

5 WAYS THAT THE MAINE ABIAC ASSISTS AND REPRESENTS MAINE RESIDENTS WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURIES

1. The ABIAC is comprised of survivors, caregivers and family members, service providers, advocates and representatives of state agencies.
2. The ABIAC conducts public hearings to listen to concerns and needs in Maine.
3. The ABIAC looks for ways to improve the services offered to the brain injured community.
4. Each year the ABIAC reports to the commissioner of Maine's DHHS on the needs and progress of these goals.
5. The ABIAC actively seeks individuals to join the council and add their voices to improve the lives of those affected by acquired brain injuries.

For more information about Maine's
Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council,
please contact:

Maine ABIAC c/o OADS
41 Anthony Ave
Augusta, ME 04330

or please call BIAA-ME's helpline
800-444-6443.



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ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Representing and advocating
on behalf of the brain injury
community of Maine

Please
stamp
here

Brain Injury is a continuing public health issue that can impact each of us and our families; it affects all communities in Maine. Falls, motor vehicle crashes, sports-related concussions, and violence represent real risks to every Maine citizen. In addition, combat-related brain injuries and health problems such as strokes, brain tumors and other diseases can cause acquired brain injuries, which result in significant thinking, emotional, behavioral and physical changes that alter lives.

Traumatic Brain Injury

• Falls • Motor Vehicle Crashes • Sports Injuries • Other Injuries Caused by Trauma

Other Acquired Brain Injury

• Strokes • Loss of Oxygen • Brain Tumors • Other Internal Assaults to the Brain

Sometimes, the system of community care ends prematurely for these people, condemning them to costly nursing homes or institutions, cutting off options for the person to return home. History shows that these individuals can live successfully, when treatment and supports are available, outside of institutions. At the other end of the spectrum are those individuals who physically appear uninjured but have significant cognitive and behavioral disabilities, which can improve with expert assistance. This phenomenon is known as the “Silent Epidemic”.

Year after year, public hearings in Maine have demonstrated individuals continue to have issues related to brain injuries which are often dismissed or misdiagnosed leading to the provision of ineffective treatment that leaves individuals and clinicians with feelings of failure and frustration. This creates a significant misdirection of valuable resources, poor interactions with family, employers and the community.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



The Council is currently making plans for dates and locations of Public Hearings.

**For more information,
please call BIAA-ME's helpline
800-444-6443**

The Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council was established into law in September 2007 to address the needs of persons with brain injuries and their families, and to raise awareness of those needs in order to promote systemic change. It is comprised of Service Providers, Survivors and Family Members and Advocates as well as CDC Injury Prevention, the Office of Aging and Disabilities, the Maine Department of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation

The Council advocates on behalf of the brain injury community and works closely through the year to determine the most pressing needs within the state. The Council members are appointed by the Commissioner of DHHS and the Council submits an annual report to that office.

Future work of the ABIAC will address the many other areas identified through needs assessments, public hearings, and forums. Public hearing testimony overwhelmingly emphasized the need for improved access to services, education for professionals, workforce shortage challenges, expanded care coordination/neuronavigation, increased public awareness on prevention and education, family and peer supports, employment opportunities, improved children's services, and addressing the complex needs of individuals with challenging behaviors.