2019 CERE-BRATION FIELD DAY & 5K - COVER
Brain Injury Awareness Statewide. Run, Walk, Volunteer, Enjoy!

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE
NICOLE GODAIRE - PAGE 2
Highlights from BIA-MA

ADVOCACY UPDATES - PAGES 4 & 5
FY'20 Budget and Cog-Rehab Bill

PROGRAMS & SERVICES UPDATES - PAGES 6 & 7
News and Quarterly Updates

REMEMBERING
ARLENE KORAB - PAGE 8

THE VOICE OF BRAIN INJURY

2019 CERE-BRATION FIELD DAY & 5K
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts is excited to announce the launch of our first Cere-Bration Field Day & 5K at the beautiful Buzzards Bay Recreation Area and Cape Cod Canal!

This event is the Brain Injury of Massachusetts’ largest event, expanding upon the former Walk & Roll for Brain Injury, “Cere-Bration” continued on page 3
What a whirlwind 2019 has been so far! Successful legislative efforts, enhanced educational programs, the new annual meeting and awards ceremony, and a robust menu of events have kept us all busy!

We are thrilled to announce that Governor Charlie Baker signed the FY’20 budget, which allocated $19,977,126 for the Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) budget - an increase of $3,613,051! This simply would not have been possible without your help reaching out to your state legislators. A special thank you goes out to our legislative partners Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Kimberly Ferguson for championing these efforts.

Educational enhancements included the addition of a half-day Pre-Conference to the 38th BIA-MA Annual Brain Injury Conference targeted at professionals and themed “Behavior Management: Clinical Challenges, Practical Solutions”. In addition, the ever-
The Cere-Bration Field Day & 5K celebrates the lives of brain injury survivors and remembers those lost to brain injury.

“Cere-Bration” continued from cover

bringing hundreds of people together in celebration, remembrance, and comradery! All of the funds raised by this event will directly support the important mission of BIA-MA - creating a better future for those affected by brain injury.

New this year is the addition of a 5K and festival. ALL are welcome to attend, and we hope we have a little something for everyone! Learn more and register at www.biama.org/cerebration

Run * Walk * Volunteer * Enjoy
Saturday, September 21, 2019
A hearing before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Financial Services was held for the Cognitive-Rehabilitation Bill (S.546/H.968) in July. Three-time Super Bowl champion and a former linebacker for the New England Patriots, Ted Johnson, joined medical experts and survivors of brain injury to testify in support of legislation that would require commercial insurance carriers in the Commonwealth to authorize appropriate rehabilitation following brain injury. This bill has been championed by Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Kimberly Ferguson.

Lee Woodruff, wife of ABC News anchor Bob Woodruff, who sustained a brain injury in Iraq in 2006 caused by a roadside bomb, and co-founder of the Bob Woodruff Foundation, submitted testimony as well: “Cognitive rehabilitation made the critical difference in my husband’s recovery,” the statement read. “My husband, and other high profile TBI survivors like Gabby Giffords and Trisha Meili, the Central Park Jogger, have been able to return to the life and work that they loved due to early intervention with unlimited cognitive-rehabilitation,” the statement continued.
“You don’t need to play professional football to get a brain injury – it can happen to anyone,” said Ted Johnson. “The sad truth, though, is that many survivors cannot access medically necessary cognitive rehabilitation services because their insurance does not cover these services. I urge the Legislature to pass S.546/H.968 which would ensure that survivors of brain injuries have access to these critical services.”

A panel of medical professionals testified and reinforced the need for cognitive rehabilitation for brain injury survivors.

“Following a brain injury, the brain develops networks of cells in response to interaction with the environment. It is this neuroplastic feature that allows the development of new neural networks to replace those damaged in injury resulting in the restoration of physical and cognitive functioning,” said Dr. Christopher Carter, a clinical psychologist specializing in rehabilitation psychology and acquired brain injuries at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston.

“I have come as a brain injury medical director, a physician, and a healer to stand up and speak again today for all those that we have failed in Massachusetts because I know we can do better through post-acute care.”

“Advocacy” continued on page 14

GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER SIGNS THE FY’20 MASSACHUSETTS BUDGET

BIA-MA is thrilled to announce that Governor Charlie Baker signed the FY’20 budget, allocating $19,977,126 for the Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP). This is an increase of $3,613,051!

Governor Baker signed a $43.3 billion state budget, opting against cutting any spending approved by the legislature. Tax collections have risen over last year. The Department of Revenue reported that final fiscal 2019 tax collections totaled $29.69 billion, only $200 million less than the upwardly revised $29.89 billion estimate that lawmakers used in the fiscal ’20 budget they approved in the Conference Committee.

BIA-MA would like to thank everyone who contacted their legislators, the Conference Committee and the Governor’s office to advocate for the increase in funding for SHIP.
2019 CONSUMER TRAINING - PARTNERSHIP WITH MRC & MASILC

On June 27th, BIA-MA was honored to work closely with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and the MA Statewide Independent Living Council (MASILC) at the 2019 Consumer Training, held at the Four Points Sheraton-Norwood, MA.

This full day training for potential MRC consumers and anyone living with a disability focused on the theme “Stronger Together: Strategies to Support Success at Work and in the Community” and hosted 16 exhibitors that offered resources and education for those interested. With 8 workshops throughout the day, and a guest speaker from Tufts Health Care, attendees learned about disability resources in the state of MA as well as how to navigate some of the available services the state provides.

ABI CLINICAL CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES - NEW COURSES

The Education Department hosted two new ABI Clinical Continuing Education series trainings this past Spring before summer break.

May featured a unique panel of professionals and family members appropriately titled “ABI and the Family: A Biopsychosocial Perspective,” which was moderated by Dr. Neal McGrath. The panelists shared their experiences with brain injury and opened the discussion up to the audience, a first for the series. In June, the series hosted Dr. Francis Sparadeo, who provided the audience with a full day on “Acquired Brain Injury and the Problem of Chronic Pain.”

Learn more at www.biama.org/abitraining

Dr. Francis Sparadeo
CREATIVE CORNER - PLANT YOURSELF

**Pottery Night** on June 26th at Clay Time Studio, Shrewsbury. Survivor statement: “One of the best things you can spend time creating is a supportive community. This was my FIRST activity out in the community since the mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) that changed my life. I feel so blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing group of people at BIA-MA, and very thankful to have shared the experience with my wonderful mom!”

**Painting Pots & Planting Flowers Creative Corner** on June 20th. Survivor statement: “Plant yourself in a loving community, and watch each other grow.”

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

A group of survivors and caregivers attended a baseball game between the **Pittsfield Suns against the North Shore Navigators** on June 7. Each attendee had a box seat ticket, a baseball hat and a food voucher! It was a slow start for the Pittsfield Suns, but they managed to pull ahead, winning the game 6-4. Fireworks followed & all who attended were thrilled to have been there. Good food and a good game!

**Creative Corner, “Seeds of Love”**: Survivor and card maker Donna Manzella shared her craft making greeting cards. Participants made greeting cards with a pocket to hold a packet of their favorite flower seeds. What a great gift idea!

EVERYONE LOVES A SUMMER PICNIC

The **4th Annual Plymouth Picnic** took place in a park with a spectacular ocean view... some enjoyed the view looking at the blue sea while others went for a walk.

The **10th Annual Bourne Picnic** took place near the Cape Cod Canal. After feasting on the delicious food some survivors and families went for a walk along the canal.

Both events had it all... a beautiful summer day, good food, survivors, their families and friends enjoying each other’s company.

For more activities such as these, visit [www.biama.org/eventsandactivities](http://www.biama.org/eventsandactivities)

UNMASKING BRAIN INJURY PROJECT UPDATE

If you’ve thought about creating a mask, but haven’t had the opportunity yet... Please join us on the first Thursday of each month for Art & Lunch, from 11 - 1 at our 30 Lyman Street, Westborough location! Masks and many other art supplies are provided, along with beverages and snacks. Bring a bag lunch, meet other survivors, and work on your own independent art project. Paint, markers, sketch paper, writing journals, coloring books, and more! Dates through the end of 2019 are: 10/3, 11/7 and 12/5. Interested in getting involved? Contact Cynthia Cardeli, Dir. Programs & Services, at 508-475-0032 or ccardeli@biama.org
The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts was saddened to announce the untimely death of our dear friend and former Executive Director, Arlene Korab. Arlene passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, May 18, 2019 after a short illness.

No one knew more than Arlene Korab about the needs of the brain injury community. She personally lived through every emotion a family goes through when a loved one suffers a traumatic brain injury. In 1980 Arlene’s son, Kevin, was a passenger in a car when the driver lost control. Kevin, who was not wearing a seat belt, suffered severe trauma to his brain and was in a coma for six months.

Determined to find out more about brain injury and advocate for Kevin, Arlene became involved with a group of like-minded families, who ultimately founded BIA-MA. “Arlene exuded the mission ‘to create a better future for brain injury survivors through prevention, education, advocacy and support.’ She was a mom first and the fire under her feet gave her the motivation and dedication to build an effective state-wide advocacy and service organization,” recalled Marilyn Spivack, family member and founder of Brain Injury Association of America.

Arlene served for ten years on the board of directors and in 1992 assumed the position of Executive Director, a job she held for more than twenty years. Current Board Chair and long-time friend, David Dwork commented, “as Executive Director, Arlene made each families’ struggle her own personal struggle. She saw each obstacle as an opportunity. Her quiet but unwavering determination is the reason that the BIA-MA provides the services and programs that it does today and has achieved the legislative and judicial victories that have helped thousands of survivors and their families.”

Nicole Godaire, BIA-MA Chief Executive Officer, added, “Arlene’s leadership helped Massachusetts become the model by which all other brain injury services are measured across the country. A life so inspirationally lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.”
“Executive Message” continued from page 2

popular ABI Clinical Continuing Education Series introduced two new trainings: “Acquired Brain Injury and the Problem of Chronic Pain” and “ABI and the Family: A Biopsychosocial Perspective.” In March we proudly added the BIA-MA Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet to our yearly event menu. This event is designed to provide the opportunity for members, friends, and donors to gather, celebrate accomplishments from the previous fiscal year, and learn about our future plans. This evening was well received with over 150 in attendance!

Many of our annual cornerstone events that took place included State House Advocacy Day, participation in the Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill, activities during Brain Injury Awareness Month, the 2019 BIA-MA Annual Golf Classic, and many more!

Again, I want to thank you all for your help and support!
More than 12,000 runners gathered in Woods Hole for the 48th New Balance Falmouth Road Race Sunday, August 17, 2019 – 10 of which were representing Team BIA-MA!!

Falmouth is a 7.0-mile road race from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights, regarded as one of the best races in New England both for its course and scenic, seaside landscape.

Team BIA-MA has raised over $15,000 to date – and counting!

Please join us in thanking and congratulating our team of dedicated runners, fundraisers and friends: Samantha Curley, Katie McNamara, Miranda Greenhalgh, Robin Farrington, Meagan McCauley, Dawn LeBorgne, Erica Ferrelli, Courtney Farrell, Joy Hosford and Carly Eressy.
In proud support

We proudly support the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts.

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Building bridges between Substance Use Disorder and the Traumatic Brain Injury Communities in MA

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) and the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts have received a federal grant for three years to implement “Bridges Between”.

The project will build connections between the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment communities, strengthen services for families and individuals living with TBI and SUD and conduct statewide trainings for professionals in both fields.
cognitive rehabilitation. We are more than 12 years behind Texas’ legislature on these issues. It is time to take a stand with me and support this cognitive rehabilitation bill,” said Dr. Ariel Savitz, MD., referring to the fact that Texas has already passed similar legislation.

As part of cognitive retraining, a Speech Language Pathologist can determine strategies to support cognitive communication performance. “These might include modifying the environment to optimize function, limiting distractions, approaching one task at a time, and using techniques to support memory,” added Mary Ann Williams-Butler, supervisor speech language pathologist department at Emerson Hospital outpatient clinic and the Dr. Robert Cantu Concussion Center.

A panel of brain injury survivors and family members added their personal stories to show how they benefited from cognitive rehabilitation.

Sharon Balcom, whose teenage son suffered a brain injury in 2016, stated that her family spent over $50,000 out-of-pocket to pay for needed cognitive rehabilitation which was not covered by their insurance. “I am here to tell you the overwhelming difference that cognitive rehabilitation has made in my son’s (and our family’s) life,” said Balcom.

Retired Marine Corp. Sargent John Nelson told the Committee “without cognitive rehabilitation, provided because I was in the military, I would not be doing as well as I am now and would probably not be here today.”

“I was shrink wrapping a boat for winter storage, I fell from a couple stories, and sustained many injuries including a traumatic brain injury,” explained Roberto Cabral. He further noted that this was “a work-related injury and all medical procedures and cognitive therapy was covered by workers compensation.”

George Farrington stated “when I started cognitive therapy, I couldn’t even read “The Wheels on the Bus” to my child. Today, I am standing here in front of all you reading this speech that I wrote. My cognitive therapists gave me the tools I need to succeed.”

Watch for future Action Alerts on the bill’s progress this fall or visit www.biama.org/advocacy.
The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts gratefully acknowledges the following gifts from our generous contributors received April 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019

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Heads Up Headlines - SUMMER 2019 15
Seven Hills NeuroCare (SHNC) supports people with brain injuries in their seamless transitions from clinical facilities to residential options. SHNC’s person-centered programs include day habilitation, workforce readiness and employment, and recreation through meaningful, community-based activities. SHNC helps identify each person’s life goals and the steps needed to achieve them. The SHNC interdisciplinary team includes:

- Certified brain injury specialists
- Certified rehabilitation counselors
- Speech language pathologists
- Psychologists
- Behavior analysts
- Nurses
- Assistive technology professionals
- Access to mental health counselors, social workers, and psychiatrists

Through a distinctive array of comprehensive supports, the experienced and dedicated Seven Hills NeuroCare team works to restore hope, independence, and dreams. To learn more, contact Dr. Jonathan Worcester, Vice President of SHNC, at 508.320.4991, or jworcester@sevenhills.org.
NeuroRestorative Massachusetts is a leading provider of post-acute rehabilitation and support services for individuals with brain injuries and other neurological challenges. In a variety of locations and settings, we offer a continuum of care through our community-based programs.

- Neurorehabilitation
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Vinfen transforms lives by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to learn, thrive, and achieve their goals. Our services promote the recovery, resiliency, habilitation, and self-determination of the people we serve. As a human services leader, we strive to be the provider, employer, and partner of choice.

Vinfen proudly supports the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts!

Thank you for serving the needs of people with brain injuries, their families, and their caregivers across Massachusetts.

Advocates

Brain Injury Services
Our Brain Injury Services offer personalized solutions in the heart of the community.

- Community Supports
- Day Services
- Recreation
- Residential Services

For questions or more information contact BrainInjury@Advocates.org.

HEALING HOME.

Do you have a family member or client who could live more independently in the right environment?

IF THEY:
- Have the potential to achieve greater independence
- Are classified as low income and eligible for MassHealth
- Are over 18 and have a permanent disability

Supportive Living, Inc. might be the right home for them. We meet the challenges of brain injury survivors with affordable supportive residential programs that enable people to live as fully as possible. To learn more contact us at 781-937-3199 or info@supportivelivinginc.org

Visit us at supportivelivinginc.org
Helping Our Patients Live Life to the Fullest.

At Spaulding Rehabilitation Network (SRN), we help our patients rebuild their physical and cognitive function after traumatic brain injury. We focus on helping them find the emotional strength to thrive in the days to come.

Our brain injury clinical teams bring specialized experience and world-class expertise to the patients in their care. Our physician-led teams provide an unwavering commitment and the support to help patients and family members stay hopeful, determined and strong.

SRN provides patients and families access to an unmatched range of services and programs - from advanced evaluation technologies to evidence based rehabilitation programs to extensive family and community resources.

Patients in the BI Program at Spaulding consistently achieved higher rates of functional improvement than national averages (UDS & e-rehab database).

The TBI Program at Spaulding has been selected as a Model Systems site by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).
Upcoming BIA-MA Events

2019 Cere-Bration Field Day & 5K   September 21, 2019
39th Annual Brain Injury Conference
   Half-Day Pre-Conference   March 25, 2020
   Full-Day Conference   March 26, 2020

Learn more at www.biama.org or call 508-475-0032

YOUR BIA-MA SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER HAS ARRIVED!!