

BACKGROUND

- Alaska has one of the highest rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the nation
- ~10,000 Alaskans living with disability due to brain injury
- 150 Alaskans die due to brain injury each year
- ~38% of hospitalizations from brain injury result in permanent disability
- ~247 Alaskans become permanently disabled due to TBI each year
- Alaska is among a small number of states that lack a TBI rehabilitation program
- Alaska Brain Injury Network's (ABIN) mission: to educate, plan, coordinate and advocate for a comprehensive service delivery system for traumatic and acquired brain injury survivors and their families.
- Alaska Brain Injury Network's (ABIN) vision encompasses working to prevent traumatic and acquired brain injuries and to promote wellness for all Alaskans with brain injuries and their families.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Mat-Su Traumatic Brain Injury Screening Clinic & Resource Fair
 - Screen 10-12 individuals for possible TBI diagnosis
 - Provide patients, their families, and other community members information of the resources for further care that are within the area.
 - Current vendors/booth members: Day Break, Connect Mat-Su, vocational rehabilitation for Mat-Su, Renew Wellness Center, ATLA (+ resources / more to be determined)

FOCUSED QUESTION

Were individuals with a TBI in Mat-Su reached, educated, given a formal TBI diagnosis, and provided with proper treatment resources/options?

METHODS

- ABIN has held TBI screening clinics in Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, and Nome to bring awareness and educate rural communities on prevention and treatment of TBI.
- ABIN's determined underserved populations: Bethel and Mat-Su.
- ABIN sought to reach these locations through partnering with the LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities) program.
- Steps taken for Mat-Su Traumatic Brain Injury Screening Clinic & Resource Fair:
 - Meetings with partners beginning in November of 2019 until event date
 - Literature review on incidence of TBI, those affected, and the needs of the population
 - Outreach to protentional organizations for resource fair and development of program (ABIN, Day Break, LINKS, ADRC, Connect Mat-Su, Vocational Rehabilitation, Access Alaska, Renew Wellness Center, ATLA)

Mat-Su Brain Injury Screening Clinic & Resource Fair



Date: _____

Time: _____

@ Mat-Su Health Foundation



Brain injury screenings for Alaskans who may have hit their head in an accident, fall, or other brain trauma. Brief screenings from OT, PT, SLP, vision, & neuropsychology to determine if further evaluation/possible treatments are indicated. Also, meet local organizations, receive education on resources within your area for further assistance, and gain tools for living with a brain injury.

Contact: _____ if interested in attending either the screening clinic and/or resource fair.

2nd literature review focused on identifying the functional outcomes after a mTBI diagnosis.

To obtain evidence-based statistics and findings to provide better patient education on outcomes after a TBI and demonstrate the need for continued follow-up with care/treatment after a mTBI diagnosis.

RESULTS

- A "What to Expect: Brain Injury Screening Clinic" Brochure for individuals who will be screened for TBI in the near future

What to Expect:



Brain Injury Screening Clinic



A brain injury screening is helpful for individuals who have hit their head in an accident, fall, or other brain trauma.
During an assessment, you receive education on resources within your area for further assistance, gain tools for living with a brain injury, and gain hope for your future!

What to expect during a brain injury screening:

- Medical history and Intake information
 - The Ohio State University Traumatic Brain Injury Identification Method (OSU TBI-ID)
 - A standardized procedure for learning a person's lifetime history of TBI through a 3-5 minute structured interview
 - A short, structured interview to learn about a lifetime TBI history, including number and severity of injuries
 - A means of identifying possible TBIs that may have been previously undiagnosed
- See Providers
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physical therapy
 - Speech language pathologist
 - Neuro Optometrist
 - Neuropsychology

What is Occupational therapy?

- Occupational therapy assesses and asks about your ability to participate in activities of daily living (e.g., self-care) and instrumental activities of daily living (e.g., home management, rest and sleep habits, work demands, play, leisure, social participation).
- We look at aspects of motor, sensory, cognitive, and behavioral functioning.
- "We assess functional activity demands against the performance abilities of the person and identify and address current deficits. We help to re-learn skills or compensate for impairments." –Katie, OTD

What is Physical therapy?

- Physical therapy screens for dizziness, falls, and balance disturbances, which are common deficits associated with all types of brain injuries.
- The goal is to screen for fall risk and offer potential activities to address dizziness or balance symptoms.
- "We discuss current and/or prior care with physical therapy and make suggestions for whether you are appropriate to seek another episode of care or seek specialty training with a PT provider familiar with brain injury." –Heather, PT

What is Speech Language Pathology (SLP)?

- SLP screens one's basic communication skills, with the overlap of cognition (cognitive-language skills and speech/articulation if needed).
- "Our screening protocol includes basic orientation, memory, language comprehension for sentences, basic problem-solving, attention-concentration, and word retrieval." –Anne, SLP

What is Neuro Optometry?

- "In a TBI screening a Neuro Optometrist assesses for common visual function challenges that arise following a TBI such as how the two eyes track, converge, and focus. We then provide education regarding functional implications of visual findings and recommend treatment and compensatory strategies." –Laura, OD

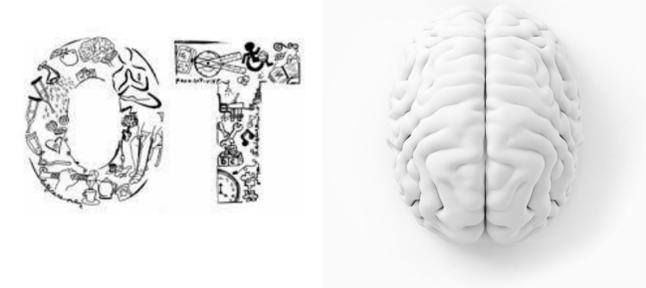
What is Neuropsychology?

- Neuropsychology helps to screen for any changes in thinking abilities, such as memory, attention, and how quickly you think.
- Neuropsychology will look at other factors in your life that may be contributing to your symptoms. This may include your mental health, sleep quality, experiences of pain, and history of substance use.
- "One of the primary roles of neuropsychology is to take all of the other screening information and combine it with your history to help confirm if you meet the criteria for a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury." –Dustin, PhD, ABPP

- Receive confirmation of TBI diagnosis (if appropriate)

BOTTOM LINE FOR OT

Having an occupational therapy (OT) lens in the leadership role of the ABIN screening clinic and resource fair was important for carrying out ABIN's vision. ABIN desires to improve the lives of Alaskans (and their families) with TBIs. As an OT, we look at improving the overall quality of life of individuals who experience disabilities. Occupational therapy practitioners are key rehabilitation professionals in assisting individuals with brain injury to reintegrate back into the community. The OT perspective encompasses all aspects of an individual's life, including activities of daily living (e.g., self-care) and instrumental activities of daily living (e.g., home management, rest and sleep habits, work demands, play, leisure, social participation). Due to this focus of our profession, it allows us to bring a needed and valued role to this program.



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