



Project B.R.A.I.N. Currents

Virtual School: Missouri, Georgia and Massachusetts...

To correctly identify and appropriately serve students with traumatic brain injury, it is essential that school personnel receive training about traumatic brain injury and its effect on children and youth. In order to reach this broad audience, States are making use of a variety of avenues for information dissemination.

The Internet allows Missouri to bridge the distance to school personnel located throughout their State and provide them with practical, "hands-on" training available at all times.

Attending the Children and Youth Plenary session at the March 2007 TBI Grantee Meeting sparked Missouri's curiosity about what was going on in their State's school systems related to children and youth with TBI. With the assistance of the Department of Education representative on the TBI statewide advisory council, Missouri's TBI lead agency, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), was able to locate the appropriate contact person within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

DESE and DHSS decided to work together to revise the modules. Each agreed that they wanted to have the revised training available on-line to allow school personnel to access the information as needed. Knowing that there was no need to "reinvent the wheel" and that many trainings specific to school personnel had been developed, DHSS searched the [Federal TBI Program's Collaboration Space \(TBICS\)](http://www.tbicac.nashia.org/tbics/) <<http://www.tbicac.nashia.org/tbics/>>. DHSS then chose and evaluated several of the trainings to determine which would best meet their needs.

The training that Missouri liked best was an on-line training developed by [Tennessee's Project BRAIN](#) under their Federal TBI Program grant. The training was created using a teacher-oriented model and not a medical oriented model which is set up as a "**Virtual School**" for information on the subject of traumatic brain injury. The school consists of several "classrooms" containing information that is pertinent to school personnel working with students with traumatic brain injury. Participants enter the school and access different sections of the school for information. The sections include:

Nurse's Office: This room contains general information about the brain, the causes and effects of TBI, medical issues related to brain injury, and information about concussion or mild TBI.

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Project BRAIN's Logo

Perhaps you have wondered how we came up with the design for our logo, well we would like to tell you about it.

In 2000, Tracy Morgan, Project BRAIN (PB) Coordinator, joined forces with the State TBI Advisory Council, to create a program that would support TN students by offering resources and training to educators and families about traumatic brain injury.

They knew it would be a success due to all of the contributions from experts in the field who believed in PB's goals. Furthermore, the concept of training TBI Resource Teams from volunteers across the state to become local consultants for their schools had proven successful in other states with the same mission.

Tracy worked with a designer and talked about brain injury and about PB's plan. They put together a unique design that really shows a lot of thought that went into the process.

Take a close look at the logo and think about it.

- The two shapes on the top and bottom are like the gears in a motor (your brain) that work together
- Those same shapes make the letter "B" for brain
- The "face" in the two parts is intentional, representing the person living with brain injury
- The reason for two faces is for the two persons in one, both before and after brain injury
- The second cog of the "gear" is shaped differently, representing the "injury"
- The "plug in wire" on the bottom left is the line of communication and represents technology

Project BRAIN
955 Woodland Street
Nashville, TN 37206

For more information:

Paula Denslow, Coordinator
Middle/West TN Resource Specialist
615-383-9442
paula_d@tndisability.org

Jennifer Jones, Ed.S, CRC, CBIS
East TN Resource Specialist
865-689-1797
jennifer_j@tndisability.org

2008 Brain Injury Association of TN Conference

The Brain Injury Association of Tennessee has announced the date of their annual conference for **March 14, 2008 at the Skyline Medical Center in Nashville**. The conference is for professionals, survivors & family members. There will be a pre-conference wine & cheese reception followed by a dance party on March 13th at from 5-8:00 p.m. Contact Rachel Heitmann at 615-532-7770 with any questions.

Virtual School continued...

Family Resource Center: Information geared towards professionals and families is located in this room. There are video interviews in which individuals with TBI, family members, and professionals share relevant information and personal insights about the effects of TBI. The Family Resource Center also includes links to family/caregiver specific Web sites, recommended readings, and printable information for use by school professionals and families/caregivers.

Classroom: The classroom has information on how the effects of brain injury might manifest within the educational environment, how skills may be impaired, general interventions for the classroom, and how to use the method of "Contextualized Hypothesis Testing" to determine what, how, when, and where interventions should be tested and implemented. Several printable case studies are included for a review of the concepts presented.

Library: This virtual resource center contains Web links, printable information, recommended readings, and statistics about the incidence of TBI. Learn about terms commonly used in reference to TBI by taking advantage of the "TBI Dictionary."

Georgia and Massachusetts have recently requested to link to this educational resource: **TN Virtual School Interactive**

CD. <http://www.tn-disability.org/brain/cd/index.php>

By **Heather Crown**, Federal TBI Program's TBI Technical Assistance Center at NASHIA.
hacrown@tbitac.nashia.org

In Remembrance of a Special Friend

Lee Anne Barry was a cyclist, a wife, a mother, a brain injury survivor, an educator, a traveler, and an inspiration to people across the United States.

Among her many roles, one word that comes to mind for anyone who knew her is friend. Lee Anne made it her mission to teach others about brain injury and bicycle safety. She increased awareness and safety for cyclists nationwide with her cross-country bike ride, The BIG (Brain Injuries Greatest) Ride. She helped and taught us, but most importantly, she befriended many of us in the brain injury community. Her friendship was offered instantly and came through in her interactions with everyone who was lucky enough to know her. Lee Anne's commitment and kindness will stay with us all and remind us of what we are all capable of doing with our own lives. ♥



2008 Brain Injury Conference Calendar

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| Feb 27-29 | TN Special Education Conference, Nashville |
| March 6 | Chattanooga Brain Injury Assoc. Conference |
| March 7 | Intermountain Brain Injury Conference, Johnson City |
| March 26 | Brain Injury Update 2008 Conference, Jackson |
| April 1-4 | Servicemember with TBI Summit/Leadership Mtg., DC |
| April 25 | TC Thompson Children's Hospital Potpourri, Chattanooga |
| May 3 | Patricia Neal Rehab Center Conference, Knoxville |
| May 8 | East TN Technology Access Center Conference, Knoxville |
| May 12 | TBI Advisory Council Meeting, Nashville |
| May 30 | Regional Conference at the MED, Memphis |



TENNESSEE DISABILITY COALITION

Project BRAIN is supported in part by project H21MC06739 from the Department of Health & Human Services Health Resource and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Additional support is from the TN Dept. of Education Division of Special Education. The contents of the Publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the DHHS. Project BRAIN is a program of the Tennessee Disability Coalition, implemented through a contract with the TBI Program of the TN Dept. of Health.