



Navigator Update Spring 2012

**Providing a Point of Entry for ABI Services Across
Southeastern Ontario**

I Asked How the System is Working, and You Told Me:

- Need to make quicker transitions from acute care to rehab for patients
- Those with undiagnosed ABI's need help but are not eligible for service without a diagnosis
- Need opportunities to increase ABI competency amongst community therapists and professionals
- Better service coordination is required to ensure those with ABI and Mental Health needs are provided with adequate service
- A lack of community housing options means more young survivors are ending up living in long term care
- Family doctors need to be engaged in brain injury issues
- ABI patients are forced to remain in acute care hospital beds long term because rehabilitation or support options do not exist in their own communities

The Journey So Far...

Hello! I would like to introduce myself to you as the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) System Navigator for Southeastern Ontario. The goal of this newsletter is to keep you informed of my work and the developments we are working towards. Having come to this position after working directly with people living with brain injuries for the last five years, I had what I believed to be a good grasp of the issues in ABI. As I have begun the work of a System Navigator I am learning there are many perspectives out there, so many more than I could have imagined.

The first goal of System Navigation has been to establish our presence as a point of entry for brain injury services within Southeastern Ontario. Steps have been made in this direction, including many visits to service providers to explain the role, and the launch of braininjuryhelp.ca, a website designed to assist professionals and consumers alike in accessing education and services. We are working towards a standardized referral process and we are getting closer to implementing a region-wide database to track statistics regarding LHIN-funded service provision, as including waitlists for services. Step by step, we are creating a clearer pathway for service provision in Southeastern Ontario.

The role of System Navigator has had me travelling across the region to meet hospital staff, community organizations, and medical centres, as well as joining committees and groups that share a common goal. I came with the intention of simply introducing this new initiative, but have listened and learned so much from those I have met. These conversations have ranged from ideas about what System Navigation might accomplish one day, to hearing concern and frustration for those whose needs are not being adequately met. Although we may not be able to change the system overnight, I am confident that our efforts will bring about changes slowly and carefully—in a way which is well thought out and sustainable. There are so many of us out there who care, and together we can make a difference

- Rachael

Visit Us Online!

**The Local Website for Survivors,
Professionals, Family and Friends.
Features include Information, Online Referral
Documents, Community Resource Directory,
and Links to Education and Resources.**



braininjuryhelp.ca

Acquired Brain Injury System Navigation
of Southeastern Ontario

Join Us at Our First Community Education Event!

Providing a Point of Entry for
ABI Services Across Southeastern
Ontario

Top 10 Challenges to Meeting Brain Injury Survivors' Needs



Disorganization, Memory Difficulties, Poor Motivation and More...

Brain Injuries are not always obvious. Many individuals present with difficulty coping, mental health concerns, or addiction issues which may stem from an injury in their past.

An interactive morning to help address common concerns for frontline workers in serving individuals with a brain injury, in any field of work.

*Free of Charge, Funded by ABI System Navigation of
Southeastern Ontario.*

**Thank you to the South East Community Care Access
Centre and CPHC Brockville for allowing us to use their
facilities to host these events.**

Agenda:

9:00—10:15—Presentation by Rachael Henry, Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) System Navigator on common challenges and solutions to addressing survivors needs.

10:30—11:30—Open forum to identify concerns, ask questions, and problem solve together. Come prepared to share your own experiences. Feedback will be collected to inform future service planning.

Please RSVP if you plan to join us! Spaces are limited.

Coming to Your Community Soon:

Belleville
May 24, 2012,
470 Dundas St. E.

Brockville
June 8, 2012,
333 California Ave.
Also Broadcast on OTN

Kingston
June 14, 2012,
1471 John Counter Blvd.

For More Information:

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