

## Brain Injury Association of Virginia Historical Timeline

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

### 1982

- Support groups around the state began meeting and voted to incorporate

### 1983

- Incorporated in Delaware as the Virginia Head Injury Foundation and became a charter member of the National Head Injury Foundation
- Evelyn Esposito was the first President of the BOD; Diane Huddle was the first Executive Director
- Conducted first statewide survey to document incidence and services needs
- Produced the first film in the US on brain injury: *The Silent Epidemic*

### 1984

- Legislation passed by Virginia General Assembly establishing the first brain injury registry in the country
- Began Camp Bruce McCoy, the second camp for person with brain injury in the country
- Contracted with DRS to provide I&R and DRS counselor training
- Elizabeth Horn was hired as the Executive Director

### 1986

- First NHIF affiliate organization in the country to create a statewide Directory of Brain Injury Service Providers
- Successfully advocated for Eva Teig, Secretary of Human Resources, to create the first statewide Brain Injury Advisory Council in the US

### 1987

- Began contracting with DRS to conduct Registry outreach, another first in the country accomplishment

### 1988

- Successfully advocated for Governor Gerald Baliles to establish the first Head Injury Awareness Month in Virginia
- Successfully advocated for HJR 135, that created the first statewide public hearing and \$800,000 appropriation for Supported Employment Services for Person with Physical Disabilities, including brain injury
- Conducted the first Educator's Conference on head injury

### 1989

- Successfully advocated to designate lead agency for brain injury and for \$500,000 appropriation for DRS Long Term Rehabilitative Case Management program and Head Injury Services Partnership in Fairfax
- Created Project Head Coach, an in-hospital visitation program for families of newly injured individuals

## **1990**

- Propelled recommendation from HJR 135 into the creation of the Beyer Commission, which is now known as the Disability Commission
- Established toll-free helpline
- Began technical assistance for to facilitate the development of statewide chapters and support groups

## **1991**

- Harry Weinstock hired as Executive Director

## **1996**

- Changed our name to the Brain Injury Association of Virginia

## **1998**

- Worked with Sen. Emily Couric and physicians at UVA to create the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund
- Created the first Support Group Resource Manual in the country
- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Communication for Support Group Manual

## **2000**

- Held first Annual conference
- Held 19 town meetings as part of statewide needs and resources assessment process

## **2002**

- Created regional offices in Roanoke and Virginia Beach

## **2003**

- Created regional offices in Duffield, Fishersville and Warsaw
- Appointed to the Olmstead Commission
- Developed Policymaker's Guide
- Developed Educators Guide
- Conducted first Brain Injury Awareness Day at the General Assembly

## **2004**

- Held key advocacy role in efforts that resulted in the single largest appropriation for brain injury services in Virginia's history
- Closed Duffield office

## **2006**

- Anne McDonnell hired as Executive Director
- BIAV's Educator's Guide awarded as Most Popular State Agency Grant Project by the Federal TBI Program

## **2007**

- Incorporated in Virginia
- Eliminated all organizational debt
- Moved Roanoke regional office to Lynchburg

## **2008**

- Successfully advocated to have March established as Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Advocated for legislation creating the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
- Conducted 1<sup>st</sup> PSA campaign - Fall Prevention
- Moved Fishersville office to Staunton

## **2009**

- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Advocacy
- Conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> PSA campaign - Concussion

## **2010**

- Advocated for legislation creating the Student Athlete Protection Act and played a critical role in developing Virginia Board of Education Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes
- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Communications for Concussion PSA Campaign
- Moved Staunton office to Winchester

## **2011**

- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Programs and Services
- Given BIAA's State Association Leadership Award
- Closed Virginia Beach office

## **2012**

- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Communications
- Conducted first Juvenile Justice Policy Summit
- Conducted 3<sup>rd</sup> PSA campaign-Brain Injuries Do No Discriminate

## **2013**

- Celebrated BIAV's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Had BIAV's first Opinion Editorial published in the Richmond Times Dispatch
- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Communications

## **2014**

- Advocated for legislation adding a "Return to Learn" protocol to the Student Athlete Protection Act and played a critical role in revising Virginia Board of Education protocols to help children with mild brain injuries successfully return to the classroom
- Collaborated with the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to successfully apply for Virginia's 5<sup>th</sup> Federal TBI Act Implementation grant
- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Advocacy
- Closed all regional offices

## **2015**

- Led advocacy efforts resulting in \$1.1 million in brain injury funding for community based services
- Awarded new DARS contract to provide Statewide Resource Coordination
- Given BIAA's Award of Excellence for Management and Governance

## **2016**

- Had BIAV's second Opinion Editorial published in the Richmond Times Dispatch
- Successfully advocated for \$375,000 in new funding for community based brain injury services
- Won passage of a modification to the Student Athlete Protection Act that opened "Return to Learn" protocol to any student recovering from a concussion and transitioning back into school

## **2017**

- Conducted 4<sup>th</sup> PSA campaign - Sports Concussion
- Expanded annual conference to 2 days
- Coordinated survivor and friends rally at the Bell Tower at the Capitol on Brain Injury Awareness Day