Bianys is working on new public policy advocacy efforts, including calls to action and talking points for speaking with legislators. Mark your calendars – March 2015 will include the Brain Injury Awareness Day in Albany to show our State Government that the brain injury community is strong and expects action. Stay tuned to the Advocacy area of the Bianys website for information on how you can help advocate for brain injury services!

Bianys is focused on two areas of advocacy for Medicaid TBI Waiver program participants. In response to strong advocacy from the TBI community, the NYS Department of Health implemented a mandatory training on cognitive functioning training for Uniform Assessment Screening assessors. We continue to monitor UAS implementation; please contact Bianys if you experience problems with the assessment. No new information is available on the move to Managed Long Term Care system, but Bianys will keep advocating for caution and evaluation to ensure that Waiver participants will receive appropriate services. Resources to help advocate on many brain injury issues are available at bianys.org/advocacy.

Extra, Extra, Read All About it!

Bianys is hosting two opportunities to enjoy a beautiful day with the local brain injury community, show support of everyone impacted by brain injury and increase Bianys ability to meet its mission by raising funds! Please join us for the March On for Brain Injury Walk this year! We are hosting events in the Rochester and Hudson Valley communities. Not in those communities? That’s okay! Please join us as a virtual walker.

You can register to walk, set up your personal fundraising page, and share your story of why you support Bianys. Check out the Bianys.org website. Details can be found on www.bianys.org. Registration will open in late March in honor of Brain Injury Awareness Month.

Welcome to the New Bianys Newsletter:
We are so excited to be welcoming on the year of the News! As you can see, we have a lot of new announcements. Not only the new newsletter but also our website! Keep a look out for the new website to be unveiled this spring. Also new are our additions to the Bianys team. Jessica, ToniAnn, Tish and Stephany bring in new ideas and a fresh perspective to the organization. We are incorporating a new event in Rochester in 2015. We are expanding on the success of the Hudson Valley March on for Brain Injury and will be taking it to Rochester this fall. New membership benefits! We are offering more to our members to engage them and provide much needed resources. New advocacy efforts and outreach programs make our mission even stronger. We welcome all of you to part of this New Year. Reach out to us at info@bianys.org.

We are pleased to announce Actor and Brain Injury Survivor, Gary Busey as the keynote speaker at the 33rd Annual Conference on June 4-5, 2015 at the Albany Marriott in Albany, New York. Gary Busey is enjoying a 44-year career in Hollywood. In fact, 2015 marks the 35th anniversary of The Buddy Holly Story which garnered Busey a BAFTA win and an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor for his performance as Buddy Holly. His other notable film credits include memorable roles in The Firm, Under Siege, Point Break, Big Wednesday, Straight Time and Lethal Weapon. Busey became a household name and made a household name for himself in T.V. series such as For Love or Money, Scrubs, The Apprentice and Cold Case.

Gary Busey became a household name in 1986 after surviving a near-fatal motorcycle accident, which resulted in the enactment of stricter helmet laws. He speaks extensively about the challenge, the triumphs of living every day with a head injury, his personal experience with a Traumatic Brain Injury is one that will be inspiring! Make your reservation today for the annual conference. Learn more at www.bianys.org/annual-conference.

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BIANYS  Welcome New Staff!

We are excited to welcome the addition of four new staff members to the BIANYS team. Jessica Mosley joined us on February 2nd as the Events Coordinator. Jessica has a masters degree in Social Work, and Tompkins, Trumansburg, and Tioga Counties. Jessica has a background in conflict resolution and adult education. Before retraining, she was teaching software classes and assisting people with disabilities in accessing the digital world.

ToniAnn Tumminaro joined the team on February 9th as the Outreach Coordinator for the Southern Tier. ToniAnn was born and raised on Long Island. She has been working in the field of disability awareness and has a background in psychology and community integrative caregiving.

Tish Czachor has joined BIANYS as the Development Director. Tish brings over a decade of fundraising and nonprofit event planning experience and has worked for incredible organizations such as Susan G. Komen Colorado and the Denver Zoo. As native New Yorker, she has relocated to her home state after living in Denver, CO for 15 years.

Stefany Matamoros has joined BIANYS as an Administrative Assistant. Stefany initially came to us as an intern last fall and after graduating SUNY Albany with a 5 year strategic plan, moved forward. Today, I am living on my own and attending the University of Colorado and the Denver Zoo. As a native New Yorker, Stefany initially came to us as an intern last fall and after graduating SUNY Albany with a 5 year strategic plan, moved forward.

BIANYS Staff Crosses State of New York!

BIANYS Staff Creates a “Listening Tour” to hear from Members, Providers and Community Leaders! The BIANYS team is hitting the road and has scheduled multiple “Meet & Greet” meetings throughout New York State. The first one was held on January 24, 2015 at Butler Rehabilitation Center in White Plains. The purpose of the “Meet & Greet” tour is to share our new initiatives for 2015, providing an opportunity to offer new ideas, and discussing results of a recent Needs Assessment and issues that matter to you! Call our office at 518-839-7511 or email Stefany Matamoros, Administrative Assistant at smatamoros@bianys.org to be added to the invitation list.

Upcoming Dates and Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>March 30, 2015</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plattsburgh</td>
<td>April 22, 2015</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>May 12, 2015</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.</td>
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BIANYS is in the midst of the 2015 membership drive and encourages all BIANYS members to share the details with their friends and family. There is strength in numbers – membership in BIANYS shows that this is a strong community working together to improve the lives of those with brain injury. We need you to work as a team to make an impact.

Headway of Western N.Y. is a new BIANYS Organizational member from the Buffalo area. Headway is a local community resource working to help members of the brain injury community. They are encouraging membership in BIANYS of all of their supporters and will be working with us to grow in the Western end of New York. We have many opportunities for organizations, agencies, and caregivers to be involved in the BIANYS membership program, and welcome anyone who is interested in making a difference for New Yorkers with brain injury.