Connecting Clinical Care and Community Supports: Brain Association of Pennsylvania Resources



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Speaker Disclosures

No financial relationships to disclose. The presenter serves as an unpaid Board Member of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA).

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify key statewide brain injury resources through BIAPA and describe how they support clinical care across the rehabilitation continuum.
2. Discuss the importance of collaborative investment and stewardship in sustaining and expanding brain injury resource networks among healthcare providers.
3. Apply strategies for effectively disseminating resource information to clients, families, and community partners to enhance engagement and continuity of care.



2.8 Million TBI Annually
1 in 5 experience
recurrent injury in the first year
after the brain injury

11.4 million adults live with
TBI-related disability
(BIAA, 2025)

Underserved Needs

- Children
- Older Adults
- Racial and Ethnic Groups
- Military and Veterans
- Persons Experiencing Homelessness
- Incarcerated People
- Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Rural Populations

(BIAA, 2025)

Relevant Research Literature

Brain injury survivors and their caregivers:

- Face systemic challenges involving disparities in **continuity of care**, **interdisciplinary communication,** and **community resource navigation.**
- Often feel **unsupported during their transition** from the hospital to community.
- Experience a l**ack of functional independence and self-efficacy in the navigation and application process of available community resources**.
- Frequently endure **social and occupational participation barriers** after returning to their communities.

(Alhasani et al., 2023; Larron-Lund et al., 2022; Oyesanya et al., 2018; Parker et al., 2018, Zhang et al., 2025)

BIAPA's Message…*Find Support Here*



BIAPA’s Commitment

"The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania confirms its commitment to all persons living with brain injury. We will continue to support and advocate for people with lived experience, their families and care partners, and the professionals who serve Pennsylvanians with brain injury. We are with you, and you are not alone."
(BIAPA, 2025)



BIAPA's Key Organizational Focus Areas

Support, Education, Advocacy Research & Prevention



BIAPA Executive Board and Board of Directors

Committees*:

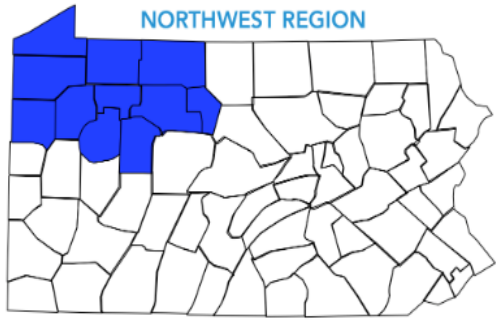
Annual Conference
Board Development
Child and Adolescent Work Group
Communications and Social Media
Financial Oversight
Fundraising
Outreach Committee

*Volunteers

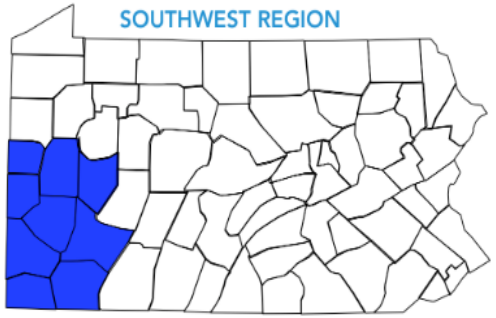
BIAPA Connectivity

Client and Caregiver Support	Professional Support	Educators and Students
• Information and education • Connection • Peer support • Participation	• Referral source • Client education • Advocacy	• Community reintegration • Advocacy • Psychosocial support

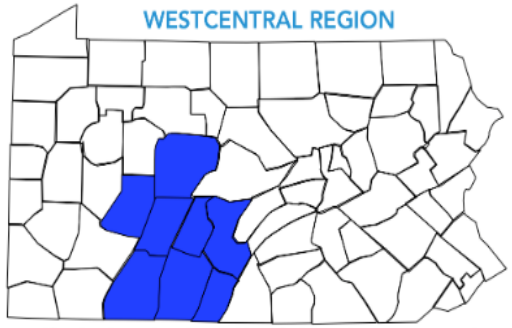
Finding Support Groups



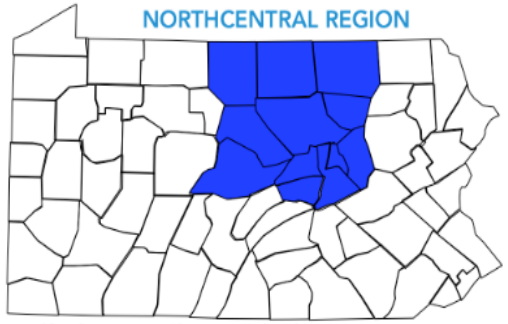
Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren



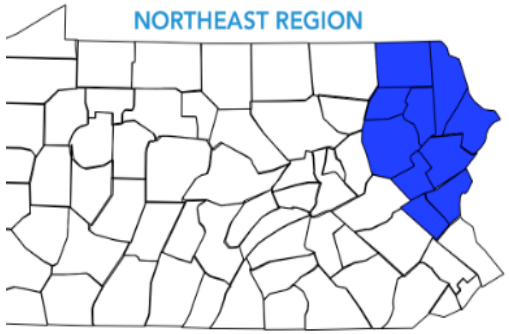
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland



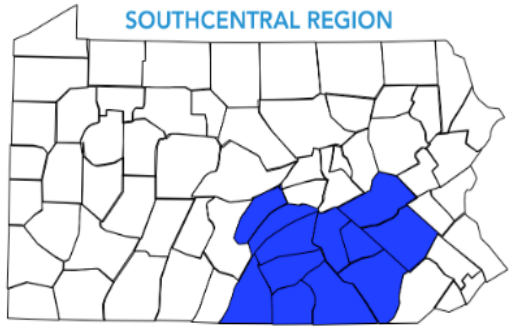
Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana and Somerset



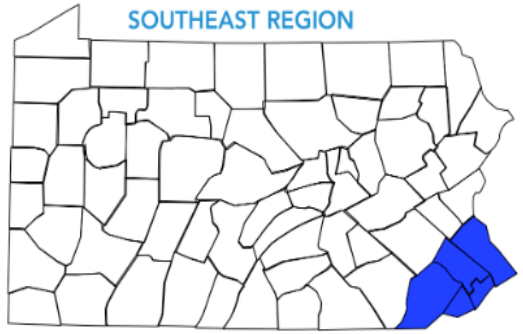
Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union



Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming



Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Schuykill and York



Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia

(Cutler et al., 2016; Daynes-Kearney & Gallagher, 2023)

Virtual Support Groups

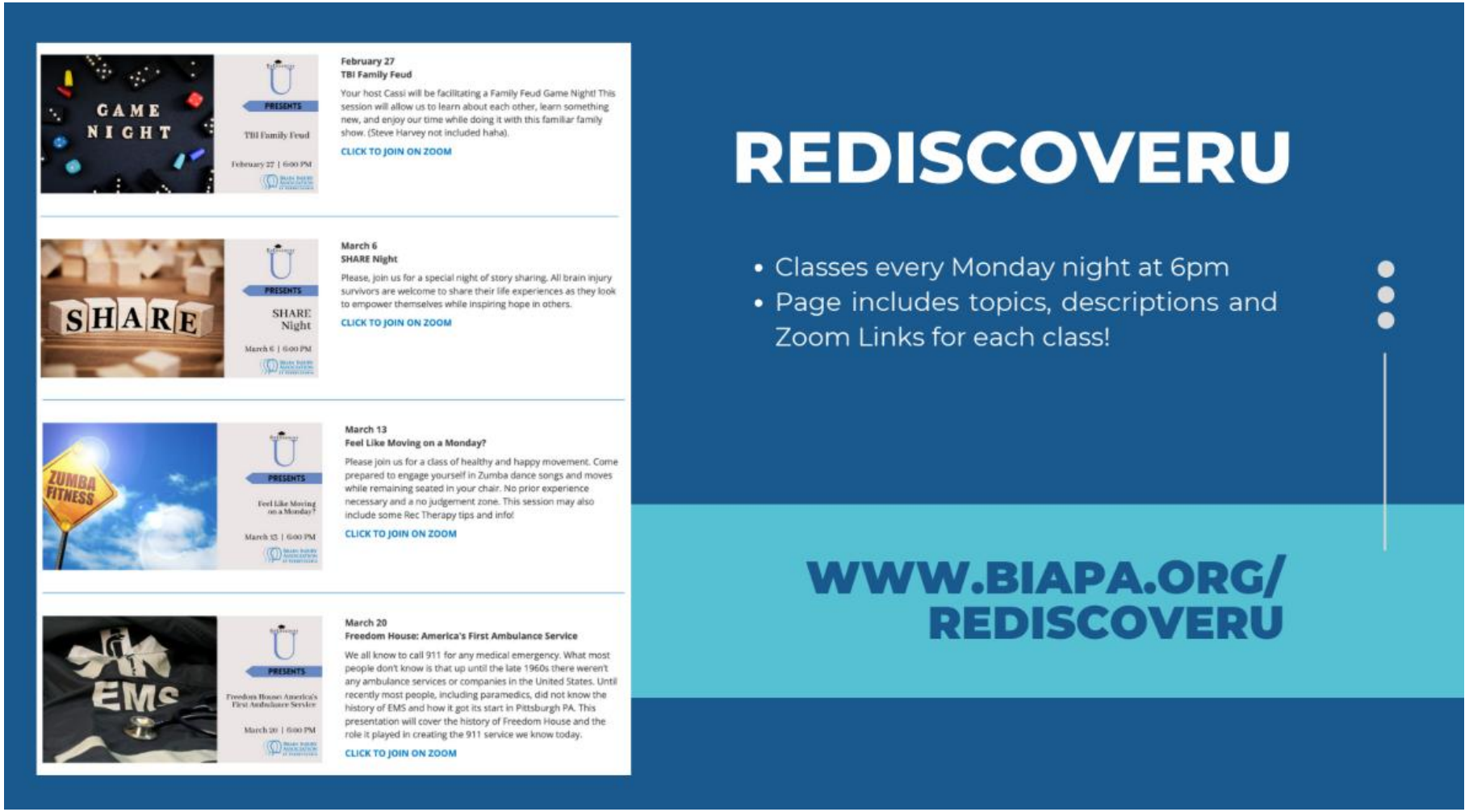






(BIAPA, 2025)

ReDiscoverU



BIAPA Newsletter



Brain Injury Resource Line (BIRL)



(BIAPA, 2025)

Brain Injury Ambassador Program



- Visitation to IRF
- Provision of resource packets
- Serves ~70+ families per year

(BIAPA, 2025)

NeuroResource Facilitation: Partnership with PA DOH

- Transportation
- Vocational supports
- Resource needs
- Social connections
- Case management
- Professional links

(BIAPA, 2025)

BrainSTEPS:
A PA DOH Program funded by the Departments of Health and of Education

School Re-entry: BrainSTEPS

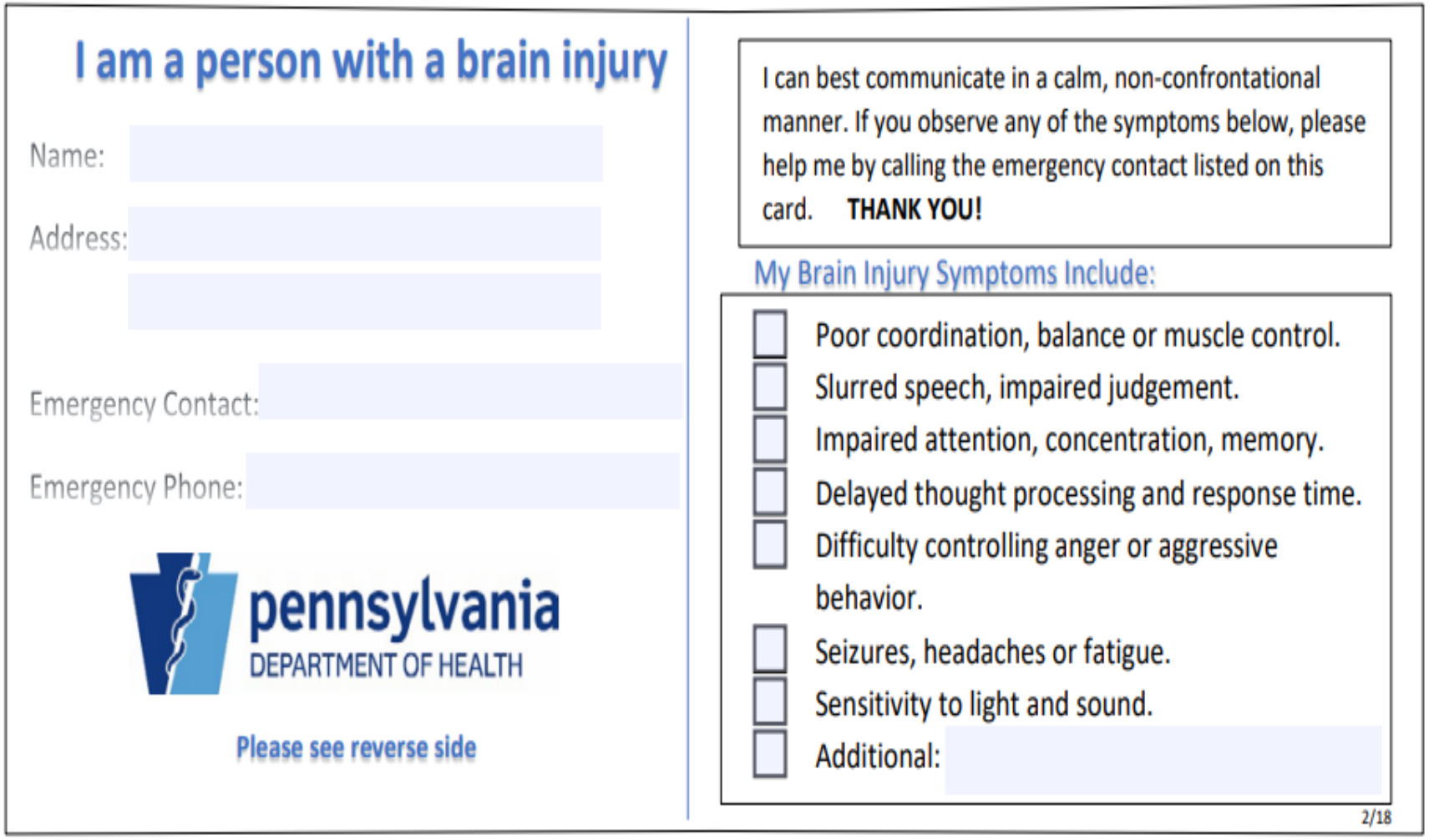
After sustaining a brain injury, many students return to school with lingering effects that impact classroom performance. The BrainSTEPS School Re-Entry Program is designed to consult with school teams and families in the development and delivery of educational services for students who have experienced any type of acquired brain injury.

BrainSTEPS
Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, & Students
A BRAIN INJURY SCHOOL RE-ENTRY CONSULTING PROGRAM

BrainSTEPS.net

(BIAPA, 2025)

Brain Injury ‘Wallet Card’



I am a person with a brain injury

Name:

Address:

Emergency Contact:

Emergency Phone:

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Please see reverse side

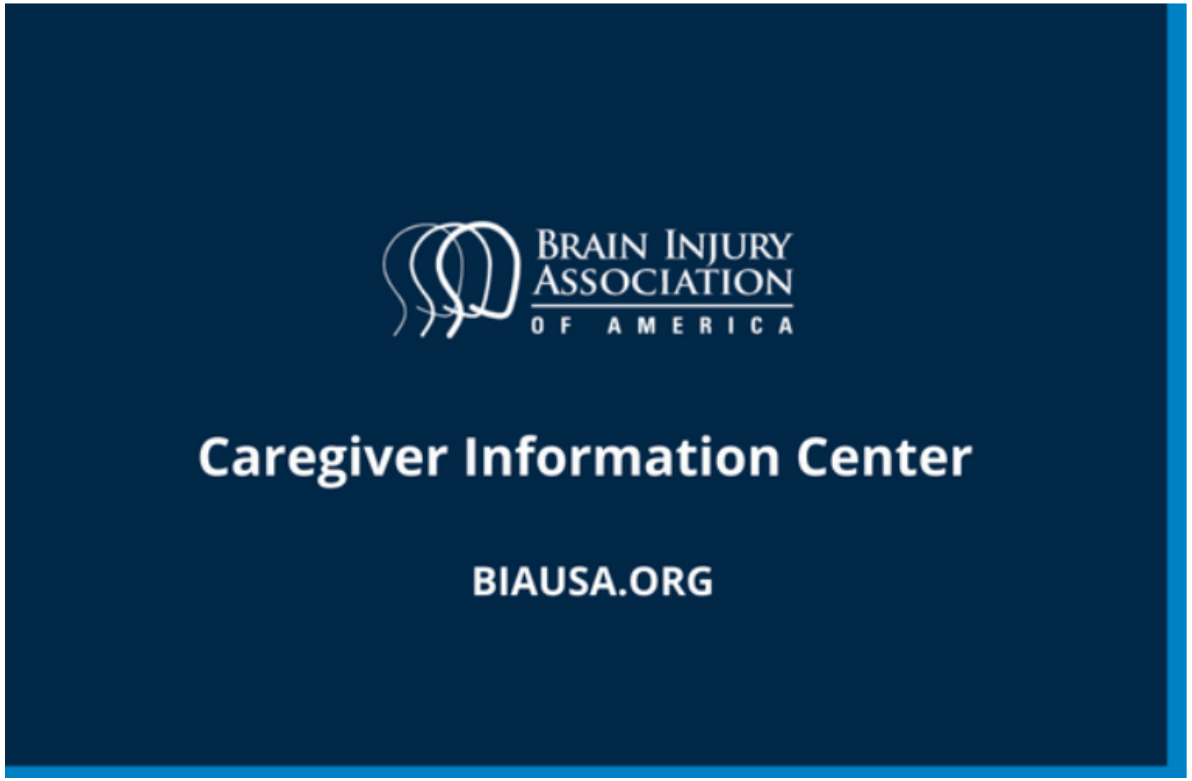
I can best communicate in a calm, non-confrontational manner. If you observe any of the symptoms below, please help me by calling the emergency contact listed on this card. **THANK YOU!**

My Brain Injury Symptoms Include:

- ☐ Poor coordination, balance or muscle control.
- ☐ Slurred speech, impaired judgement.
- ☐ Impaired attention, concentration, memory.
- ☐ Delayed thought processing and response time.
- ☐ Difficulty controlling anger or aggressive behavior.
- ☐ Seizures, headaches or fatigue.
- ☐ Sensitivity to light and sound.
- ☐ Additional:

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Care Partner/Caregiver Resources



Click the links below for caregiver resources from The Brain Injury Association of America.

Caregiver Information Center

BIAA Resource Center

Caregivers Webinars

(BIAPA, 2025)

Brain Safety Fairs: Prevention Efforts







BIAPA Annual Conference



BIAPA Community Engagement





Professional Education

Brain Injury Basics

CBIS Prep Courses

Brain Injury 101, 201, and 301

Brain Injury Consultation Services

Clinical Forums



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

LINKEDIN: BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

INSTAGRAM: BRAININJURYPA

FACEBOOK: BIAPENN



WWW.BIAPA.ORG

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