



NeuroResource Facilitation Project Juvenile Justice Protocol

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) is conducting a demonstration project to assist youth in the Bucks and Montgomery County Detention Centers who may have acquired brain injuries, to obtain the strategies and supports that will allow them to become successful in school and/or work, to avoid further involvement with juvenile justice, and to successfully transition to productive adult roles.

The project's goals are to:

- Screen individuals utilizing a brain injury screening tool for a history of events that may have resulted in acquired brain injury
- Assess cognitive impairment in a sample of youth who screen positive for a history of brain injury
- Utilize information from screenings and neurocognitive evaluation to plan and guide the delivery of interventions that will help youth with cognitive impairments due to brain injury to be successful in school and/or work
- Make connections to appropriate resources for youth with brain injury, including, but not limited to: BrainSTEPS School Re-Entry Teams, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and brain injury rehabilitation services

The project includes:

Screening: BIAPA will screen individuals for a history of acquired brain injury. The screening is a structured interview and takes approximately 30 – 45 minutes. If the history includes an event(s) that identifies a potential acquired brain injury, he/she may receive further testing in a separate meeting. Additionally, BIAPA staff may need to review school records as part of the evaluation process.

Release Assistance and Referral: BIAPA will work with individuals who are identified as having brain injuries to create community re-entry plans including applications to BrainSTEPS School Re-Entry Teams and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. BIAPA will work in cooperation with staff at the County Detention Centers, including the Resource Counselors and Parole Agents. This may entail sharing information with juvenile court personnel including juvenile probation, judges and psychologists/psychiatrists working on behalf of the juvenile court.

Education: BIAPA will provide brain injury and community education to various groups involved in the Juvenile Justice system, including but not limited to: Detention Center staff, probation officers, judges, public defenders, families, schools, residential treatment facility staff, and community providers.