

# ABIN-PA NETWORK NEWS

**FEBRUARY 1, 2007**

**Self-Advocates and Family-Advocates  
Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value**

## **FROM THE EDITOR:**

**This is the first issue of our newsletter!**

**Here, you can read about some of ABIN-PA's activities and plans.**

**Please help us by sending news about your support group, your pet, something exciting in your life, or suggestions for others.**

**Please photocopy this newsletter and share with others.**

**Thanks for your help!**

**Barb Dively**

## **OUR WEBSITE**

**Since August 1, 2006, we have had 1,266 visitors to our website!**

**Our site was designed by Peggy Heichel specifically for people with brain injury. Look for the same large navigation buttons on each page.**

**Under Education, you will find a PowerPoint for families by the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.**

**Under Profiles you will find the individual profiles of some of our Networkers—and you can send in your own—then tell your friends!**

**Under Brochures, there are 10 brochures to print and distribute.**

**Ed Crinnion, Marcia Williams, Pat Strenk, Maureen Neve, Deborah Delgado (Disability Rights Network, formerly Pennsylvania Protection & Advocacy) and Sue Scott Dolan (Parents and Caregivers Resources Network) are distributing them now.**

**Under Resources, you will find Support Groups and various types of providers—you can locate them using searchable databases by John Dively.**

**Please visit [www.abin-pa.org](http://www.abin-pa.org) and check it out.**

## **NETWORKERS IN ACTION**

**Dan Rohrback, Jr.**  
**—DPW Community Living  
Advisory Council**

**Ed Crinnion**  
**—Pittsburgh Area Brain Injury  
Alliance**

**Don Zeigler**  
**—OVR PA Rehabilitation  
Council**

**Barb Dively**  
**—DPW Home & Community  
Based Services Stakeholder  
Planning Team**

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### **REHAB FOR CHILDREN**

In Pennsylvania, all disabled children are eligible for Medicaid (Medical Access card) regardless of parent income.

All children on Medicaid under the age of 21 are entitled to rehabilitation under federal §1396 (d) (r) (5).

Parents needing help to secure brain injury rehabilitation services through Medicaid are encouraged to call Eric Ulsh at 1-717-705-8259 or Jean Whitehead, RN, 1-866-588-9819.

### **2006: FAMILIES & SURVIVORS PRESENT AT CONFERENCE**

In December, volunteers presented two workshops at the Speaking for Ourselves Conference in Harrisburg.

“Self-Determination for People with Brain Injury” was presented on December 5th by Pat Strenk, Dick & Mary Stoner, and John & Barb Dively.

“Common Daily Tasks—The Skills of Living” was presented on December 6th by C.B. Miller, Mike & Sharon Miller, Pat Strenk, and John & Barb Dively.

Dick & Mary lead the Red Lion Brain Injury Support Group near York, PA.

Mike chairs the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board for the Department of Health and serves as a Vice President of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania.

### **STATE DVD ON BRAIN INJURY**

Over the past year or two, Leonard Lies of Dream Catchers has been producing a DVD on brain injury for the Pennsylvania Governor’s Office on Health Care Reform, under the direction of Heidi Adams.

Probably 50 volunteers participated and filming was done in Pittsburgh, Malvern, Philadelphia, and Lansdale.

On the DVD, survivors, family members and professionals share the information people need in order to understand this injury.

The viewer will be able to watch specific topics, or the entire DVD.

Leonard has finished his work but the DVD is not available yet. Ginny Rogers of the Department of Public Welfare will be handling the final details such as cover art, captioning, reproduction, and free distribution.

### **WHERE TO CALL**

Brain Injury Help Line—every day

- 1-866-412-4755

- free literature

Head Injury Program (TBI only)

- 1-866-635-7097

CommCare Waiver (TBI only)

- 1-800-757-5042

Brain Injury Resource Line

- 1-866-635-7097

Brain Injury Association of America

- 1-800-444-6443

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

- 215-587-3350

## **BRAIN INJURY RECOVERY BLUEPRINT APPROVED**

On August 25, 2006, the the Home & Community Based Services Stakeholder Planning Team of the Department of Public Welfare received and approved the report of their Brain Injury Work Group.

This report, the Brain Injury Recovery Blueprint, is available on-line at [www.abin-pa.org](http://www.abin-pa.org), Education.

The Blueprint recommends inserting a brain injury module into all state services. This module will assure identification, assessment, and brain injury rehabilitation for all children and adults seeking or receiving state services. The Department is meeting to discuss implementation.

In addition, the Blueprint recommends adding Support Brokers to the CommCare Waiver. A Support Broker is an independent spokesperson for the Waiver participant.

A subgroup just met with Susan Pasker to request Support Brokers in the CommCare Waiver, and she will provide draft language for the amendment to be submitted to CMS. Family and survivor participation in the subgroup included Cheryl Dougan and Mike Miller of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, and Barb Dively. Thanks to all!

Thanks also to John Pistorius, Ed Crinnion, Dick & Mary Stoner, Red Lion Support Group members, and dozens of Work Group participants!

## **CASSP CONFERENCE—APRIL**

### **PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER ..... AFTER BRAIN INJURY**

The Child and Adolescent Special Services Programs of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will hold their conference in April at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College.

Brenda Eagan Brown, Kathleen Larson, and Barb Dively will present a 3 hour Institute, "Putting the Pieces Together After Brain Injury", including brain injury basics, brain development, behavioral management, Medicaid, Special Education, teaching strategies, family perspective, the cross-systems Blueprint, wrap-around services, and paper cases.

This is the third CASSP conference to include a brain injury Institute.

## **NETWORKER OUTREACH**

Pat Strenk— Indian Creek Foundation, Indian Creek Library, Hospice Volunteers at Grandview Hospital.

Marcia Williams— Free Library of Springfield Township.

John & Barb Dively—Parkhouse at Providence Pointe Nursing Home.

Barb Dively—Montgomery County Emergency Services, Montgomery County Forensic Task Force.

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*Email the information below to [b2272@prodigy.net](mailto:b2272@prodigy.net)*

*OR mail this coupon to:*

**ABIN-PA, 2275 Glenview Drive, Lansdale PA 19446-6082**

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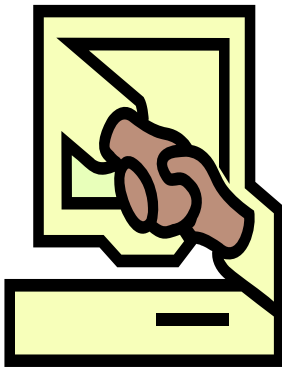
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**SURVIVOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAMILY MEMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_



**THE ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY  
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Self-Advocates and Family-Advocates

Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value

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