1. Return-To-Learn Needs Assessment

UI Children’s Hospital staff and faculty are collaborating with the Department of Public Health and other TBI implementation partners on a plan to assess the educational and informational needs of educators, youth with TBI, parents, school nurses, and others who support student transition for return-to-learn (classroom re-entry) following TBI/concussion. UI staff/faculty have met in person with IDPH staff and the state TBI partners, and we have contacted all of the Iowa AEA Brain Injury Resource Teams to set up times to hold teleconferences with each team to determine the current TBI support needs in their regions. We have also initiated a systematic review of online “return-to-learn” training resources available from government agencies, medical centers, and state TBI programs throughout the country.

2. Return-To-Learn Curriculum

We are currently gathering the information needed to select a “return-to-learn” curriculum to enhance the skills of service providers, health professionals, and educators for supporting students returning to the classroom following brain injury. After the report of the R-T-L needs assessment is completed in January 2015, we will finalize the curriculum with the assistance of Ann Glang from Oregon, who is an expert on TBI training and a consultant to this project.

3. TBI Training for Challenging Behavior Teams

UI staff and faculty are developing the training strategies needed to build the brain injury knowledge and skills of the AEA Challenging Behavior teams. We are identifying the online training modules, planning the timing and duration of follow-up discussion sessions to be provided via teleconferencing, planning the evaluation methods, and identifying additional supports that may be needed by the Challenging Behavior teams. We have met with Sean Casey, the behavior consultant from the Department of Education, to plan how to fit the TBI training into the existing conference schedule for the teams under his direction.

4. Supplemental TBI Training Materials

We will be working with Ann Glang, our training consultant from Oregon, to assist in the selection of supplemental training materials. A planned in-person conference with Ann Glang in early October had to be cancelled due to a family illness that prevented her from traveling to Iowa. We are now planning a videoconference with her to be scheduled in the next few weeks.

5. Consultation for School and Family Support Teams

Planning is in progress to develop a system for providing consultation to AEA Challenging Behavior teams, Brain Injury Resource teams, CHSC family navigators, and BIAIA Resource Facilitators, including facilitation of communication and cross-collaboration.

Scott Lindgren, Ph.D.  Valerie Cool, Ph.D.
University of Iowa Children’s Hospital  Center for Disabilities and Development