025

*At the steps of the Alabama  
State Capitol in Montgomery*

**DON'T FORGET TO WEAR GREEN!**

The Alabama Head Injury Task Force is announcing the first TBI Awareness Day for the state of Alabama in support of National TBI Awareness Month. This news conference will bring awareness to all populations of those with Traumatic Brain Injury from mild (concussions), moderate and severe, their caregivers and professionals, academics and community members who want to support and learn more. It begins at 10:00 am on March 13th on the right side of the Alabama State Capitol. All are welcome!

### Task Force Meetings 2025

June 12th, September 18th, December 11th Thursdays, 10am-12pm



## National Brain Injury Conference & Awareness Day

Each year, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) and other key stakeholders host a Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill during Brain Injury Awareness Month in March. This year, the BIAA is expanding this annual Awareness Day event to include a conference for brain injury survivors and caregivers. April

Turner, Director, State TBI Programs, David White, TBI Federal Grant Coordinator, Scott Powell, Executive Director, AHIF and Jerry Peters, AHITF Advisory Council will attend along with other advocates around the country to advocate for individuals with TBI in Alabama to ensure our voices are heard in Washington DC.



### TBI Camps in Alabama



#### Alabama Head Injury Foundation Recreational Camps

- Camp ASCCA Weekend Camp - March 7-9, 2025
- Camp ASCCA Week-Long Camp - August 3-8, 2025
- Camp McDowell Weekend Camp - October 24-26, 2025
- To apply, contact Camp Director Lydia Thorpe at 205-823-3818 or visit [www.ahif.org](http://www.ahif.org).

#### Alabama District of Pilot International TBI Camp

- Camp ASCCA Weekend Camp - April 11-13, 2025
- To apply, [complete an application](#) or visit [www.alabamadistrictpilot.com](http://www.alabamadistrictpilot.com).

### Veterans Well-Being Town Hall & Resource Fair

*Friday, March 28, 2025, 1:00-3:00pm, Doster Community Center*

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) together with the City of Prattville will host a free Veterans Well-Being Town Hall & Resource Fair to promote awareness of suicide among our service members, veterans, and their families, and to identify resources in the community that will meet their well-being needs.

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 1st quarter of FY25, **4,882** new records were received from Alabama Dept. of Public Health and **2,871** 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 **105** caseload consumers and their families through the 1st 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 **233** consumers through the 1st 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 **91** referrals. The TBI Registry Helpline had a total of **136** referrals through the 1st quarter of FY25.