



Brain Injury Association of Texas

Newsletter

Recent News & Events

At the last Board meeting in January, we welcomed new BIATX Board members Joan Covert, Rose Pelzel and Steffanie Rackliffe. Will Greer and Anita Connelly-Nicholson, PhD also attended and expressed their sincere interest to join our Association. With new talent comes new opportunities and we look forward to the road ahead.

Also discussed was a strategic plan for the Association and its committees at the January Board meeting. These include a renewed effort to secure grants for the Association, discussion of public policy priorities for the 80th State Legislature now in session, a review of the on-line materials by the education committee, outreach to local chapters and those wishing to create local chapters, creation of a new membership brochure, discussion of another West Texas seminar for 2007 and this year's conference planning. We have also formed an ad hoc committee to address the pressing needs of our injured returning military personnel. If you would like to join the Board, please contact us today.

**For information,
contact**

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Texas**
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Statewide Conference Planned for April 9 – 11 in Austin – “Think Tank”

On April 9, 10 & 11, 2007, people with brain injuries, researchers, family members, service providers, brain injury advocates, staff of state and local government agencies, and students from Texas will come together in Austin to create effective advocacy strategies. This is the first year the conference will be held on conjunction with our good partner, The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, another statewide disability advocacy group. We have several goals for this meeting:

- * We will learn from each other about the needs of our communities, about how we can build the BIATX organization to improve communication and better address these needs.

- * We will share information with each other, including: ideas about programs or services for people with brain injury and their families, findings from medical and rehabilitation research, and information about legislative issues affecting the brain injury community.

- * We will identify ways in which members can become more active in the Brain Injury Association of Texas to provide input on

what is wanted from our organization and to be an active partner in helping to better serve the statewide and local needs of the brain injury community.

- * We will present legislative advocacy materials and discussions then encourage our attendees to visit with their elected officials at the Capital since the Texas Legislature is in session.

- * We will hear presentations from prominent elected officials on disability related issues and advocacy.

- * We will enjoy an informal reception on Monday evening April 9, with Austin CTD and Team Everest member Gene Rodgers. Since becoming paralyzed from the shoulders down at age 17, Gene has enjoyed many extreme sports in 39 countries. Gene will be sharing his amazing experiences through a terrific multimedia presentation.

- * We will enjoy a “free” evening with participants being able to network in a variety of relaxed nearby venues, including the famous downtown restaurant and entertainment district.

Eight (8) CEU's will be available for rehabilitation professionals in various

disciplines and certifications. We are working to secure scholarship funds for those in need of financial assistance to attend.

Exhibitor space will be limited this year to ten (10) spaces!

A limited amount of personal assistance services will be available to attendees receiving a stipend through the COTWD website. All others are responsible for their personal assistance needs.

Registration includes continental breakfast Tuesday & Wednesday & lunch on Tuesday. There will be a reception on Monday evening. Tuesday evening will be “on your own”.

Call the Radisson Hotel Town Lake at 1-888-201-1718 to make your hotel reservations. You must tell them you are with BIATX to get the reduced rate of \$85/night single, \$120/night double, \$130/night triple and \$140/night quad plus taxes. Please DO NOT book a room outside of the BIATX block.

BIATX and CTD has reserved a block of rooms,

to insure you get a room please make reservations by March 10, 2007.

We are still accepting submissions for speakers, posters and award nominations. And our conference offers exceptional value for those wishing to advertise their services to the greater brain injury community.

For full details or to register on-line, go to our [CONFERENCE PAGE](#).

E-newsletter sponsors:

Hugh J. Howerton
Brain Injury Attorney
Helping Brain Injury Survivors for 19 Years

Toll Free (877) 984-9848

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Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law

Texas Board Of Legal Specialization

New from the CDC - Victimization of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury or Other Disabilities: A Fact Sheet for Professionals

What is victimization?

According to the U.S. Department of Justice (2004), victimization occurs when "...a person suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional, and/or financial harm." Victimization can include physical violence, sexual violence, psychological or emotional abuse, and neglect. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acknowledges such victimization as a serious and preventable public health problem.

- Physical violence is "the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm."(Rosenberg and Mercy 1991; CDC 2006) It includes, but is not limited to, "scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting choking, shaking, slapping, punching, burning, use of a weapon, and use of restraints or one's body, size, or strength against another person."(CDC 2006)
- Sexual violence is "the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed; an attempted or completed sex act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, to decline participation, or to communicate unwillingness to engage in the sexual act; and abusive sexual contact."(CDC 2004)
- Emotional abuse occurs when a person is "threatened, terrorized, or severely rejected, ignored, or verbally attacked."(Nosek et al. 2001) It includes, but is not limited to, "episodes of yelling, threats, or acts meant to humiliate or hurt feelings." (Curry et al. 2003)
- Neglect is a "situation in which the basic needs of a person (such as food, clothing, hygiene, protection, or medical care) are temporarily or permanently not met."(Verdugo and Bermejo 1997) It includes, but is not limited to, "preventing a person with disabilities from using a wheelchair, cane, respirator, or other assistive devices as well as failure to address basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, or hygiene."(McFarlane et al. 2001)

What is the extent of the problem?

Current knowledge about victimization of persons with disabilities is based on a small number of studies, and little is known about victimization of important groups such as persons with traumatic brain injury (Marge 2003).

- Persons with disabilities are 4 to 10 times more likely to become a victim of violence, abuse, or neglect than persons without disabilities (Petersilia 2001).
- Children with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be physically or sexually abused as children without disabilities (Petersilia 2001; Sobsey and Mansell 1994).
- Similar proportions of women with and without disabilities report having experienced episodes of physical violence, sexual violence, or emotional abuse (Sobsey and Mansell 1994). Women with disabilities, however, report greater numbers of perpetrators and longer time periods of individual episodes than women without disabilities (Young et al. 1997).

What can be done to help a friend or family member who is being victimized?

- Don't be afraid to voice your concern for their safety
- Acknowledge that they are in a very difficult and scary situation
- Be supportive
- Don't be judgmental
- Encourage them to talk to people who can provide help and guidance
- Help them plan safety steps so that they will know what to do and how to reduce their risk of harm when they are being victimized
- Remember that you cannot "rescue" them

Getting Help:

- Dial 911 if you need immediate assistance.
- Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at: 1-800-799-SAFE or TTY 1-800-787-3224

This hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Confidential services include crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to local service providers. Assistance is available in English and Spanish, and in other languages.

More Information:

CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

This site provides an overview and fact sheet regarding intimate partner violence.
www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvoverview.htm

This site includes a list of organizations working to prevent victimization. : www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvlinks.htm

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

This site provides a wide range of information and links to many prevention and support groups.
www.ndvh.org/educate/online.html

2007 TBI Camp Information

TX PILOT TBI CAMP, INC.

A 501 C (3) Foundation for Texas District Pilot Clubs present the Traumatic Brain Injury Camps & Retreats for 2007

Higher Ground May 3-6, 2007

Camp for All, Burton, Texas TBI Survivor Camp for Adults

Sponsored by Texas Pilot Clubs, Transitional Learning Ctr., Galveston, Brown-Karhan Healthcare, Dripping Springs, and

Heights Rehab Assoc., Houston, Pate Rehab, Dallas, Texas.

Team Up & Tee Off For TBI Camps, our benefit golf tournament.

\$150.00 Per Person, 4 Days, 3 nights (or)

\$100.00 Per Person, 3 Days, 2 nights

Panhandle Playday May 19, 2007

Ceta Canyon, between Canyon & Happy, Texas

Sponsored by the Pilot Club of Dumas and Texas Pilot Clubs. Cost \$15.00 Day Camp Only.

Mountain High Sept 16-20, 2007 (a new date for '07)

Alpine Resort & Black Bear Lodge, Red River New Mexico

Sponsored by Mountain High Foundation, Baylor Rehab of Dallas, Faith Mountain Church, Red River and Texas Pilots.

A Camp for TBI Adults survivors from TX, NM, OK, FL.

\$250 per person, Southwest Air to Albuquerque NM.

\$250 per person other Transportation, Food & Lodging.
5 days, 4 nights.

Circle of Friends November 2-4, 2007
Camp Shiloh, Lake Bob Sandlin, Texas
Sponsored By Texas Pilot Clubs 3 Days-2 Nights
\$50 per person for overnight survivors, families, caregivers and volunteers. \$15 Daytime volunteers including tee shirt.

Important: Scholarships are available for all camps.

TX Pilot TBI Camp, Inc. 501©(3) Foundation for Texas District Pilot Clubs
Betty Reese, Treasurer, 155 CR 1609, Mt Pleasant, TX 75455

Higher Ground
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Panhandle Playday
Vonda Fry/ Betty Morton P O Box 433 Dumas TX 79020
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Betty Morton HM 806-935-3080
(Scheduled for May 19, 2007)
Barbara Johnson 204 Elm Ave. Dumas TX 79029
(806) 935-3308 HM dabarj@nts-online.net

Oklahoma TBI Camp (April 2007)
Cathe Fox 3817 Shadowridge Dr. Norman, OK 73072
405-364-8188 HM fox@intcon.net

Friends of Hope (Quarterly Day Camp) (1st one for 2007 - Feb. 24, 2007)
Baylor Rehab, Dallas, Texas
Dr. Mary Carlile, Medical Director

Team Up & Tee Off for TBI Camps- Pilot Golf Tournament Fund Raiser for TBI Camps. ColoVista Country Club
Bastrop, Texas March 30, 2007