



North Dakota Brain Injury Council Update

Meet the newly appointed members of the North Dakota Brain Injury Council. These wonderful members are working together to determine what the future of brain injury services and support look like for individuals in North Dakota. The council consists of representatives from across the state:

- **Nan Kennelly, Chair** – Open Member
- **Lisa Anderson, Vice Chair** – Family Member
- **Shannon Cook, Survivor** – Dickinson area
- **Austyn Kloehn** – Service Provider, Community Options, which has offices in all eight regions across North Dakota
- **Dr. David Biberdorf, General Member** Dr. Biberdorf is an optometrist who specializes in vision after brain injury in Grand Forks
- **Jean Herauf, Open Member** – speech therapist at ReHab Visions in Dickinson
- **Sarah Ring, Open Member** – speech therapist at Sanford in Fargo
- **Representative Richard Anderson** House Appointment
- **Senator Ralph Kilzer** – Senate Appointment
- **Skipp Miller** – Indian Affairs
- **Nikki Brunelle** – North Dakota Department of Health Trauma and Emergency
- **Cheryl Hess-Anderson** – North Dakota Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation
- **Kevin McDonough** – North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- **Denise Harvey** – North Dakota Protection and Advocacy
- **Mandy Slag** – North Dakota Department of Health Injury Prevention
- **Tami Conrad** – North Dakota Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division

- **Krista Fremming** – North Dakota Department of Human Services Medicaid Division
- **Janna Pietrzak** – North Dakota Heart Association for Stroke Representation



Chair Nan Kennelly has worked in the field of brain injury rehabilitation for 24 years. She specializes in treatment of cognitive-communication disorders related to concussion, brain injury, stroke, and other

neurological illness. She has a specific interest in the treatment of executive functioning disorders related to mild traumatic brain injury (TBI). Nan earned her master of science degree in speech pathology in 1994 from the University of North Dakota. Since then, she has gained extensive experience in treatment of brain injury in the acute care, rehabilitation, and outpatient settings. Currently, she is owner and treating therapist at Onword Therapy in Fargo, North Dakota, which is a private practice specializing in outpatient treatment of cognitive-communication disorders related to all types of brain injury. She leads a support group monthly called Onword Together for survivors of concussion or mild TBI. Nan is active in advocating for brain injury survivors and their families in North Dakota and Minnesota.



Vice Chair Lisa Anderson is a farm wife, mother, and caregiver to her daughter who is a brain injury survivor. Her daughter sustained a traumatic brain injury more than 10 years ago. Since this time, Lisa has

testified before the North Dakota Legislature to enhance services for brain injury survivors, as well as create awareness to the challenges

and difficulties that brain injury survivors face. Lisa was on the board of the ND Head Injury Association for six years. She also has attended several national brain injury conferences, networking with people from other states. Lisa, along with the ND Brain Injury Network, has been running a support group in the Devils Lake area for almost three years. She speaks to local organizations regarding brain injury as well as to individuals who are new to the brain injury world and those who just need someone to listen.

Concussion Discussion

The North Dakota Brain Injury Network hosted a Concussion Discussion in Bismarck on September 13th. Amy Zellmer shared her experiences of using her concussion to raise awareness for brain injury around the country.

Amy is an award-winning author, speaker, and traumatic brain injury survivor. She is a frequent contributor to The Huffington Post and produces a podcast series for TBI survivors and caregivers. In November 2015, she released her first book, "Life with a Traumatic Brain Injury: Finding the Road Back to Normal," which received a silver award at the Midwest Book Awards. She sits on the Brain Injury Advisory Council through the Brain Injury Association of America and is involved with the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance's "citizen advocates." She travels the country with her Yorkie, Pixxie, to help raise awareness about this silent and invisible injury that affects 2.8 million Americans each year.

Amy was followed by a panel of local individuals who shared their recovery from concussions.



Pictured from right: Alex Schroeder, Braden Benz, Amy Zellmer, Mallory Thielges, and Taylor Zetocha



Amy presented the North Dakota Brain Injury Network with an Outstanding Agency Award.



Amy also presented Jami Benz and Braden Benz with an Amazing Advocate Award!



While in town Amy stopped by Governor Doug Burgum's office to pick up the signed proclamation declaring September 21 as Concussion Awareness Day. Thank you to Jamie Benz for all her help to get the proclamation signed and bringing World Concussion Day to North Dakota.

For more information about social and recreational events, contact NDBIN staff.

**1.855.866.1884 • info@ndbin.org
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Dickinson Brain Injury Training

On October 9, RehabVisions and The North Dakota Brain Injury Network hosted a Brain Injury Training Event in Dickinson. The training included presentations on introduction to brain injury, rehabilitating executive function loss, and available community resources. North Dakota Advisory Council member Shannon Cook shared her incredible recovery story, and the day finished with a panel of area survivors sharing their recovery journeys. Thank you to Advisory Council member Jean Herauf and Heather Barber for helping organize the event and to all the survivors for sharing their stories.



Pictured from right: Bill Krause, Jessica Savini, Shayna Monson, and Nathan Schatz



Presentation by Jean Herauf and Heather Barber



Presentation by Shannon Cook

Save the Dates!

March 26th, 2019

Brain Injury Awareness Day at the State Capitol

Join us in March at the State Capitol to celebrate Brain Injury Awareness month and speak with representatives about brain injury in North Dakota.

March 27th - 28th, 2019

Mind Matters Conference

Baymont Inn & Suites • 2611 Old Red Trail • Mandan, North Dakota

This two day conference is for individuals with brain injury, family members, caregivers, and professionals. It highlights new research, trends, practice strategies, and collaborative models of care. Innovative approaches and new systems of care for individuals living with brain injury are presented.

Registration information coming soon

ndbin.org



Brain Injury Support Groups

Grand Forks

Brain Injury Support Group

Sharon Lutheran Church
1720 South 20th Street
Last Tuesday of the month 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Contact Rebecca Quinn 701-777-5200
rebecca.quinn@und.edu

Devils Lake

Brain Injury Support Group

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
601 6th Street NE.
Second Thursday of the month 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Contact Nickie Livedalen 701-317-4172
nicole.livedalen@und.edu

Bismarck

Dakota Center for Independent Living

Brain Injury Support Group
3111 E. Broadway Ave.
Fourth Thursday of the month 4:00 - 5:00 pm
701-222-3636
www.dakotacil.org

Bismarck

Brain Injury and Stroke Support Group

Sanford Health – sixth floor
Contact 701-323-6696 for upcoming dates

Dickinson

Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Support

Hawk's Point
1266 Signal Butte
Second Tuesday of the month 7:00 pm
Contact Shannon Binstock 701-260-0098
prairiepen@ndsupernet.com

Fargo

Onword Together

Hope Lutheran Church
2900 Broadway
Third Thursday of the month 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Contact Nan Kennelly 701-364-5433
www.onwordtherapy.com

Sanford Brain Injury Support Group

1720 S. University
Second Tuesday of the month 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Contact John 701-280-4769

Mind Matters Support Group

Progressive Therapy Associates
1150 Prairie Pkwy. West Fargo
First Thursday of the month 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Contact Jodi Hedstrom or Janet Grove
701-356-7766
info@progressivetherapyassociates.com

**Are you interested in having a
Brain Injury event in your area?**

*We would love to partner with you to help
educate and promote awareness for brain injury.*

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