



B.I.A.P.R.
Brain Injury Association
Peterborough Region

Date: October 7, 2020

Dear Members, Clients and Care Partners,

First let me acknowledge that this newsletter is a bit late in being mailed and posted on our website. We have been extremely busy since our last update in September.

I hope that everyone has a safe Thanksgiving celebration. Though this year will be very different, we still have much to be thankful for, as I will share.

The Board met on Sept. 15th to approve our Rebound Plans for BIAPR. Thank you to each of the Board Directors for your guidance and continued guidance of the great work being done in support of each of our ABI clients and their care providers. With the Board's approval, we are in Phase 3 of our resumption of services plan and are starting to move into Phase 4 later in October.

Our resumption of services plan is a detailed plan for resuming services safely on-site. We will be closed on Oct. 16th for a Staff Training day to ensure that all staff are trained in supporting clients in our new normal. We have begun to schedule times for clients to return to in-person supports either here at the office in the ABI Day Service or with the Client Outreach Supports Staff. This will be added to the existing services already in place, where clients are supported in the community, or continue to be supported remotely and virtually.

As the number of COVID-19 infections begin to rise again, we have the ability to meet the needs of our clients with a mix of supports necessary to ensure that we are keeping all clients, care providers, volunteers and staff safe during the pandemic (face-to-face, in-home, in the community, and virtually). Kudos to all the amazing work being done by our volunteers, staff, and other community supports who are working collaboratively to find creative ways to meet these needs.

I would like to thank Kasia Luebke - Director, System and Sub-region Planning and Integration, Health System Strategy, Integration, Planning and Performance - Ontario Health (East). BIAPR's ability to pivot and meet the needs of our clients has been supported by the incredible information exchange with all the Community Service Sector (CSS) providers throughout the pandemic.

In addition, the support from Seniors Care Network staff – Rhonda Schwartz, MA – Executive Director (Interim) and Sabeen Ehsan, MD, MHI – Director of Quality (Interim) have been so important. Rhonda and Sabeen have led us through what would have been a very stressful time and have facilitated robust discussions and sharing. Thanks so much! There are three working groups that include staff from various Adult Day Programming (ADP) service providers across the Central East.

Our ABI Day Service staff continue to participate in the three working groups (face-to-face, virtual, and mobile ADPs). The sharing of resources and learning has been so important to being able to meet the on-going clients needs. Thank you to each of our BIAPR ABI Day Service clients for your participation in the programming provided, and for helping us to change and adapt to new ideas for delivering a hybrid of services.

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One such event was the virtual session on Sept. 28th - The Collaboration Coffee House (a multi-organizational Zoom Extravaganza). For members and clients who participated in the virtual event, I hope that you enjoyed it! The virtual event was dreamed of, planned, and delivered via Zoom to 87 participants who engaged in 2 hours of Zoom programming ranging from trivia, music, art, poetry, and storytelling. The virtual event celebrated the strengths and abilities of those living with brain injury. The participants who attended were from the vast range of Peterborough to London area. Transportation, buses, or accessible washrooms were not barriers to attendance. Participants shared stories, games, and laughter together. It was an amazing event.

Our very own Robby Jewers shared his story at the Zoom event, describing his brain injury due to anoxia because of a heart attack, his recovery, and his discovery of writing along his journey. Through writing he found his voice and his ability to express how he was feeling, ultimately leading to his return to something as important as the air he breathes – painting. For those of us at BIAPR who have been present on your journey Robby, it truly was a moving moment. Thank you for sharing your story and inspiring others on their recovery journey. BIAPR members and staff were sending big shoutouts in the comments!

The Collaboration Coffee House was a collaborative between 7 Brain Injury service providers. Community Head Injury Resource Services (CHIRS) led the way and engaged 6 other ABI providers in the idea for a virtual event for our ABI clients - Brain Injury Association York Region (BIAYR), March of Dimes Canada, Dale Brain Injury Services, Brain Injury Services Toronto (BIST), West Park Health Centre and finally BIAPR. It was a huge success and there are discussions on-going for more virtual events like it in the future. We will keep you posted of the next big event.

In the meantime, we are continuing to support our ABI Day Service clients virtually using the Zoom platform for programming groups such as: Trivia and Games Group on Fridays, a Connections Group in both the morning and afternoon on Wednesdays, and the Music Group continues on Monday afternoons. We have begun to bring some clients lacking in connectivity back onsite by appointment to join these groups. We are continuing with the COVID-19 Education Group each Thursday afternoon at 2:00. If you are interested in attending any of these virtual programs, please contact the office.

The ABI FYI Education Session is delivered virtually on Zoom the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next session is Oct. 15th 6:30 - 8:00 and Mindfulness is the topic. These sessions are led by Nicole Nadeau – OT, and are free to ABI survivors, care partners and community supports who are interested in learning more about brain injury. If you are interested in attending any of this education session, please contact the office.

In staffing updates this month. We have said goodbye to Debbie Martin – our Client Service Coordinator (CSC) after 25 years with BIAPR. Debbie shared that she very much enjoyed working with her ABI clients over the years. We would like to wish Debbie all the best in her future endeavors. Karen Beaney has been interviewing for a new CSC and we will be able to introduce our new staff soon.

And finally, thanks to all of you who voted for BIAPR in the OBIA/PIA - Awards of Excellence in Brain Injury Rehabilitation for the 2020 Community Brain Injury Association of the Year. We would like to congratulate Brain Injury Association Quinte District (BIAQD) on their 2020 award. It is well deserved!

Thank you and stay safe.

Teryl Hoefel
Executive Director

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