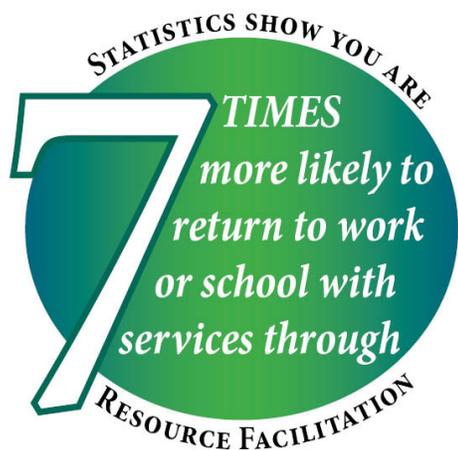


the Working Brain

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MOMENTUM

Resource Facilitation Satellite Opens in Evansville

In the fall of 2016, the Resource Facilitation Department opened a satellite office in Evansville to help serve our clients in southwestern Indiana. The satellite provides a virtual NeuroVocational Evaluation (NVE) with the neuropsychologist in Indianapolis and in-person testing conducted locally.

Why have a satellite office? When Resource Facilitation Services expanded into the southern part of Indiana, many of our potential clients from Evansville and the surrounding area felt the travel time to Indianapolis was a barrier to getting their NVE. Without an NVE, we cannot recommend the services needed to return to work or school. This issue was addressed by looking for partners in the south who could help with supplying space for testing. Through an agreement with HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation, we were able to lease space in the Evansville area and can now provide an option to those clients who were reluctant to make the trip to Indianapolis.



Amy Miller, MS, our Clinical Resource Facilitator in the South, has an expanded job role where she can provide NVE testing locally as well as facilitate therapy groups. So now, not only can we test RF clients locally in Evansville, we can also offer Brain Injury Coping Skills Group (BICS). BICS is a specialized 16-week, group therapy that offers a unique opportunity to brain injury survivors and their caregivers to learn techniques for adapting to and managing daily brain-injury related cognitive and behavioral challenges, all while still developing important psychosocial bonds with similar individuals. We are currently coming to the end of the first 16-week session. We are accepting VR authorized clients for the next session which starts in April. VR Counselors who are interested in authorizing clients can contact Amy Miller at Amy.Miller@rhin.com. We want to thank St. Mary's Hospital for providing space for this group to meet. Stay tuned as the Resource Facilitation Department plans for the future, both with satellites and BICS Groups.

MOMENTUM

New Web Page

We are proud to announce the launch of the Resource Facilitation Research & Training Center website. The Beta version is up and running and ready to view. We will be working hard in the next few months to add more content, so visit often to see our progress.



www.ResourceFacilitationRTC.com

 **Rehabilitation
Hospital of Indiana**
RESOURCE FACILITATION DEPARTMENT

9531 Valparaiso Court
Indianapolis, IN 46268
T: 317.329.2245 F: 317.872.0914
E: claire.brownson@rhin.com
Claire Brownson, Managing Editor
Judy Reuter, Editor

“It takes a village” **CELEBRATION** Inaugural Brain Injury & Resource Facilitation Regional Conference

The 2016 Brain Injury and Resource Facilitation Regional Conferences provided the setting that allowed us to honor outstanding achievements and commitment to those impacted by brain injury. This year, our inaugural year, we awarded three Service Providers and three Employers across the State who exemplify what it takes to be a part of the “village.” Please join us as we recognize the following awardees for their outstanding achievements enhancing employment opportunities for people with brain injury.

Service Provider Award

This award is designed to recognize highly effective service providers who demonstrate trustworthiness, respectfulness, supportiveness and innovation in their interactions with supported employees, as well as with their friends, family members and employers.

Carol McGrew accepted the Northern Indiana Service Provider Award from Penny Torma, Local Support Network Leader, RHI Resource Facilitation.



Employer Award

This award is given to employers who demonstrate outstanding achievements in promoting supported employment, making accommodations, and including people with brain injury related disabilities in their place of work.

Globe Star, LLC
Dr. Anthony McCrovitz accepted the Northern Indiana Employer Award from Peter Bisbecos, JD, RHI Resource Facilitation.



Jane Wiles accepted the Central Indiana Service Provider Award from Wendy Waldman, Local Support Network Leader, RHI Resource Facilitation.



SIA Subaru
Lynette Alexander accepted the Central Indiana Employer Award from Dr. Lance Trexler and Wendy Waldman, Local Support Network Leader, RHI Resource Facilitation.



Alice Lamb accepted the Southern Indiana Service Provider Award from Mary Austin, Resource Facilitator, RHI Resource Facilitation.



Accuride Corp.
Pat Wolfe accepted the Southern Indiana Employer Award from Jean Capler, Local Support Network Leader, RHI Resource Facilitation.



A BIG Thank you to all of our attendees, awardees and sponsors for making the Inaugural Brain Injury & Resource Facilitation Conference a great success!

In October 2016, our renowned group of speakers addressed essential issues related to brain injury and provided cutting-edge brain injury education while promoting evidence-based vocational rehabilitation through the collaboration of community resource providers within the northern, southern, and central regions of Indiana.



Highlights include:

- Six individuals from across the state received awards for their hard work in the field of brain injury. (See Box to the left.)
- Over 120 people in total attended the three regional locations: Northern Indiana (South Bend), Central Indiana (Indianapolis) and Southern Indiana (French Lick).
- A well-received presentation on the judicial system and its role in brain injury. We now have a larger pool of informed professionals to help problem-solve how to address barriers related to brain injury and incarceration.
- All attendees were trained in a brain injury screening tool. (See more about this tool on page 4.)
- Silent Auction benefiting Brain Injury Support Groups around the state.

Plans are underway for 2017 and the 1st Annual Brain Injury and Resource Facilitation Regional Conferences. Please stay tuned for dates and locations! Contact Claire Brownson at Claire.Brownson@rhin.com to make sure we have your most recent contact information.



Our regional conference sponsors:

Gold Sponsor

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
Foundation

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Contributing Sponsor

Golden Living



Senator Patricia Miller accepting her award from Dr. Lance Trexler.

CELEBRATION

Senator Patricia Miller

The Senator Patricia Miller Award for Brain Injury Advocacy was created to recognize a commitment to advance the welfare of Hoosiers with brain injury through legislative initiatives and governmental affairs. This was of course named after Senator Miller who supported a number of key initiatives. She also faithfully served on the Indiana Brain Injury Leadership Board since its inception in 2010. This award was presented to her at the Brain Injury and Resource Facilitation Regional Conference in Indianapolis, October 25, 2016.

CELEBRATION

Jean Capler, MSW, LCSW

2017 Social Worker of the Year

Congratulations



PERSPECTIVE

Criminality and Brain Injury

Peter Bisbecos, JD

The more I learn about brain injury and its consequences, the more stories I recall from my years as a Deputy Prosecutor in Marion County.

In Marion County’s high volume Misdemeanor Courts, it was common to touch 60 to 100 cases a day. That environment leads to skepticism as most often the person who is “innocent” at the beginning of a negotiation is admitting the facts and pleading guilty 30 minutes later.

Imagine the challenge of convincing the Prosecutor that the defendant, who appears unimpaired to the untrained eye, has a brain injury that limits his capacity for impulse control. In answer to that, I thought of a story about a man who helped a police officer subdue a resisting subject. After getting the suspect safely in the car, the officer realized that he’d arrested the man who helped a couple of weeks earlier also for resisting arrest. When asked about that, the man said “that wasn’t personal officer, my daddy told me I wasn’t a man ‘til I fought with the police.” With fighting as a rite of passage, skepticism seems less warranted.

Complicating this challenge, brain injury is frequently undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. It is common to find brain injuries diagnosed as bipolar disorder. Certain medicines that are quite helpful for mental illnesses can unfortunately cause agitation and even violence in someone with a brain injury.

Once beyond skepticism, another challenge is that the criminal law doesn’t address brain injury effectively. The standard for criminal intent is “knowingly and intentionally.” It is a defense if the person was incapable of “appreciating the wrongfulness of his actions.” We now know that people with brain injury may appreciate the wrongfulness of their actions, but still lack the capacity to stop themselves from acting.

Yet, there is a positive side. Medical professionals are recognizing these challenges. The general public is coming to understand “TBI” with greater depth and empathy due to the experiences of veterans and professional athletes. The court systems in Indiana have adopted Problem Solving Courts that are interested in understanding brain injury.

We are currently working with the Courts, Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys in Marion County to address these challenges. While our efforts are in the formative stages, there is positive momentum. STAY TUNED!

TRAINING

Screening for Brain Injury

Are you or your clinic interested in learning to screen for brain injury?
We have the tool that can do just that.

In 2007, Dr. John Corrigan, along with his colleagues at The Ohio State University, published a standardized procedure for identifying Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

The tool was designed as a structured interview for health and social service professionals assessing the “exposure to” TBI over the client/patient’s lifetime. We are now treating brain injury as a chronic condition. The measure shows strong psychometric properties and only takes a few minutes to administer. We have adapted the original screening model to allow for screening the causes of brain injury *outside* of trauma. This adapted screening tool now also assesses the presence of acquired brain injury (ABI) history (i.e., stroke, loss of oxygen, electrocution, infection, tumor, brain surgery, toxic exposure). The screening tool is called the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method – Revised: A Screening Tool for the Identification of Acquired Brain Injury.

How to use it?

Overall, there are four components for this screening tool.

Because this is a structured interview, just follow the steps word-for-word. Scoring is fairly simple – it involves classifying the worst injury into a level of severity. The severity levels are:

- Improbable TBI
- Possible Mild TBI without LOC
- Mild TBI with LOC
- Moderate TBI
- Severe TBI

We also ask you to total the number of injuries with loss of consciousness (LOC)

Who is using it now?

Approximately 6,000 Department of Corrections’ staff have been trained already! And more clinical professionals are trained every month.



Learn more on how to bring this training to you, contact:
Claire Brownson, MA, LMHCA
Coordinator of Training and Education, RTC
Claire.Brownson@rhin.com.



RHI Resource Facilitation and Neuropsychology Departments were honored to have Dr. Corrigan visit last September.

MOMENTUM

Meet Our Newest Resource Facilitators

Kira Thomas, BSW



Kira joined the Resource Facilitation team in Central Indiana in September 2016. Although she is new to brain injury, she has had a decade of experience in substance abuse

in mental healthcare. While a Social Work student at Indiana State, Kira completed her undergraduate practicum requirements in inpatient mental health at Hamilton Center and Regional Hospital. Kira’s most significant work began when she was employed as a Substance Abuse counselor for the Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC). After two years with DOC, Kira left to join Hamilton County Adult Probation as a Court Substance Abuse Management Specialist and Probation Officer. Kira serves on the Central Nine Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Khadidiatou “Khady” Diop, BSPH



Khady joined the Resource Facilitation Team in October 2016. She has a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois. Khady has

a diverse background including an internship at the West African Research Center. Khady also has had leadership and mentoring experiences at the Lake County Health Department/Behavioral Health, has worked as a fundraiser for the Au Dela Du Handicap (camp for destitute children), and has mentored French speaking students new to the country to adapt to Chicago High Schools. She is fluent in French and Wolof.

Please join us in welcoming Kira and Khady!