

NASHIA's March 2021 Brain Injury Awareness Month Campaign: This week's spotlight is on the Nebraska Injured Brain Network -- a new organization.



NASHIA: Working Together Promoting Brain Injury Awareness Month

This Week's State Spotlight: Nebraska

Dear NASHIA Member,

During March, the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is featuring articles about individuals living with brain injury; State resources and services and initiatives promoting awareness and improving service delivery. This week, NASHIA features the work in Nebraska in engaging individuals and family members to advocate for policies, program and service changes to increase access to comprehensive and coordinated services in their communities through the establishment of a new network for individuals living with a brain injury and their families.

Have a story to share? Send to Susan Vaughn at publicpolicy@nashia.org. Meanwhile, you may access NASHIA's Awareness Campaign materials [here](#).



New! Nebraska Injured Brain Network: Organized by Nebraskans Living with Brain Injury and their Families

Recognizing the importance of engaging individuals with brain injury and their family members in all aspects of service delivery, Nebraska VR decided to do something about it. Their actions speak volumes in their support for a statewide, voice-driven association of individuals with brain injury and family members that will advocate for policy, program, and service changes to increase access to comprehensive and coordinated services in their communities. With expert consulting and technical assistance, the result is the newly formed organization known as the **Nebraska Injured Brain Network (NIBN)**. NIBN has elected a board of directors, written and adopted bylaws and a mission statement, established three chapters in rural areas, opened a bank account with a line of credit,

created a logo and is finalizing a website.

"A brain injury is just an event, living with an injured brain comes after that event, when individuals begin their recovery journey and healing process. The Nebraska Injured Brain Network (NIBN) is dedicated to bringing together and highlighting the shared lived experiences and recovery journeys, our collected "voice," of the injured brain community," said Emaly Ball, President, Board of Directors of the Nebraska Injured Brain Network (NIBN). "As an organization," she explained, "we can begin to speak *as ourselves*, rather than have others speak *on our behalf*."

Nebraska VR collaborated with NIBN to deliver the 2nd *Annual Living With An Injured Brain Summit* in November 2020. NIBN successfully competed for and won a contract with Nebraska VR to complete assessment and planning activities for a pilot of Peer to Peer Supports for individuals with brain injury that began in December, 2020. And, NIBN has developed three Learning Communities. Read more about these events below.

Monthly NIBN Learning Communities for Nebraskans Living with Brain injury and Family Members



1) System of Partners and Services for the Injured Brain Community

This Learning Community will meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month from March 10 through September, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. It will begin with a short presentation, followed by a forum to discuss and learn about the system of services and network of partners providing supports to the Injured Brain Community. Registration is required for each month. Nebraskans should [register now!](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

2) The Voice of People Living with an Injured Brain

This Learning Community will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month from March 17 through September, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. This will begin with a short presentation, followed by a forum to share your recovery journey as a person living with an injured brain and to hear from others. Registration is required for each month. Nebraskans should [register now!](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

3) The Voice of Caregivers

This Learning Community will meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from March 24 through September, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. It will begin with a short presentation, followed by a forum designed to bring caregivers together to form new relationships and to support each other. Registration is required for each month. Nebraskans should [register now!](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



Partners in Collaboration: Working Together to Create More Resources

NBIN has held two Summits to bring together the people of the Injured Brain Community — those living with an Injured Brain (Peers), family members, and caregivers, as well as providers, agency representatives and other community champions. The goals in coming together are to foster discussion regarding important topics, to hear directly from Peers and family members, and to establish connectivity among people who are on the Recovery Journey together.

Nebraska VR, the Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC), the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE) and the Nebraska Injured Brain Network (NIBN) are collaborating to create more resources and supports for Peers across the State.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HEAD INJURY ADMINISTRATORS

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.

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