Iowa Brain Injury Community of Practice

The Iowa Department of Public Health and the Governor’s Advisory Council on Brain Injuries are pleased to announce a new Community of Practice (CoP) on Brain Injury. This goal of the CoP is to develop community collaboration and to improve participants’ knowledge of and ability to implement best practices related to policies, laws, partnerships and programs to increase access to brain injury services across the state of Iowa.

Organizations and individuals are invited to bring together teams, which may include but are not limited to: providers of community based services, educators, medical professionals, community corrections officers, advocates, and individuals with brain injury and/or their family members. Established groups are welcome to participate as well to enhance their learning and to share with the larger CoP collective their lessons learned and success stories.

The Iowa Brain Injury Community of Practice is an opportunity to form collaborations across the state for sharing ideas, discussing issues, and generate solutions for individuals who advocate for, work with, and support Iowans affected by brain injury. This CoP will explore methods for increasing access to brain injury services and supports through strategies, programs and policies or legislation related to:

- Screening of individuals who are at high risk for brain injury (e.g. incarcerated individuals, including juvenile detainees; individuals harmed by domestic violence; the elderly; athletes of all ages)
- Development of local supports
- Policy development
- Information and referral services
- Increasing capacity through training
- Developing effective advocates

For one year, teams will be asked to meet regularly, participate in monthly webinars and determine an outcome the team would like to work toward. During monthly webinars, teams will have an opportunity to share progress, successes, and challenges as well as ask questions.

Each team is asked to select a team leader. The team leader will serve as the team’s point person for this CoP and be responsible for: (1) relaying information about the CoP to their team members, (2) convening and facilitating meetings of your CoP team, (3) providing periodic information and feedback about your team’s CoP experience. To further strengthen your teams, we encourage you to reach out to your area Brain Injury Alliance affiliated support groups where available. The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa also maintains a current listing of members of the Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network who may also be a resource for developing your team.

During the year, each team will have an opportunity to provide an update of the progress their individual group has made on their project. At the conclusion of the CoP, teams will be asked to submit a brief report summarizing the project and the results achieved, including any materials produced.

Proposed webinar topics
- Introduction to the CoP and teams
- Using National and Iowa data
• Screening for TBI
• How the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa and the Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network can help you
• Developing community supports
• Engaging stakeholders
• Creating policy and developing advocates
• Return to learn and play
• TBI and Domestic Violence
• TBI and community corrections
• TBI and multi-occurring conditions
• Team Member midpoint update
• Team Member final report summary