



BIAA-ME CHAPTER
NORTHERN MAINE BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE
MAY 20, 2025
NORTHEASTLAND HOTEL, PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE



Join us for this premier conference focused on brain injury treatment and resources in Northern Maine

Highlights Include:

- Keynote Address by brain injury survivor, advocate, and speaker Jenn Williams
- Breakout sessions for professionals and brain injury survivors/family caregivers
- Continuing education credits
- Exhibits from leading organizations serving the brain injury community

Questions? Contact conferences@biausa.org.

REGISTRATION

Who Should Attend

- Individuals living with brain injury
- Family caregivers
- Professionals
- Social Workers
- Case Managers
- Certified Brain Injury Specialists
- Recreational therapists
- Mental Health Clinicians
- Psychologists
- Nurses
- Physicians
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Students
- *Anyone involved in brain injury care and treatment*

Registration Fees

- Survivors/Family Caregivers: \$35
- Professionals: \$75

To register, visit

<https://biausa.org/find-bia/states/events/2025-northern-maine>



Hotel Reservations

The conference will be held at the Northeastland Hotel, 436 Main Street, Presque Isle, Maine. Conference attendees can get a 10% discount off the room rate. To make your reservation, call **207-768-5321** and mention that you are attending the BIAA-Maine meeting to get the special rate.

Continuing Education Credits

Social Workers - This program is approved by the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for four (4) continuing education contact hours.

Certified Brain Injury Specialists - The Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists will recognize up to four (4) hours of continuing education credit for attendance at the full conference.

Case Managers - We have applied to the Commission for Case Manager Certification for up to four (4) hours of continuing education credit to Certified Case Managers.

Certificate of Attendance - All attendees are eligible to receive a certificate of attendance.

AGENDA

8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast with Exhibitors
9:00 AM	Welcome Steve Wade (BIAA-Maine)
9:15 AM	Keynote Address on Digging Deep: Finding Determination in Recovery Jenn Williams (The Middle People Project)
10:15 AM	Break with Exhibitors
10:30 AM	Track 1: Opportunities to Thrive with a Brain Injury , Lee Glynn (Survivor) Track 2: Acute Rehabilitation Intervention Post TBI , Elizabeth Melado, CRRN, MSN, MBA (New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland)
11:30 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Neuro Rehab and Substance Use Rehab: The Collaboration to End Stigmas . Rebecca Fournier, LADC, CCS, LSW (AMHC), Patricia King, CTRS, CBIS (BIAA-Maine), and Pamela Searles, OTR/L, CBIS (CINR) Supporting a Loved One through Their Recovery , Danielle Forino (Michael's Active Recovery)
1:30 PM	Break with Exhibitors
1:45 PM	Track 1: Making Mandalas for Mental Health , Daryne Rockett (Survivor) Track 2: Understanding Stroke in Maine , Angela Wheelden, BSN, RN, SCRNP (Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center)
2:45 PM	Adjourn

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



Keynote Address by Jenn Williams

Digging Deep: Finding Determination in Recovery (9:15-10:15 AM)

Determination is a significant factor in recovery, mental health, and living a life you love. In this session, Jenn Williams will share how determination helped her navigate recovery after a stroke. She will share techniques that empower brain injury survivors to move through recovery with clarity and hope.

Session Objectives:

- Describe how determination can help with the hurdles of recovery
- Explain the connection between determination and long-term success
- Identify everyday skills that support being in control of your life and recovery

Opportunities to Thrive with a Brain Injury (10:30-11:30 AM)

In this survivor/caregiver breakout session, Lee Glynn will discuss the benefits of community involvement and how to share and excel in a post-brain injury landscape. He will cover volunteer and employment opportunities in Maine, local openings, virtual and in-person employment options, and the advantages of living with a brain injury.

Session Objectives:

- List volunteer and employment opportunities in Maine
- Describe the benefits of community involvement for brain injury survivors

Acute Rehabilitation Intervention Post-TBI (10:30-11:30 AM)

In this professional breakout session, Elizabeth Melado, CRRN, MSN, MBA from the New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland, will discuss the acute rehabilitation process from a Joint Commission certified TBI program. Topics include the Joint Commission process of ongoing certification, program measures/interventions currently in place, and how they help transition patients home to the community.

Session Objectives:

- Describe the acute rehabilitation process
- Discuss how this level of care helps transition TBI patients from hospital to home safely

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Neuro Rehab and Substance Use Rehab: The Collaboration to End Stigmas (12:30-1:10 PM)

The Center for Integrated Neuro Rehabilitation, a comprehensive day program for those who have sustained a brain injury, and the Residential Treatment Facility, which provides treatment for those with mental health/substance use disorders, are collaborating with the BIAA-Maine Chapter on a pilot program to identify and assess best practices for supporting a person with co-occurring disorders of brain injury and MH/SUD. In this session, representatives from these organizations -- Pamela Searles, OTR/L, CBIS, Rebecca Fournier, LADC, CCS, LSW, and Patricia King, CTRS, CBIS -- will describe the results of the pilot program to date and next steps.

Session Objectives:

- Describe the relationship between substance use and brain injury
- Discuss the brain injury screening tool and how it can impact substance use treatment
- Identify current resources and next steps for the pilot program

Supporting a Loved One through Their Recovery (1:10-1:30 PM)

In this session, Danielle Forino, a mother who lost her child to overdose, will discuss the importance of being educated on opioid use disorder. As a recovery coach, she will share tips on how to help those struggling with addiction.

Session Objectives:

- Explain the benefits of recovery coaching
- Discuss the CRAFT approach to motivate change

Making Mandalas for Mental Health (1:45-2:45 PM)

In this survivor/caregiver breakout session, Daryne Rockett, MSW, will share her favorite self-care process from her recovery journey. She will discuss the benefits of an expressive arts practice for emotional wellness and stress reduction. Participants will be provided with materials and instruction for creating a healing mandala of their own during this hands-on workshop.

Session Objectives:

- Discuss how art can play a crucial role in self-expression and emotional regulation
- Describe the difference between representational art and process art

Understanding Stroke In Maine (1:45-2:45 PM)

This professional breakout session, Angela Wheelden, BSN, RN, SCRNP, from Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center will provide an overview of stroke, covering its definition, types, risk factors, prevention, and early recognition. She will also discuss the current state of stroke care in Maine and how the community can help improve outcomes.

Session Objectives:

- Explain the difference between ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes, including TIAs
- Describe various treatment options for stroke, including thrombolytics and other interventions
- Discuss ways to improve stroke care and outcomes in Maine

SPEAKERS

Danielle Forino is the founder of Michael's Active Recovery, a non-profit organization in memory of her son who lost his life to an overdose. She is a recovery coach and facilitator for SMART Recovery.

Rebecca Fournier, LADC, CCS, LSW is the site manager of Aroostook Mental Health Center's Residential Treatment Facility. She has worked for the agency for 19 years, mostly in residential treatment.

Lee Glynn is a retired business owner from Skowhegan. In 2017 a hemorrhagic stroke changed the course of his retirement. While struggling with post-brain injury depression, he met someone from BIAA-Maine and began his journey of recovery through engagement with others.

Patricia King, CTRS, CBIS is a NeuroResource Facilitator with BIAA-Maine. She has 20 years of experience with individuals who have sustained a brain injury as a Recreational Therapist. She is currently working to support brain injury informed care across Maine and service areas.

Elizabeth Melado, CRRN, MSN, MBA is Nurse Manager, Rehab 1 for the New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland. She has been an active member of the Brain Injury Team for the past ten years and was recently promoted to co-leader of the team.

Daryne Rockett, MSW is a clinical social worker and self-taught mixed media artist in Orono, Maine. She has 20 years of experience as a trauma therapist, receiving her MSW from UMaine Orono in 2004. She began her foray into visual arts after sustaining a brain injury while playing roller derby in 2014.

Pamela Searles, OTR/L, CBIS is the Neuro-Rehabilitation Services Manager with the Center for Integrated Neuro-Rehab. She originally joined Aroostook Mental Health Center as an occupational therapist in 2007.

Angela Wheelden, BSN, RN, SCRNP is Nurse Program Manager, Stroke Care and Total Hip & Knee Replacement for the Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Jenn Williams was just 33 years old when she had a thalamic ischemic stroke in 2016. She serves on the BIAA-Maine Advisory Board and is the co-founder of the Middle People Project, an organization that aims to share resources for brain injury survivors who still need support but don't qualify for many state and federal services.

SPONSORS

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BIAA-Maine gratefully acknowledges partial support for the conference from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Grant #90TBSG0065-01-00.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Gold Sponsor: \$1,000** -- includes exhibit table, 4 conference registrations, logo on conference bag tag, company ad in BIAA-Maine newsletter, dedicated social media post, and recognition in conference program
- **Silver Sponsor: \$500** -- includes exhibit table, 2 conference registrations, listing in the BIAA-Maine newsletter, and recognition in conference program
- **Bronze Sponsor: \$250** (for small, community-based organizations) -- includes exhibit table, 1 conference registration, listing in BIAA-Maine newsletter, and recognition in conference program

There are only ten exhibit tables available.

[Click here](#) to reserve your space!