

This week, NASHIA's March 2022 Brain Injury Awareness Month Campaign features Georgia's new Resource Facilitation program.



Working Together Promoting Awareness Month

Spotlight on Georgia's New Resource Facilitation Program

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

March 17, 2022

Dear NASHIA Member,

During the month of 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 **Georgia** brain injury resource facilitation and the personal story of Chantal, one of Georgia's first resource facilitator professionals.

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

Georgia Launches Resource Facilitation

Meet Dr. Chantal L. Davis, DSL, Resource Facilitator Professional for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia. Chantal's story begins in Michigan where she grew up in a family of eight. When her mom was diagnosed with cancer, she stepped in to help with five siblings and to help her mom navigate the healthcare system. After both her parents died, she moved to Georgia where she worked as an Infant Care Specialist to help new moms, taking her caregiving skills with her.

On April 15, 2018, her life changed forever. After being t-boned in an intersection that did not have traffic lights due to a storm, she was treated in the Emergency Room for an abdominal hematoma and released. Four days later, she experienced a wave of neurological symptom -- severe headaches, memory loss, imbalance, sound and light sensitivity, blurred vision, anxiety, and more. She returned to the ER knowing something was very wrong.



Meet Dr. Chantal L. Davis, DSL, Resource Facilitator Professional for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia, who shared her story that was published in the Georgia Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission 2021 Annual Report.

A few weeks later, Chantal received an unexpected letter from the Georgia Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund about the availability of grants. She applied for a TBI grant to

Chantal had suffered another traumatic brain injury as a child when she attempted to jump a fence and landed headfirst. She recognized many of the same symptoms, but these symptoms were much more severe. She faced legal battles over liability and coverage, and difficulties in navigating the healthcare maze. The litigation and insurance battle tied up her resources. "Had it not been for family, friends, and my local community I would have lost the roof over my head," she explained. Then, just when she was trying to return to school, she fell while doing her therapy exercises and hit her head again. All her progress began to unravel. She was devastated.

receive rehabilitative services. This turned her life around. She was on the road to recovery with therapies, a support team and resources she needed to begin to thrive again in her new state of "normal."

In 2022, she began as one of the first resource facilitation counselor with the Brain Injury Association of Georgia, having been an entrepreneur and owner of Mallory Davis Inc., to help others as an organizational leadership consultant and success coach. She's worked to pay forward her grant award volunteering on the Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission's committees and advisory boards.

Taken from the Georgia Brain & Spinal Trust Fund Commission 2021 Annual Report.



In November 1998, Georgia voters overwhelmingly approved (by 73%) a constitutional amendment to create a Trust Fund for traumatic brain and spinal injuries, paid for by a surcharge on drunk driving fines. Laws passed again in 2014 and in 2020 to expand the program.

The Trust Fund provides much needed monetary resources for those who simply cannot afford necessary goods and services they need post-injury or whose insurance benefits have become depleted. **The Central Registry** identifies newly-injured individuals and their families, like Chantal, which enables the program to reach out to each one personally to educate them about and connect them to the resources they need to rebuild their lives. For more information, contact:

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The Georgia Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission received a federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI State Partnership Grant to increase access to services for individuals and their families in 2018 and again in 2021. The grant provided assistance through a partnership with the Brain Injury Association of Georgia (BIA-GA) to provide Information & Referral coordination (I&R), screening for eligibility, and hospital outreach for clients who have sustained a TBI.

Grant funding is now supporting a pilot project with BIA-GA for Resource Facilitation Counselors in the metro Atlanta area in year one, which will then roll out across the state in years two through five, reflecting learned best practices. Resource Facilitator Counselors serve as a vital link for survivors and their families to connect to the resources they need to recover, rebuild, and return to lives of meaning and independence.





**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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