Report to the Iowa Advisory Council on Brain Injuries
July 18, 2014

Neuro-Resource Facilitation
Summary: The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa continues to respond to calls from survivors, family members, and caregivers, affected by brain injury, in addition to professionals serving individuals with brain injury. This quarter, we have again seen an increase in the caseload we serve. Additionally, the Neuro-Resource Facilitators have continued to pursue available opportunities to increase their knowledge in certain high-need areas, including Employment, Pediatrics, Concussion, Stroke, Geriatric Issues, and Rights for individuals with disabilities.

Effectiveness: NRF continues to be an asset to Iowans affected by brain injury. The COMBI SOS tool http://tbims.org/combi/sos/ has been used for assessment of our client’s beliefs of the level of brain injury supports and services available to them. This is a valid and reliable tool. This effort began June 1, 2013 and continued through June 30, 2014. Follow up calls are required every 3 months, with this assessment. This is being attempted with all clients. We are currently working on the data from this past year of administration of the tool.

Efficiency: The Alliance receives referrals from the Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network (IBIRN) sites, Professionals, Community Providers, Hospitals/Rehab Facility, the TBI Registry at IDPH, friends and the BIA-Iowa website. More than 95% of NRF clients receive a follow up call at 3 and 6 months. Some have moved or voluntarily discontinued services.

Access: 100% of new calls and contacts are responded to within 24 business hours. There were 248 new callers served. The geographical spread of NRF clients shows state wideness and is concentrated in Iowa, as expected, with a significant range of inquiries from across the nation. Many of these are professionals; followed family members and caregivers of those with brain injury in Iowa. If non-Iowans call for Neuro-Resource Facilitation support, they are given adequate brain injury information; then linked with supports in their own state, the United States Brain Injury Alliance or with the Brain Injury Association of America. The ratio of clients to staff was 533 at the end of the last quarter at. National ratio averages for NRF are anywhere from 30 to 400 per NRF. Iowa continues to exceed most states’ ratios. NRF Staff are still operational in three locations in Iowa: Urbandale, Waterloo and Iowa City. However NRF is still a phone based service and support program.

Brain Injury Support Network (BISN Peer – Peer Mentoring)
Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa 7/2014
Summary: This quarter, the Alliance maintained a dedicated Neuro-Resource Facilitator for the BISN program. The program was marketed monthly via e-newsletter (Brainstorming and Neuro Nuggets) as well mailings to those on BIA IA mailing lists throughout the year. The program continued to show a positive response and impact. During this quarter, there were 2 new matches made. To date, there have been 50 mentors trained. The BISN Program Manager continues to monitor all partners and continues to send out BISN evaluations.

- Effectiveness: The program continues to get overall positive feedback which is used to adjust the program on an ongoing basis (3, 6 and 12 months). Since the inception of the feedback form for BISN, 31 responses have been received. Response received during the quarter averaged 4.25 on scale of 1-5 for satisfaction.

- Efficiency: The program for this quarter had 8 active matches with 63% of mentors survivors and the remainder family members, caregivers or friends.

- Access: All BISN inquiries receive a response within 72 hours. The geographical spread of mentors and mentees shows statewide-ness. The monthly Brain Storming e-newsletter, the monthly e-Neuro Nuggets newsletter, our website, and our social networking sites marketed this program to attempt to create referrals and intake accessibility.

Training and Education
Summary: BIA-Iowa staff continues to provide training and consultations, in response to requests from providers. The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa has provided onsite trainings throughout the state, and has continued to deliver webinars statewide.

- Effectiveness: Feedback on our trainings this quarter is consistently positive with and average of 98% positive responses. Staff utilizes the Academy for Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS) training guidelines for technical trainings.

- Efficiency: This quarter 13 trainings were provided. Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network sites represented 4 sites, and 9 non-IBIRN sites. The total number of people trained was 301. Year to date, there have been 50 trainings provided, training a total of 1668 people. This number represents professionals, survivors, family members and other community partners trained.

- Access: The geographic distribution of trainings of this specific year has been statewide, through the use of webinar and Internet access as well as onsite trainings.
Tote Bags

Summary: The Brain Injury Resource Network Tote Bag continues to be a highly valued resource. There were 627 totes distributed this quarter. Tote distribution is consistent and includes all IBIRN sites, including Level 1 and 2 trauma centers. We also provided a webinar to our IBIRN sites, explaining all the contents of the tote bag.

- **Effectiveness:** We continue to get positive feedback on our Tote bags. IBIRN sites were provided the opportunity to view a Tote Bag webinar and provide feedback, this quarter. The feedback was 100% positive.

- **Efficiency:** Totes are currently distributed to all 144 IBIRN locations, disseminated at conferences and events, and provided for all NRF clients. The Virtual Tote Bag is also available on the BIA IA’s website. Tote bags are shipped throughout the state as well as to others in bordering states. The average cost per tote remains approximately $20.00.

- **Access:** The total number of totes distributed for the year stands at 1432 distributed. IBIRN sites number 144 this quarter. We are providing increased contact to our IBIRN sites by providing each site with a NRF contact person in their established region. That NRF now contacts each IBIRN site at least every 6 months, to assess needs.

Support Webinars for Families affected by Brain Injury

This quarter the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa provided the first 2 webinars of a new series offered statewide. It has been recognized that not all those Iowans affected by brain injury have a support group accessible to them in their area. We felt that offering this type of support was a way to meet the needs of those individuals, and would be available to all Iowans. The topics covered in these were Caregiver Grief and Loss, and Brain Injury 101. Both sessions were well attended (22 and 17 attendees). The feedback was 91% positive.