Welcome to the Ohio Brain Injury Program Update! The Ohio Brain Injury Program is Ohio’s lead agency for policy and planning related to living with brain injury.

We have just wrapped up Brain Injury Awareness Month for March 2024, and are excited to share the many events and initiatives on brain injury.

Thank you for your support!

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**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

The Ohio Brain Injury Program (OBIP) had a busy month traveling to many events during brain injury awareness month in Ohio and Washington D.C.

Ohioans attended NASHIA’s Seed Summit and Brain Injury Awareness Day in Washington D.C. Many states met to cultivate strategies to improve systems and services for those with brain injury. S represented 34 states sharing best practices.

UC Health’s hosted their Traumatic Brain Injury Symposium to discuss challenges and identify priorities for those who experienced brain injury. OBIP will participate in workgroups to address those priorities and challenges identified at the symposium.

The Brain Health Collective hosted their annual symposium in Dayton focusing on Long-Term Support for TBI. There were over 85 registered guests! We look forward to continued discussions from this symposium with the advisory board!

Brain Injury Association of Ohio hosted another fantastic Advocacy Day.
OHIO BRAIN INJURY CONNECTION

The Ohio Brain Injury Connection, our brain injury resource facilitation program, is continuing to provide great support to those who have experienced brain injury and their families!

Want to learn more? Call (614) 293-7785 or obic@osumc.edu

NEUROLOGIC INFORMED CARE PILOT PROJECT

John Corrigan and Kathryn Hyzak have completed a three-part series on Neurologic Informed Care for those with substance use disorders and brain injury. Two treatment centers participated in the training on Neurologic Informed Care.

BRAIN INJURY AND HOUSING

The OBIP has developed a new workgroup on brain injury, homelessness, and housing supports. Members include individuals with lived experience, family care partners, direct practice providers, representatives from the state mental health department, leaders from homeless/housing support programs, and representatives of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Brei was nominated by the Ohio Rural Health Association to attend the National Rural Health Association’s Policy Institute at Washington D.C.

This conference discussed key concerns and growing healthcare crises in rural America.

CLEARINGHOUSE OF HEALTH DATA

A grant received from the Chronic Brain Injury Program at OSU will allow creation of a data clearinghouse for interactive analysis of Ohio’s Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) traumatic brain injury (TBI) module data. The project will be led by faculty from the Department of Computer Sciences and Engineering at OSU with collaboration from the Ohio Brain Injury Program, the Ohio Department of Health, and Nationwide Childrens’ Hospital. The clearinghouse will allow better characterization of the unique needs of Ohioans who have a history of TBI and serve as a policy tool for both the state of Ohio and other states.
The ad hoc Disorders of Consciousness (DoC) Work Group using generative AI and Data Mining methods, the individual interview responses were subjected to thematic analysis. **Five common themes** describing gaps in services emerged from the responses:

1. **access to rehabilitation**, transitioning, and adjustment to disability;
2. **persisting, long-term challenges** posed by cognitive deficits;
3. **availability and access to support systems** and community resources;
4. treatment for **emotional and mental health**;
5. **communication and information regarding DoC** that would allow for long-term readiness for the needs of DoC.

**Education and Training Work Group**, **OCALI and Department of Education and Workforce** had over 60 attendees at “The Science of Reading”.

**Data Work Group** has completed the 2024 Biennial Report! Dissemination will be targeted for April.

**Services Work Group** is continuing to review and discuss with other agencies waiver services available in Ohio.

**Communications Work Group** hosted Scott Light in February to present on key points for telling your story.

Would you like to get involved? Please join our meetings!
Contact: brei.miller@osumc.edu

**UPCOMING OHIO EVENTS**

**STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS (TIER 1)**
- Zanesville, April 23, 2024
  Mental Health and Recovery Services
  1500 Coal Run Road
  Zanesville, OH 43701

**NORTHEAST OHIO BRAIN INJURY FOUNDATION**
- 2024 TBI Conference
  April 10, 2024
  Cleveland Clinic Akron
  4125 Medina Rd.
  Akron, OH 44333

- Findlay, May 17, 2024
  Ag Service Center
  7868 County Rd. 140
  Findlay, OH 45840

- Columbus, June 6, 2024
  Fawcett Center
  Save the Date

Come see us present at the 2024 Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Conference!
- June 3, 3:30-5, Dr. Corrigan and Dr. Hyzak on Neurologic Informed Care
- June 4, 10:45-11:45, Brei Miller, Danny Eakins, & Adam Kempf on The Impact of Military Competence Training: State and Community Initiative

**NATIONAL UPDATES**

**TBI REAUTHORIZATION ACT**
The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed the TBI Act. It reauthorized the State Partnership Program and Protection & Advocacy Program, clarified service eligibility through the TBI State Partnership Program, reduced the TBI State Partnership program match requirement, required examining brain injury as a chronic condition, and reauthorized the National Concussion Surveillance Program.

**SENATE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**
On February 28, 2024, a hearing was held on the impact of blast injuries and called for the Department of Defense to have better care for service members with TBI from blasts and firing heavy weapons.

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION CALL TO ACTION**
In the latest issue of the Brain Injury Association of America’s newsletter, “THE Challenge!”, highlights how brain injury as a chronic condition would impact people with lived experience.