



CONFERENCE EDITION

BRAIN POWER

ADVOCACY DAY

BIANYS celebrates the protection of TBI services in the 2018-19 NYS Budget



Hundreds of people from across New York State gathered in Albany on Tuesday, March 20 for the Annual Brain Injury Advocacy Day, organized by the Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS).

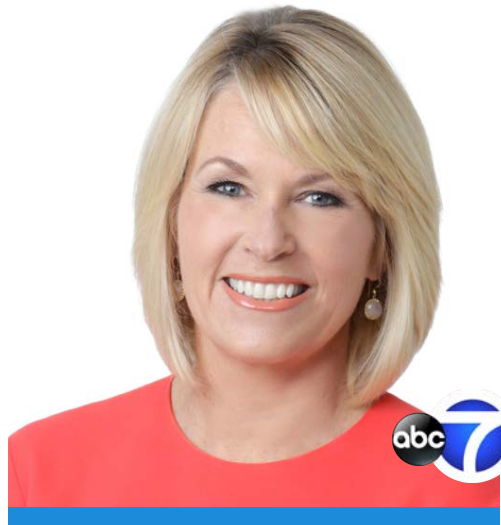
We are happy to share that the recently passed 2018-19 NYS Budget included a delay of the transition of the TBI and NHTD Medicaid Waiver programs into Managed Long Term Care until 2022.

Additionally, the Executive's proposal to increase the qualifying assessment level on the Uniform Assessment System (UAS) was rejected by the Legislature and has not been included as part of the Budget. Our hope is that this will allow time for the Department of Health to address current problems with the UAS and add a cognitive assessment component.

These were the main issues that advocates discussed at our recent Brain Injury Advocacy Day on March 20. Thank you to all who participated, contacted their Legislators, shared their personal stories, and made sure that the Budget negotiations addressed these important issues.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RETURNS TO SARATOGA SPRINGS IN JUNE

BIANYS ANNOUNCES AWARD-WINNING REPORTER AND ANCHOR DIANA WILLIAMS AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Registration is now open for the event, which will be hosted at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York on Wednesday, June 13 and Thursday, June 14. Professionals, brain injury service providers and consumers from across the state are invited to get a first look at industry trends and information to better support and serve individuals and their families affected by brain injury across New York State.

Diana Williams, award-winning reporter and anchor for ABC7NY top-rated Eyewitness News, has been named the keynote speaker for the 36th Annual "One Voice for Brain Injury" Conference. Williams will address the audience with her story "Halfway There" describing her son's traumatic brain injury and her steep learning curve through the recovery process.

Williams' son, an F-22 fighter pilot, sustained a severe brain injury in an accident that almost took his life. Williams will share how his injury impacted her entire family.

"We are thrilled to host Diana Williams at this year's Conference," said Eileen Reardon, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of New York State. "Her personal story told through the eyes of a caregiver will surely resonate with many that attend our conference. Her family's TBI journey to recovery is truly inspirational and really reminds us that this type of injury can happen anywhere, anytime, to anyone."

This two-day conference, will contain a variety of workshops including: professional presentations, panel discussions and personal testimonials from brain injury survivors and their family members. See inside for additional details.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo taken at Advocacy Day 2018: BIANYS Executive Director Eileen Reardon and Board President Barry Dain

As we continue to march forward in 2018, it's important to acknowledge that our work would not be possible without the tremendous support and investment of our volunteers, donors, corporate partners and most importantly, our members.

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that BIANYS is a **Membership Organization**. We hope that as you read through the accomplishments in this issue of Brain Power, you will consider becoming a member of this Association that does so much to advocate for, educate, and celebrate the brain injury community. Your membership, aside from providing you with benefits like scholarships and discounts, helps to ensure that we are able to continue to expand these vital programs and reach those who need us most. As a non-profit, we rely on the support of the community and hope that if you've been impacted by one of our many programs and services you'll help by investing in the mission of the organization.

We also know that as a community, WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER! Nothing has shown that more this year than Advocacy Day, when hundreds of us gathered in Albany to fight for our services, and hundreds more called and wrote their legislators demanding fair treatment. We were heard loud and clear, thanks to all of you, the NYS Legislator voted to protect the TBI and NHTD Medicaid Waivers.

So thank you all for your hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. We again hope you'll visit www.bianys.org to join the community of BIANYS Members and give strength to the voice so we can continue to work for you.

BARRY DAIN
President, Board of Directors

EILEEN REARDON
Executive Director

MEET & GREET SCHEDULE

We are traveling across the state! Stop by one of our upcoming Meet & Greets to meet the BIANYS staff, show your support for the brain injury community and let us get to know you better!

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

APRIL 11 | 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

RPW GROUP

1133 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604

UTICA, N.Y.

APRIL 25 | 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Mohawk Valley Health System, St. Luke's Campus

1650 Champlin Avenue, Utica, NY 13502

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

MAY 7 | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

621 10th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301



Photo taken at the kick-off of our 2018 Meet & Greet tour on Tuesday, March 27 at Crandall Library in Glens Falls, N.Y.

To RSVP, contact BIANYS at info@bianys.org | 518-459-7911

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH



In honor of Brain Injury Awareness Month, BIANYS continued the popular Blue Jeans for Brain Injury Campaign.

Over the past three years, BIANYS has partnered with organizations across the state to generate funding to provide programs and services for individuals and their families impacted by brain injury. This year dozens of organizations participated in the Blue Jeans for Brain Injury Campaign!

Pictured: Wear Blue and Eat BBQ! For the second year in a row, our friends at O'Connell & Aronowitz hosted an amazing Southern BBQ lunch to show their support for Brain Injury and BIANYS! Yum!

BIANYS CONCUSSION UPDATE

In recent years, there has been increased attention to the subject of concussion, particularly in youth. To address this issue, BIANYS introduced our five-year Concussion Initiative in 2017. The Initiative aims to review concussion across different populations, providing resources, best practices, and recommendations for improving care across the continuum, from diagnosis to a return-to-life. We are currently in the second year of our project, focused on students with concussion. In past years, BIANYS brought together experts in the fields of concussion treatment, educational systems, brain injury support services and parent/student advocates to discuss this important issue at roundtable programs. As we move beyond five years under the NYS Concussion Management and Awareness Act, we are again hosting roundtables to foster collaboration as we seek new and innovative ways to improve access to concussion supports and services. Two roundtable sessions will be held in collaboration with professionals in the field in both New York City and Rochester this spring.

The goals of the roundtable are:

- To discuss and develop a consensus regarding return to learn protocols
- To discuss best practices for concussion treatment services
- To collaborate on improving connections to care and support across systems
- To discuss the Concussion Management and Awareness Act of 2011
- To provide a forum for open dialogue, exchange of ideas, and consensus building

BIANYS WELCOMES NEW STAFF!

FACTS Program: Megan Humiston

On March 12, the FACTS Program welcomed Megan Humiston to the Northern N.Y. territory. Megan received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh in 2017. Her focus at school was in Biopsychology, a subject in which she was also a teaching assistant. In the near future she hopes to pursue a Master's degree in the field. Megan has a strong background with special needs children in both a volunteer and educational setting. She will be serving the following counties in her position: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and St. Lawrence.

We are excited to welcome Megan to our team and are confident that she will excel in her new role," said Eileen Reardon, Executive Director of BIANYS. "Her experience and commitment to serving others will further support the quality of services we provide in the Northern N.Y. territory."



Pictured left to right back row: Margo Singer, Erica Rossin, Victoria Clingan, Eileen Reardon, Megan Humiston. Front row: Lori Randle and Karen Thomas

A MAP TO RECOVERY

The BIANYS Professional Symposium will return to beautiful Saratoga Springs. New for 2018, the Professional Symposium will feature a new format and reduced pricing. This year's theme focuses on milestones in childhood brain injury.

Professionals and specialists in the fields of brain injury medicine and rehabilitation are invited to learn about advances in treatment, network with other professionals and gain access to cutting-edge research and information. The new format will also provide an opportunity for parents, educators, athletic trainers and other professionals working with youth to gain knowledge about childhood brain injury and how to navigate healthcare systems during different stages in the individual recovery process.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

For your convenience, each module is 1.5 hours with a designated break in between. Lunch is included for in-person attendees and will be served at 12:00 PM.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

- 7:45 AM Registration Opens**
- 8:15 AM Welcome**
- 8:30 AM Module 1: Youth Rehabilitation**
Initial diagnosis, rehabilitation, discharge planning
- 10:30 AM Module 2: Transitioning to School**
Overview of process to get special education, differentiation between IEP and 504 plans, and the rights of the student
- 12:00 PM Lunch**
- 1:00 PM Module 3: Planning for Success in the Classroom**
Strategies for success with Return to Learn and Return to Play
- 3:00 PM Module 4: Transitioning to Adult Services and Support**
Secondary education supports, transitional services, overview of how benefits change as children age out and become adults

EXCITING NEW FEATURES

- *New format with four module options for convenient viewing*
- *Lower price! With options to attend in-person, live-stream or by individual session.*



PRICING

Individual modules (live stream only)	\$ 25
Live stream full day program	\$ 100
Full day program in-person (lunch included)	\$ 125

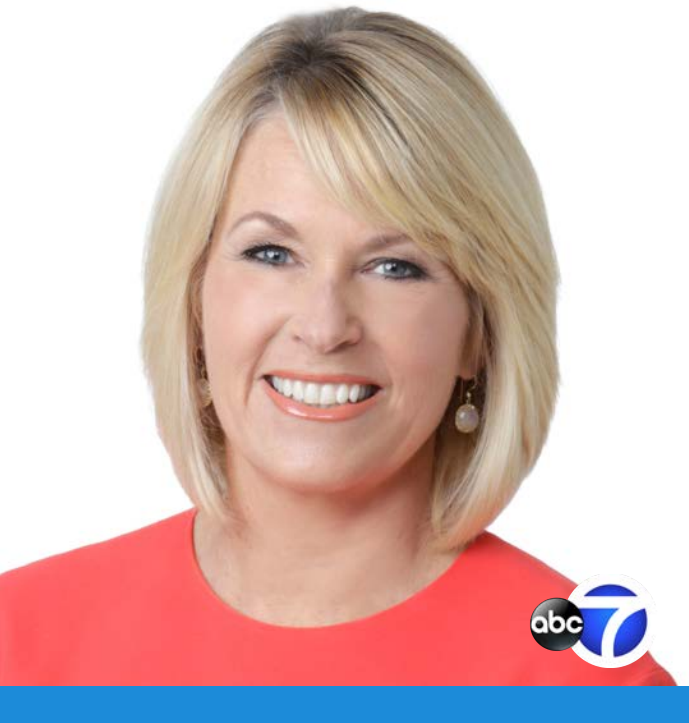
This program is held in conjunction with the 36th "One Voice for Brain Injury" Annual Conference on June 13-14, 2018.

Registrants will receive 1.5 Social Work Continuing Education contact hours, 1.5 Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) CEUs or a Certificate of Attendance for each module completed.

REGISTER NOW - BIANYS.ORG

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90TBSG0009 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

This is the only change that needs to be made to the newsletter to this verbiage New York State Athletic Trainers' Association (BOC AP# P315) is approved by the Board of Certification, Inc. to provide continuing education to Certified Athletic Trainers. This program is eligible for a maximum of 6 Category A hours/CEUs.



36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 13-14, 2018 | SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

FEATURING KEYNOTE ABC 7's DIANA WILLIAMS

This two-day conference, which is open to professionals, brain injury service providers and consumers will contain a variety of workshops including: professional presentations, panel discussions and delivery of personal testimonials from brain injury survivors and their family members.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

- 10:00 AM** Registration Opens
- 11:00 AM** Workshops A
- Back to School following Brain Injury
 - Redefine Your Personal Identity: Queen Up
 - Aphasia Community Chorus: Language Rehabilitation through Choral Singing
- 12:30 PM** Lunch
- 1:45 PM** Workshops B
- Making Sense of Sideline Assessments
 - Building Emotional Resilience
 - NYS Talking Book and Braille Library Services
- 3:15 PM** Workshops C
- Introduction to Neurofeedback
 - Wildlife Rock Stars
- 5:30 PM** Dinner Buffet
- 7:00 PM** Optional Leisure Activities

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

- 7:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** Workshops A
- Vision and Brain Injury
 - Embracing the Journey: Lessons Learned from a TBI
 - The Box Technique: Moving from Anxiety to Acceptance
- 9:30 AM** Workshops B
- How to Achieve Lifelong Wellbeing after Brain Injury
 - Cooking after Brain Injury and Making Kindness Contagious
 - Understanding Changes to the TBI Waiver Program
- 11:00 AM** Keynote Address: Diana Williams
- 12:00 PM** Lunch, Annual Meeting & Awards

Pricing: 2-Day Conference	Member \$300	Non-Member \$350
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Register online at: bianys.org

Scholarships: Annual Conference Scholarships are available for BIANYS Members. Please visit bianys.org to download the application or contact Debbie Chilandese for details at dchilandese@bianys.org. Deadline to apply is April 20, 2018.

Lodging Information: A block of rooms has been set aside at the Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway in Saratoga Springs at a special rate for conference attendees \$149+ tax! Call 518-584-4550 or visit www.saratogahi.com to reserve by May 31. Use code: IJ3.



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** Indicates District Board Members. Each of these Board Members is elected by BIANYS Members to represent one of the six districts in New York State.

THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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