Brain Injury Alliance
CONNECTICUT

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
370 BASSETT ROAD, NORTH HAVEN, CT

FEATURING:
Stacia Bissell, M.Ed.
Brain Injury Speaker, Educator, Coach

EARN UP TO 14.5 CEUS

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

7:30-8:15 AM	Registration, Exhibits Open & Continental Breakfast
8:15-10:00 AM	Welcome, Keynote and Awards
10:00-10:15 AM	Exhibitor Break & Refreshments
10:15-11:45 AM	Session I
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Exhibitor Break & Lunch
12:45-2:15 PM	Session II
2:15-2:30 PM	Afternoon Break & Refreshments
2:30-4:00 PM	Session III
4:00 PM	Q&A, Conference Evaluations Returned

Conference Sessions will be available on-demand after the conference for those who register AND attend the in-person conference.

SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

7:30 - 8:15 AM — Registration, Exhibits Open & Continental Breakfast

8:15 AM - 10:00 AM — Welcome, Keynote Presentation & Awards

Welcome
Julie Peters, CBIS, Executive Director, BIAC

Keynote Presentation: Look Closer. My Brain Injury Is Invisible
Stacia Bissell, M.Ed., Brain Injury Speaker, Educator, Coach

This presentation features Stacia talking about unwelcome consequences from her invisible brain injury from a bicycle accident eleven years ago, and how she started learning to accept, adapt, manage, and eventually thrive. She will share her personal TBI story with a focus on how her professional team helped her gain insight into her own brain injury so that she could find congruity between her former and new self.

Annual Awards Ceremony

10:00 - 10:15 AM — Exhibitor Break & Refreshments

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM — Session 1 *(Participants attend one workshop)*

A. Domestic and Interpersonal Violence: What Brain Injury Professionals Should Know
Davine Lynnette Manson, Founder of Divine Restorations, Inc. | Sarah Raskin, PhD, ABPP/ABCN, Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Trinity College | Rachael Schippani, MA, Coordinator of Community Education and Volunteer Programs/The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services

This workshop features a panel of speakers including a brain injury survivor, a certified domestic violence advocate and educator, and a neuropsychologist who has performed research on effects of brain injury following domestic violence. The panel will provide information on the current research regarding cognitive and emotional changes unique to brain injury after domestic violence and situate it within psychological, social, and cultural frameworks. The panel will provide information on ways to recognize that someone with brain injury is in an interpersonal violence situation and how to support them and guidelines for understanding their needs and perspectives.

B. Is It Time to Switch Our Focus to Quality of Life Instead of "Recovery" for Individuals Living with Supportive Services in the Community? A Conversation.
Barbara Nadeau, Ph.D., OTR/L, Clinical Professor, Program Director for Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program Quinnipiac University

In-Person only, will not be recorded. Many long-term community support models such as the ABI Waiver have an expectation for individuals and their providers to set progressive goals and continually work toward improvement of function and behavior. Does this positively impact individuals living with the long-term consequences of brain injury or does the continuous focus on deficits harm individuals' sense of self-worth and self-efficacy? In the first half of this workshop participants will examine the social and cultural forces that have shaped our beliefs about brain injury rehabilitation. We will also discuss research findings from the field of disability studies regarding quality of life. The second half of the workshop will be used for an exploratory conversation regarding the questions raised above and potential avenues for change within our practice and systems. All viewpoints are welcomed!

C. Vision: A Crucial Piece for Management of Brain Injury/Concussion
Elizabeth Kloczko Wescott, OTD, OTR/L, SIGHT Multispecialty Center | Melissa Lambright, OD, FCOVD, Diplomate ABO, SIGHT Multispecialty Center | Kaelie Murray-Simmons, Vision Therapist, SIGHT Multispecialty Center | Lauren Jameson / Occupational Therapy Student, SIGHT Multispecialty Center

This workshop will cover an overview of the visual system, visual function, and visual changes resulting from brain injury/concussion. The session will discuss concussion symptomology, the importance of visual evaluation and treatment as a part of comprehensive brain injury/concussion program, and interprofessional collaboration for care of clients.

11:45 AM - 12: 45PM **Exhibitor Break & Lunch**

12:45PM - 2:15PM **Session 2 *(Participants attend one workshop)***

D. Cultural Humility and Brain Injury Outcomes

Anthony Lequerica Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, Kessler Foundation

There is a growing body of research demonstrating the existence of health disparities in brain injury outcomes. A new wave of studies seeks to understand these disparities by examining the underlying factors using a social determinants health model. This workshop will review some of the findings over the past several years and then consider ways to look at the care provided to traditionally underrepresented individuals with brain injury. It will explore concepts of culturally humble approaches that require both an intrapersonal and interpersonal perspective to work toward providing effective patient-centered care for individuals with brain injury.

E. Managing Challenging Behaviors with a Brain Injury

Michelle Brisman Ph.D., Director of Clinical Services/Neuropsychologist, The Supported Living Group

Behavioral dysregulation is a common sequelae of brain injury, negatively affecting clients' lives, families, relationships, and progress with goals. This workshop discusses the etiology of behavioral dysregulation as multi-faceted. Understanding these factors is critical for managing challenging behaviors. Approaches for intervention for successful management of behavioral dysregulation will be discussed. Utilizing key methods to prevent the crisis and de-escalate the individual is ideal. Long-term management is best achieved with behavior plans that focus on encouragement of adaptive behaviors, shaping successes, and extinguishing maladaptive behaviors that are harmful to the client and their support network.

F. Ambiguous Loss and Acquired Brain Injury

Peter Love, Ph.D., Peter Love Educational Consulting LLC

The workshop will introduce the theory of Ambiguous Loss, as developed by Dr. Pauline Boss. Ambiguous loss occurs when there is psychological presence but physical absence, or physical presence but psychological absence, as in the case of dementia or acquired brain injury. The workshop will also cover the Six Guidelines Resilience process recommended by Dr. Boss and how families and staff can support the person with ABI in that process. The session will focus on how ambiguous loss impacts those with brain injury, family members, and caregivers, and learn how to support people with brain injury to develop resilience in response to their experience of loss.

2:15PM - 2:30PM **Exhibitor Break & Refreshments**

2:30PM - 4:00PM **Session 3 *(Participants attend one workshop)***

G. Brain Injury Resources: Helping Individuals and Families Navigate Their Way – New & Revised 2023 Edition

Victor Darr, Senior Brain Injury Specialist, Brain Injury Alliance of CT | Katia Reynolds, Brain Injury Specialist, Brain Injury Alliance of CT

Brain injury is a sudden and drastic life altering event that often leaves individuals and families feeling overwhelmed and lost – often needing guidance on how best to navigate the complexity of the healthcare, social services & and rehabilitation system. This workshop will provide an overview of various resources that individuals, families and professionals can explore. Based on BIAC's "Road to Recovery" handbook, resources have been updated and revised to reflect the most current, up-to-date information available within the state of CT. This is a perfect workshop for those new to the brain injury community in CT and for those simply needing to refresh their knowledge on available resources within the state. Discussion will include commonly asked questions from families and individuals following brain injury, including those new to brain injury or several years post injury.

H. Durable Community Living: Tools That Help With Emotion, Behavior and Cognition After Brain Injury

Colette Seter Elliott Ph.D., Program Director/Rehabilitation Psychologist, Hospital for Special Care Neurobehavioral Program | Kris Shea, Graduate Student, University of Hartford | Lindsey LoStimolo, Graduate Student, University of Hartford

This workshop discusses how a neurobehavioral program (NBP) can be implemented with individuals whose behavioral issues preclude their ability for optimal and successful community living. This program provides a manualized and empirically supported treatment, rooted in cognitive rehabilitation for adults with brain injury. The treatment targets emotional regulation, problem-solving, and attention abilities. The strategies are further applied to maximizing life skills, reducing unsafe behaviors, building healthy habits, and applying cognitive remediation tools for successful and durable life in the community. Focus will be on application of strategies for both clinical and non-clinical providers.

I. Support for Wounded Warriors Living with Service-Related Traumatic Brain Injury

Staff Sergeant Juliet Taylor, Master's Degree Mental Health Counseling, Intake & Program Access Specialist, CT Veteran Legal Center

This workshop provides essential information on the complexity of brain injury from a military/veteran perspective. TBI is a stressful injury to the brain and can often hide in plain sight for veterans because they are largely invisible injuries. Many veterans with traumatic brain injury remain untreated due to the consequences associated with injury. It is key that individuals and agencies work together to build awareness to service members struggling with TBI symptoms. Advocacy efforts should focus not only on quality care but also addressing any challenges faced by veterans when navigating through the complexity of systems. Recommendations on how best to support the individual and family members throughout the re-integration process for best outcomes is key to this discussion.

4:00PM **Questions, Conference Evaluations Returned**

ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS

Can't choose which workshops to attend?
Workshops will be recorded and made available to those who register AND attend the in-person conference, enabling you to earn up to 14.5 continuing education credits!

Workshops will be available online after the conference and CEU's will be distributed by email. Please note that ONLY those who attend the conference will have access to the workshops.

CERTIFICATES

Please note: CEU certificates for up to 14.5 credits will be provided to attendees for a processing fee of $20 each.

Professional CEU's are pending for the following: APA* (psychologists); CTPTA (physical therapists); NASW (social workers); ASHA (speech language pathologists).
**APA CEU Credit only available for in person workshops. APA CEU credit not eligible for On-Demand Workshops.*

Certificates of Attendance: General certificates of attendance will be available, at no cost, for those needing proof of attendance.

New this year: All certificates, including General certificates, will be emailed to participants by late April and will include any additional recorded workshops attended.

ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

University of Connecticut, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Program
Intermediate Level
1.45 ASHA CEUs

This program is offered for 1.45 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area). In compliance with ASHA's Continuing Education Board's requirements, BIAC has a policy of disclosing information regarding any relevant financial or non-financial relationships related to course content for all presenters - disclosure statements for all speakers can be found online at biact.org.

BIAC MEMBERSHIP

BIAC member conference fees are 20% less than non-members!
Visit the BIAC membership page for complete information about membership benefits:
www.biact.org/get-involved/become-a-member/.

- $35 Individual Membership
- $60 Family Membership (2 or more)
- $100 Professional Membership

JOIN & SAVE

REFUND POLICY

REFUND POLICY: A $50 fee will be assessed for reservations cancelled on or before February 25, 2023. No refunds will be issued after this date. Substitutions permitted with prior notification.

4 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Online at our Conference Website - click here to register today
2. Mail your registration form with check (payable to BIAC) to 200 Day Hill Rd., Suite 250, Windsor, CT 06095
3. By calling (860) 219-0291 x310 with registration and credit card information
4. Group Registration by mail only. Registration form is available on our website by clicking here.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

FOUR EASY WAYS TO REGISTER:

- Online at www.biact.org
- Mail registration form below with check (payable to BIAC): 200 Day Hill Rd., Suite 250, Windsor, CT 06095
- By calling (860) 219-0291 x310 with registration & credit card information
- Group Registration by mail only. Registration form is available on our website by clicking here.

Take advantage of Early Bird Registration Savings!
Early Bird Registration must be received online, by phone or postmarked by February 17th.

Attendee Name: _____

Address: _____ ☐ Work ☐ Home

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Employer: _____ *Title/Position:* _____

BIAC Member: ☐ Current ☐ New/Renewing Member (please add BIAC Membership fee - see below for rates)

Individual Membership $35 *Family (2 or more) $60* *Professional $100*

Not sure if you are a current member? Please call 860-219-0291 to confirm your membership status

How did you hear about the Conference? ☐ Email ☐ Facebook ☐ Friend ☐ Work ☐ Other _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

	Early Bird (by 2/17)	Regular (2/18 - 3/14)	Onsite (3/15 - Onsite)
BIAC Member*	$169*	$199*	$219*
Non-Member	$209	$239	$259
Brain Injury Survivor / Full-time Student	$99	$119	$129
Group Rate**	$165	$195	N/A

*Join BIAC for as little as $35 and save on your registration
**Per person for 5 or more from the same organization. In order to receive the group rate ALL registrations MUST be submitted together. Group rate not accepted online, and must be completed by mail or phone.

Please indicate Conference choices for the following sessions:

Session I: ☐ A. Domestic & Interpersonal Violence ☐ B. Quality of Life vs Recovery ☐ C. Vision

Session II: ☐ D. Cultural Humility ☐ E. Managing Challenging Behaviors ☐ F. Ambiguous Loss

Session III: ☐ G. Brain Injury Resources ☐ H. Durable Community Living ☐ I. Veterans

Lunch will be buffet. Please indicate if you will be participating: Yes ☐ No ☐

CONFERENCE CEUs

CEU Certificates will be provided to attendees for a processing fee of $20 each. Check with your employer about payment responsibilities.
You must request CEUs in advance. All CEU's are pending approval.
All certificates will reflect hours attended in person and On-Demand (available after the conference) for all attendees.
Please indicate CEUs for which you are applying:

- ☐ NASW (social workers)
- ☐ CTPTA (Physical Therapists)
- ☐ ASHA (speech, language pathologist)
- ☐ APA* (psychology) *APA CEU Credit only available for in person workshops
- ☐ General Attendance (FREE)

REQUIRED

Registration Subtotal: $ _____

New Membership Subtotal: $ _____

CEU Fee Subtotal: $ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: $ _____