

# ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY NETWORK NEWS

**December 1, 2007—2007/#11**  
*Survivors and Family Members*  
*Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value*

## FROM THE EDITOR:

With USPS nonprofit approval, we hope to start bulk mailing this month.

Calls are coming in to our new phone number 215-699-2139. Thanks to Linda for noting the newsletter typo!

Our mailing list is up to 220. Please help by copying and sharing our newsletter. Numbers count in Harrisburg! We need thousands!

2,800 people visited our website since August 1, 2006. People report that they are finding what they need!

Barb Dively

## COATESVILLE VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER ABILITIES FAIR

Pat Strenk, Bob Drucker, John & Barb Dively traveled to Chester County to provide an information table at the VA Abilities Fair on October 31, 2007 in Building 5.

The Coatesville VA made 300 copies of three of our brochures, and we put those on the table with books and our standup display.

Veterans, the VA staff, and other organizations gave us a good reception, with particular interest in hyperbaric oxygen and the Curt Allen video ([www.abin-pa.org](http://www.abin-pa.org), Education).

## COUNTY EDUCATION COORDINATORS' MEETING

Our CEC's met by phone on Saturday, November 17th at 10am to review our materials and plan county programs. Look for program announcements in future newsletters.

If you live in Berks, Clarion, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Tioga, Venango, or Washington County, we could use your help with publicity and locations. Please email me.

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Dorothy Curtis  
John & Barb Dively  
Robert Drucker  
Helen Love  
Carolyn Pahler  
Kay and Gordon Rowe  
Joyce Schlag

**SURVIVE & THRIVE**

**DIRECT CAREWORKERS  
CONFERENCE**

The Council for Advocacy on the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (C.A.R.I.E.) invited us to present a workshop for direct careworkers on November 2, 2007. About 35 people attended and half were already working with clients who had a brain injury. People really liked the strategies in the brochure “Changes in Your Loved One.....After Brain Injury”. Many shared their own experiences and creative solutions to perplexing situations.

**Focus your rehab  
on your interests!**

**PROBLEM-SOLVING**

Children under 21—Rehab  
1-717-705-8259  
Client Assistance Program  
1-888-745-2357  
Disability Rights Network  
1-800-692-7443  
Educational Law Center  
1-215-238-6970 + 412-391-5225  
Institutional Law Project  
1-215-925-2966  
Legal Aid  
1-800-322-7572  
Legal Clinic for the Disabled  
1-215-587-3350  
Pennsylvania Health Law Project  
1-800-274-3258  
Special Education Consult Line  
1-800-879-2301  
Waiver Help Line  
1-800-757-5042

**OUR NONVERBAL MESSAGES**

Various studies show that 50 to 90 % of our messages to each other do not involve words!

Many of us have trouble with words after a brain injury—but we can use nonverbal messages to improve our communicate with others.

Looking into the eyes of other people lets them know we care about what they are saying.

Leaning forward and facing the other person also shows interest.

A friendly nod encourages others.

Turning off the television, radio or music allows us to hear each other better and pay closer attention.

A 3 foot space between strangers shows respect. Getting too close or staying too far away sends a different message.

Gestures have different meanings in different cultures and age groups. What gestures are we using?

Fragrances, clothing and color choices send a message—we can choose carefully!

Nonverbal messages are powerful tools that help us communicate when we have trouble talking.

Let’s make the most of this tool. What nonverbal messages are we sending? What is the response?

**WHERE TO CALL FOR INFO**

Acquired Brain Injury Network of PA  
- 215-699-2139  
Brain Injury Association of America  
- 1-800-444-6443  
Brain Injury Help Line—free literature  
- 1-866-412-4755  
Brain Injury Resource Line  
- 1-866-635-7097CommCare  
Waivers (TBI and non-TBI)  
- 1-800-757-5042  
Head Injury Program (TBI only)  
- 1-866-412-4755

**Help yourself by  
helping others!**

**HAPPENINGS**

**November**

1st—ABIN-PA Board Meeting, Mailing  
Party & Lansdale Brain Injury Group  
2nd—Direct Careworker Conference  
5th—Montgomery Cty. Forensic T.F.  
8th—DPW HCBS Assisted Living  
15th—Children’s Integrated Healthcare  
15th—Positive Practices  
19th—Phoenixville—info table

**December**

3rd—PA Interagency Forensic T.F.  
5th—Senator Rafferty’s office  
6th—ABIN-PA Board,, Mailing, Support  
& DOH TBI Advisory Board  
10th—Service Delivery Structure  
& PHLP Room to Grow  
11th—Community Living Advisory  
12th—OMHSAS ACT Workgroup  
14th—Home & Community Based  
Services Stakeholder Planning Team  
19th—Gov.’s Adv.Com. For PWD

**BIAPA SCHOOL RE-ENTRY TEAMS  
by Brenda Eagan Brown**

Each year, over 3,000 children in Pennsylvania are hospitalized by a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Many of these children will need help when they return to school, because of changes in their physical, cognitive, or behavioral functioning. Schools need help to understand these changes and implement appropriate educational planning, strategies, and techniques.

The new "Brain STEPS (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, and Students) TBI School Re-entry Program" will help schools by providing in-service training, technical assistance and consultation throughout the state. Brain STEPS will establish Brain Injury Consulting Teams composed of professionals from varying disciplines.

After extensive training, Team Members will serve as regional consultants for school personnel and contacts for hospital and rehabilitation personnel. Team Members will help colleagues and families, lead in-service trainings, share resources, and assist teachers with the design and implementation of learning interventions.

Brain STEPS will make sure that those who provide educational support to children with brain injury understand what is required to achieve optimal educational success.

For more information, please contact Brenda Eagan Brown, Brain STEPS Coordinator, at 724-944-6542 or [eaganbrown@biapa.org](mailto:eaganbrown@biapa.org).

## Free ABIN-PA Newsletter—Donations Welcome

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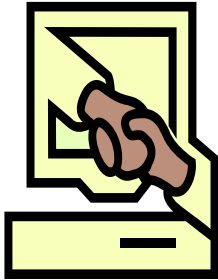
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FOR DONATIONS: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

The official registration and financial information of the Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania, Inc., may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



### ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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[www.abin-pa.org](http://www.abin-pa.org)

[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/abin-pa](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/abin-pa)

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