

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY  
NETWORK NEWS  
April 1, 2009—2009/#04  
Survivors and Family Members  
Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value

**Spring is in the air!**

So glad that the sun is giving us longer days! Hoping that you are enjoying them!

Please help new survivors understand that recovery happens over time—that for just about everyone of us, each month and year still bring improvements because of the well documented “plasticity” of the child and adult brain.

Watch for our Annual Report in the mail, thanks to a donation by Progressive Health of PA, Inc. — please share with friends!

Till next month—stay busy & happy!

**Barb Dively**

*Donate Without  
Any Cost to You!*

**Do your Amazon shopping from  
the ABIN-PA website and  
ABIN-PA will receive a donation!**

**Print a postage-free label on-line  
to mail in old cell phones and  
ABIN-PA will receive a donation!**

**Sign up your credit cards at  
[www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and  
every time you make a purchase  
ABIN-PA will receive a donation!**

**CONTACT YOUR SENATOR**

Please ask your Senator to co-sponsor and quickly move on the new Adult Protective Services Bill that Senator Vance is introducing. PA is one of the very few states that don't protect adults age 18 to 59. That must change!

Go to [www.pasenate.gov](http://www.pasenate.gov) and type in your zipcode to find your senator. Send email.

**SUPPORT GROUP in GREENSBURG  
Thursday, 7PM, April 9th, Trinity UCC  
Call Maria at 724-838-1312**

**BOB WOODRUFF on TBI**

Congregation Beth El  
374 Stony Hill Road  
Yardley PA 19067

8:15 pm, Saturday, April 18th

Call 215-493-1707 for information.  
Tickets at: [www.bethelyardley.org](http://www.bethelyardley.org)  
or mail check for \$50 to the synagogue.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Sun. Apr. 5th, 2-4pm—Board  
Tues. Apr. 28th, 1-3 pm— Mail Newsletter  
Sun. May 3rd, 2-4pm—Board

**Board Meeting by Teleconference  
1-218-486-1300, Password 127105**

FOR QUESTIONS [info@abin-pa.org](mailto:info@abin-pa.org)

**2009 ANNUAL FUND DONORS**

Sharon Bass, Marta Bivins,  
The Borgia's Family,  
Anna Marie & Barry Childress,  
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**MONTHLY DONORS**

John & Barb Dively  
Robert Drucker  
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**IN HONOR OF  
Jeannette Kline**

*for Being an Inspiration to So Many  
From Joyce Schlag*

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Yolanda Marie Valdes Torres**  
*From Deborah Fishman,*  
Mapes Stores Offices & Warehouse,  
Katherine Hochner, John & Barb Dively,  
Mary Patricia Ruppert,  
Carol Silverman,  
Drs. Karen & Fred Clark,

**ORGANIZATIONS**  
**Main Line Rehabilitation**  
**Progressive Health of PA, Inc.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**POLICE BROCHURE PROJECT:** Taking brochures to local police stations.

**SURVIVOR & FAMILY MANUALS:** Meets by teleconference.

**NEWSLETTER & BROCHURE OUTREACH:** Supply your local hospitals, libraries & support groups.

**NEWSLETTER MAILING GROUP:** Meets monthly on a Tuesday from 1-3pm.

**CLERICAL HELP:** Fold brochures, staple handout materials, file, mail information. Secretarial and bookkeeping tasks.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Handle requests & small projects.

**INFORMATION TABLES:** Your local community. We provide literature.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** Recruit, schedule and assist volunteers.

**RESOURCES**

Acquired Brain Injury Network of PA  
1-800-516-8052  
BIAPA Brain Injury Resource Line  
1-866-635-7097  
DOH Help Line & Head Injury Program  
1-866-412-4755  
Disability Rights Network  
1-800-692-7443  
Housing—PHFA [www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org)  
717.780.3988  
Pennsylvania Health Law Project  
1-800-274-3258  
Special Education Consult Line  
1-800-879-2301  
Waiver Help Line 1-800-757-5042

## **Brain injury Recovery Task Force Report Executive Summary by Ginny Rogers**

### **Introduction**

In April 2008, Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Secretary Estelle Richman convened a Brain injury Recovery Task Force to examine issues relating to services for children and adults with brain injury. The kick-off session included 150 participants - brain injury survivors, family members, brain injury services providers, advocates, medical professionals and others - demonstrating that there is a broad and committed set of brain injury stakeholders. During the next five months, workgroups developed recommendations for DPW that will improve, enhance, develop and/or coordinate services to positively impact the lives of children, adults and families who are affected by brain injury.

Participants considered specific topic areas that were identified during the April 28th kick-off event. The eight workgroups were:

1. Improve Information, Public Awareness and Advocacy
2. Enhance Individual and Family Support
3. Explore Resource Facilitation
4. Improve Cross-System Coordination
5. Improve Education of Professionals
6. Develop Provider Service Capacity and Access
7. Problem Solve Funding Issues
8. Coordinate Physical Health Care/Behavioral Health Care Access

This report includes an Executive Summary and the full report from each workgroup. The Executive Summary introduces the topic, its history in DPW and the PA Department of Health, and the Task Force process. It concludes with the major themes that were represented across many workgroups as well as suggestions or recommendations to address each area.

The themes that emerged across the workgroups deliver a consistent message: **children and adults with brain injury currently face difficulty getting information, accessing services, and overcoming other barriers or gaps in services.** Brain injury survivors want to be valued, productive members of society. Like most Pennsylvania citizens, brain injury survivors want to play, go to school, work, volunteer, and have families. This requires a coordinated array of services and supports that will promote recovery.

As one brain injury survivor puts it: "My brain may be different than it was before my accident but it is still strong, still useful, still me. What I want from the state is to help me become all of me again."

*To read or print the entire report, go to: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Resources/Documents/Pdf/BITaskForce/BrainInjuryRecoveryTaskForceRpt.pdf>.*

**A MOTHER'S VOICE**  
**By Kay Rowe**  
**(with permission from Erik Toye)**

In 1980, my son, Erik Toye, left home in Pennsylvania and settled in Los Angeles with his brother to pursue his dream to become a radio announcer. This did not work out.

Erik's father, who lived near Dallas, TX, knew of his interest in auto mechanics and lined up a job for Erik in an auto parts store.

One night, after a party, Erik got on a friend's motorcycle and tore off down the road without a helmet. The road deadended in a field and so did Erik. He lay there unconscious all through the night with Texas fire ants attacking him. He was discovered early the following morning and rushed to Parkland Hospital in Dallas (where President Kennedy had been taken).

I arrived at Parkland just hours later from Philadelphia and found my son in a coma from a closed head injury.

Anxious hours turned into days. Although the staff did everything possible, Erik still showed no life signs. Suddenly, the other Intensive Care Unit patients, both motorcyclists, died, first one and then the other. I said a silent prayer, then walked back to Erik's bed. Would he be next? God, what does a mother do?

There are no words for how I felt! I paced in my motel room. I couldn't eat or sleep; no good to anyone!

Then one night, something happened. In a fretful sleep I imagined holding the limp body of my son up to God and whispering into the darkness, "Not my will but Thy will be done!"

I began to let go. A wonderful sense of peace engulfed me and, moments later, hope returned! All at once, it seemed, I knew what to do!

I could hardly wait for morning. When it dawned, I sat as close to Erik as I possibly could and began to repeat the commands the staff had tried to give him, but this time I spoke right into his ear! It had occurred to me how hard it must have been for Erik to distinguish a stranger's voice above all the din of the Intensive Care Unit. But my voice, Erik had known even before he was born!

Slowly but surely Erik began to respond to my commands: move your right foot; left hand. Wiggle your toe, etc. Life signs (a nod from God?) which proved to all that Erik was a candidate for rehabilitation!

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILs)**

**www.pcil.net**

Across the state, all 18 Centers for Independent Living provide four core services for people with disabilities. Contact the program closest to you and get involved!

Information & referral: Accessible housing, transportation, employment, and other resources.

Advocacy: Raising public awareness and helping individuals enforce their rights.

Peer mentoring: Matching persons with similar disabilities. Goals are targeted.

Independent Living Skills Training: Individually designed training offered at your own pace on income benefits, social or recreational opportunities, self-care, transportation, education, communication, assistive technology, budgeting, housing assistance and job readiness.

Allentown—800-495-8245

Lehigh Valley CIL  
Lehigh, Northampton

Altoona—800-237-9009

CIL of South Central PA  
Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton,  
Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset

Camp Hill—800-323-6060

CIL of Central PA  
Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata,  
Mifflin, Perry

Erie—800-530-5541—Community

Resources for Independence  
Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest,  
Venango, Warren

Erie—866-407-0064

Voices for Independence  
Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest,  
Venango, Warren

Hazleton—800-777-9906

Anthracite Region CIL  
Carbon, Luzerne, Schuylkill

Lancaster—866-394-1890

Disability Empowerment Center  
Lancaster, Lebanon

Langhorne—215-752-7101

CIL of Bucks County  
Bucks

New Castle—724-652-5144

Disability Options Network  
Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer

Newtown Square—800-427-4754

Freedom Valley Disability Enable.  
Chester, Delaware, Montgomery

Philadelphia—888-634-2155

Liberty Resources  
Philadelphia

Pittsburgh—800-633-4588

Three Rivers CIL Services  
Allegheny, Armstrong,  
Westmoreland

Reading—888-376-0120

Abilities in Motion  
Berks

Scranton—800-344-7211

Northeast PA CIL  
Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna,  
Luzerne, Pike, Monroe, Sullivan,  
Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

St. Mary's—800-341-5438

Life & Independence for Today  
Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson  
McKean, Potter

Washington—724-223-5115

Tri-County Patriots for IL  
Fayette, Green, Washington

Williamsport—800-984-7492

CIL of North Central PA  
Centre, Clinton, Lycoming,  
Montour, Northumberland, Snyder,  
Tioga, Union

York—800-956-0099

CIL Opportunities  
Adams, Franklin, York

## **Newsletter Sign-Up, Donations & Tributes**

ABIN-PA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury and to providing support, education, information, advocacy and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ SURVIVOR: \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly: \_\_\_\_\_ United Way: # 45813

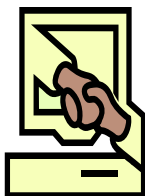
IN HONOR OF (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ (Reason): \_\_\_\_\_

(Address): \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ (Family contact): \_\_\_\_\_

(Family address): \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

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

**215-699-2139 InfoLine: 800-516-8052**

**info@abin-pa.org, [www.abin-pa.org](http://www.abin-pa.org)**

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED.