

Brain Injury & Disability Resources

ABIN-PA InfoLine 800.516.8052
Abuse Reports—Age 0-18 800-932-0313
Abuse Reports—Age 18+ 800.490.8505
Aging/Disability Referrals 866.286.3636
Area Agency on Aging (blue pages)
BIAPA Resource Line 800.444.6443
BrainSTEPS (Local Intermediate Unit)
CareerLink (blue pages)
ChildrensHealthInsurance 800.986.5437
Consumer Protection 800.441.2555
Crime Victim's Benefits 800.233.2339
Defense & Veterans BIC 866.966.1020
Disability Rights Network 800.692.7443
DomesticViolence Hotline 800.799.7233
Elks Nurses (care plans) 814.781.7860
Epilepsy Foundation 800.887.7165
Head Injury Program 717.772.2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
Health Insurance www.healthcare.gov
or 800.318.2596
Health Law Project 800.274.3258
Independent Living Ctrs 717.364.1732
Legal Aid (PA) 800.322.7572
Legal Clinic for Disabled 215.587.3350
Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
Medical Assistance 800.537.8862
Medicare Coverage 800.633.4227
(Part A & B have in-home services)
Medicare Complaints 800.783.7067
Office of Vocational Rehab (blue pages)
OVR Complaints 888.745.2357
Social Security 800.772.1213
Special Ed Consult Line 800.879.2301
Special Kids Network 800.986.4550
Waiver Enrollment 877.550.4227
Waiver HelpLine 800.757.5042
Women's Law Project 215.928.9801

ABIN-PA Services

"Empowering Survivors & Families to Rebuild Their Lives."

InfoLine

Resources. Problem-solving. Support.

Advocacy

Individual. Government Affairs.
Nonprofit Coalitions & Collaboratives.

Education

Conferences. Presentations.
Staff Training.

Literature

Free Monthly Newsletter.
Brochures.
Booklets.
PowerPoints.

Website

Newsletter Archives & Sign-Up.
Print Literature.
"Our Stories."
Print Resource List by Birthdate.
Rehab Facility Search by Type.
Videos.

Brochure Categories

General
Children <21
Adults 18+
Families & Caregivers
Rehabilitation
Dual Diagnosis
Justice System

Brain Injury Advisory:
Dual Diagnosis

MENTAL ILLNESS



ABIN-PA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury and to providing support, education, information, advocacy and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA

InfoLine: 215.699.2139
Toll-Free: 1.800.516.8052
info@abin-pa.org
www.abin-pa.org

Brain Injury

A brain injury means changes in cognition, emotions, behavior and/or physical function followed a known or unknown event that injured brain cells and disrupted neural networks.

Precipitating events

Physical force or traumatic brain injury—assault, blast, abuse, fall, falling object, tackle, whiplash, etc.
Anoxia—cardiac arrest, or near suffocation, choking, drowning, etc.
Other—allergic reactions, anesthesia, bacteria, brain surgery, cold, fever, diabetes, Lyme, seizures, etc.

Route to Mental Health

Behavior changes, suicide attempts, arrest or substance abuse may lead to mental health professionals rather than physical health professionals, causing misdiagnosis. Once 302'd (involuntary commitment—danger to self or others), a person is assigned a legal diagnosis of mental illness (Mental Health Procedures Act) and enters the Adult Priority Group for mental health treatment under PA Bulletin OMH-94-04. There are many criteria for inclusion in the Adult Priority Group, but a 302 supersedes them all. Incorrect treatment follows.

Possible impairments

COGNITIVE: memory, speed, word finding, concentration, judgment, spatial sense, organization, planning, multi-tasking, reasoning, cause and effect, anticipating, anosognosia, reactions, processing, attention, reading, writing, math, awareness.

EMOTIONAL: anxiety, depression, mood swings, agitation, apathy, frustration, rage, loss of self.

BEHAVIORAL: impulsive, egocentric, unaware of others, inertia, unable to multi-task, perseveration.

PHYSICAL: sudden and extreme fatigue, seizures, balance, gait, spasticity, weakness, paralysis, vision, hearing, speech, headache, smell, taste, swallowing, nausea, appetite, thirst, dizziness, one sided neglect.

Recovery Process

Medical treatment for the precipitating event is followed by rehabilitation for cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or physical impairments. Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CPT97532) is evidence-based for cognitive recovery. Complex tasks promote brain repair, reduce depression (60%), promote blood flow to the frontal lobe (40%), and enhance independent living.

Go to: www.abin-pa.org, "Rehab Facility Search", for providers.

Resources for Recovery

- Children under 21—Medical Assistance pays for Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy, etc.
- Adults 18-59 - Independence and OBRA Waivers—1.877.550.4227.
- Adults 21+ - Commcare Waiver at 1.877.550.4227
- Adults 21+ - Head Injury Program at 1.717.772.2762

Comparison

Similar to an emotional disturbance:

- Reduced self-control
 - Difficulty regulating mood
- ### Unlike an emotional disturbance:
- Over-sensitivity to change, noise, temperature, light, movement
 - Unaware of deficits, slowness
 - Loss of academics, causation
 - More impulsive, irritated, confused, and/or disinhibited
 - Ignores rewards, punishments
 - Lost memory, procedures, skills
 - Change in physical functions

Treating professionals

- OT, PT, Speech and Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapists
- Neuropsychologists—diagnose, assess deficits, counsel
- Neuropsychiatrists—diagnose, manage behavioral medications