Serving as the leading source of information and education for state employees who support public brain injury programs, NASHIA provides information on national trends, best practices, and state contacts to federal agencies, state and national associations and TBI stakeholders across the country. NASHIA provides technical assistance to state governments and their partners as well as collective representation on federal policy issues through its membership.
2021 marked another exciting year for NASHIA, as we prioritized creation of new programming, resources, and benefits for our membership. While our community continues to rebound from the challenges of the global pandemic, silver linings continue to emerge and we embrace them.

NASHIA remains an organization that respects the past and looks to the future. As we aspire to create new opportunities that meet the needs of service providers in the brain injury community, we reflect on services that support the greatest needs of state brain injury programs.

We were proud to launch the Leading Practices Academy (LPA) on Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Brain Injury, providing intensive consultation and capacity building in five states. This offering was so well-received that we decided to continue it as an ongoing program, adding in a new LPA in 2022 focused on Behavioral Health and Brain Injury.

We also added a new Workshop series to our professional development portfolio, providing individualized skill building to our members and the brain injury community at large. Sessions focused on successful grant writing, developing leadership skills and partnership creation. As we embark upon the new year, we will incorporate the feedback we received from our membership survey to continue adding workshop topics that are relevant and helpful for the community.

This year we also put many partnerships into practice, resulting in several new free resources for the community. Collaborations with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) afforded us an opportunity to update and create new resources for behavioral health providers and individuals living with both impacts of a brain injury and behavioral health concerns. Partnerships with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) led to new employment resources for both employment professionals and individuals living with brain injury, and collaborations with Moody Neurorehabilitation Institute led to several new publications and tools related to pediatric brain injury.

Throughout all of these exciting new initiatives, we remain committed to providing connectivity and collaboration amongst the brain injury community. We hope that our conferences, training sessions, and online member portal facilitate peer-to-peer communication and information sharing. We are grateful for the dedication of our members to the community and are proud to partner with each of you to make improvements in the lives of people impacted by brain injury.

Monica Lichi, OH
Board President

Rebeccah Wolfkiel, VA
Executive Director

NASHIA Annual Report 2021
# Our Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Monica A. Lichi, PC, MBA, CCRP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Maggie Ferguson, MS, CRC, CBIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-President</td>
<td>Heather Hotchkiss, MSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Christine Medeiros, MA, LPC, NCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jennifer Braun, BSBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emeritus</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Representative: Northeast</td>
<td>Derek Fales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Representative: Northwest</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Representative: Southeast</td>
<td>Scott Pokornory, MSW, CBIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Representative: Southwest</td>
<td>Heather Hotchkiss, MSW</td>
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## Committee Chairs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Maggie Ferguson, MS, CRC, CBIS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stefani O’Dea, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>Jennifer Braun, BSBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOS Planning</td>
<td>Jill Tilbury, BS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; Education</td>
<td>Gabriela Lawrence-Soto, BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
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<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Rebeccah Wolfkiel, MPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director, Finance</td>
<td>Donna Huckestein, BS</td>
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<td>Director, Professional Development</td>
<td>Maria Crowley, MA, CRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director, Public Policy</td>
<td>Susan L. Vaughn, MEd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director, Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>Judy Dettmer, BSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator, Member Services &amp; Communications</td>
<td>Haleigh Cushen, MEd, CRC, CVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor, Technical Assistance</td>
<td>Jill Ferrington, MS, CRC, CBIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor, Governmental Affairs</td>
<td>Zaida Ricker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Without the support of a number of contributors we would not be able to provide the programs and services that states, partners and providers have come to rely on nationally.

Legacy Scholarship Donors
Jennifer Braun
Judy Dettmer
Maggie Ferguson
Jill Ferrington
Heather Hotchkiss
Donna Huckestein
Stefani O’Dea
Scott Pokorny
Susan L Vaughn
Jan White

Nonprofit Supporting Organizations
Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
Brain Injury Association of Maryland
Brain Injury Association of North Carolina
Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire
Liberty Place, Inc.
Human Services Research Institute
Iowa Association of Community Providers
Tennessee Disability Coalition

SOS Sponsors
Administration for Community Living
Brain Injury Association of Maryland
Brookhaven NeuroRehabilitation Network
Center for Brain Injury Research and Training
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
CreateAbility Concepts, Inc.
Elizabeth Dole Foundation
Human Services Research Institute
Kessler Foundation
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
MINDSOURCE-Brain Injury Network
Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center
Moody Neurorehabilitation Institute
Neurorestorative
Ohio Brain Injury Program
Power of Patients
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
TIRR Memorial Herman
United States Brain Injury Alliance

Other Donors
AmazonSmile Foundation
Jill Ferrington
Marva Hickman
Dee Horace
Donna Huckestein
Juliet Krupa
Monica Lichi
Ali Martin
David O’Dea/State Farm Insurance Agency
Dee L. Rivard
Debi Smith
Thomas W. Tatlock
Jill Tilbury
Windy Hill Designs, LLC
Rebecca Wolfkiel

NASHIA Annual Report 2021
OUR COLLABORATORS

In 2021, NASHIA contracted with a number of organizations to provide technical assistance and supports:

ACL CJJ Workgroup (Colorado MINDSOURCE, Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana & Pennsylvania DOH)
ACL Data Workgroup (Virginia DARS & Nebraska VR)
ACL Waivers & Trust Funds Workgroup (Colorado MINDSOURCE & Iowa IDPH)
ACRM Chronic Brain Injury Taskforce
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
   Alabama Head Injury Foundation
   Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
   Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska
   Brain Injury Association of Maryland
   Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts
   Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire
   Brain Injury Association of North Carolina
   Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island
   Brain Injury Association of Vermont
Capital Consulting Corporation-SAMHSA
   Catholic Charities of Oregon
   CreateAbility Concepts, Inc.
   Dawson Education Service Cooperative
   HSRI- ACL TBI TARC
   HSRI-NCAPPS
   Iowa Department of Public Health
   Kentucky Department of Aging and Independent Living
   Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
   Moody Neurorehabilitation Institute
   Nebraska VR
   New Editions CMS HCBS TAC
   North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
       North Carolina Division of MH, DD & Substance Abuse
   North Dakota Brain Injury Network
   Ohio Brain Injury Program
Policy Research Associates (SMVF TAC)
   SAMHSA Region 7, ATTC
   SAMHSA Region 8 ATTC
   SAMHSA Region 8, MHTTC
   SOAR Fox Cities, Inc.
   TASH- ACL DETAC
Texas Health and Human Services
   University of Maryland
   University of Texas Medical Branch
   Utah Department of Health
   Utah University Center for Persons with Disabilities
   Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services
   West Virginia University
   Wisconsin Department of Corrections

NASHIA Annual Report 2021
Effective partnerships are essential for us to support state government and develop infrastructure improving the lives of individuals living with BI and families. In 2021, we continued to focus on enhancing current partnerships and building new ones with federal and state government agencies and national and state associations.

We partner in several ways to promote positive outcomes for individuals with brain injury through impacting policy change, providing training, and developing needed resources. We continue to leverage our virtual resources by providing a record number of online trainings, connecting with partners across the globe, and participating in partner conferences and training events.

These partnerships have resulted in many outputs; examples include:

- Resource development, e.g., TBI & SUD: Making the Connections, Substance Use & Brain Injury Client workbook, Addictions and TBI Provider Tip Card, SAMHSA Advisory: Treating Patients with TBI, Employment and Brain Injury resources;
- Initiation of the first Leading Practices Academy;
- Opportunities for training and education related to special education, criminal/juvenile justice, behavioral health, peer support, and vocational rehabilitation; and,
- Collaboration on policy and legislative initiatives.

**OUR PARTNERS**

ACL TBI State Partnership Program
ADA Knowledge Translation Center
AOD Disability & Employment Technical Assistance Center
Brain Injury Association of America
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Elizabeth Dole Foundation
Human Services Research Institute
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services
National Associations of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Council on Aging

Moody Foundation
Policy Research Associates
Safe States Alliance
SAMHSA Head Quarters
SAMHSA Regional Mental Health & Addictions Technology Transfer Centers
Service Members Veterans & Families Technical Assistance Center
TBI Model Systems
Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
United States Brain Injury Alliance
FINANCE & AUDIT

NASHIA strives to be a good steward of funds. It is important to us to keep our administrative costs low while continuing to offer trainings, resources, and supports that honor NASHIA’s mission. Total revenue for 2021 totaled $706,087 and expenses totaled $590,593. Our total revenue has increased by 165% over the past 3 years. NASHIA maintains status as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and files a Form 990 annually with the IRS to ensure accountability and compliance.

Highlights:
- Monitored/reported expenses and income to Board and members
- Developed an annual budget
- Maintained support through member dues, supporters, private donations, conference fees, in-kind contributions, and technical assistance contracts
- Developed new revenue mechanisms.

COMMITTEE:
Jennifer Braun, MO
Maggie Ferguson, IA
Heather Hotchkiss, CO
Donna Huckestein, AL
Stefani O’Dea, MD
Rebeccah Wolfkiel, VA

NASHIA Annual Report 2021
NASHIA memberships have increased steadily since the implementation of the new membership structure in 2018.

Committee Highlights:
- Conducted targeted membership outreach
- MembershipWorks platform utilized for efficient membership management
- Membership Toolkit and Onboarding Guide developed
- Regional representatives played an active role in membership recruitment
- Increase of annual dues and addition of new membership category approved
- Southeast Region met for a networking meeting

Committee:
Maggie Ferguson (IA)
Stefani O’Dea (MD)
Scott Pokorny (NC)
Heather Hotchkiss (CO)
Kenisha Tait (GA)
Derek Fales (ME)
Rebeccah Wolfkiel (VA)
Haleigh Cushen (AL)

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<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<tr>
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<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-voting Members</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>79</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>204</td>
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~Compensated memberships included in SOS sponsorship package

NASHIA Annual Report 2021
Committee Highlights:

- Led a sign-on letter with 53 national organizations supporting $2 million in funding for CDC’s national concussion surveillance system, particularly addressing concussions associated with children and youth.
- Advocated for increased appropriations for the ACL TBI Program, resulting in an additional $4 million.
- Advocated for increased appropriations for the NIDILRR TBI MS, resulting in an additional $100,000 increase.
- Supported HCBS funds in the COVID response package
- Worked with Congress to action recommendations of the GAO report “Domestic Violence: Improved Data Needed to Identify the Prevalence of Brain Injuries among Victims”, supporting creating legislation.
- Supported and assisted with H.R. 2992, the TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act to develop crisis intervention training tools for first responders interacting with persons who have TBI, ABI, or PTSD.
- Celebrated the 25th anniversary of the TBI Act through short videos throughout the year to promote the impact of TBI Act program funding to improve state services and delivery.

117th Congress—Public Policy Platform Priorities:

- Enhance/expand State capacity to provide services & supports.
- Improve services for underserved populations.
- Improve outcomes for individuals in juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- Ensure availability of public assistance and safety net programs.
- Improved services for children and youth.
- Expand research for promising practices for treatment, rehabilitation, and community services and supports.
- Expand primary, secondary and tertiary prevention to reduce the number of TBIs and to minimize the affects and optimize outcomes.

COMPONTEE:

Jennifer Braun, MO

Gavin Attwood, CO
Peter Bisbecos, IN
Augusta Cash, AL
Carrie Collins-Fadell, AZ
Zaida Ricker, DC
Maria Crowley, AL
Judy Dettmer, CO
Ronen Friedman, CO
Nicole Godaire, MA
JD Kemp, MO
Cheryl Kempf, TX

Sara Lane, VT
Amy Lawson, OH
Jessica Leal, VT
Catherine Mello, MD
Stefani O’Dea, MD
James Pender, IA
Diane Schirmer, KY
Susan Vaughn, MO
Steve Wade, NH
Rebecca Wolfkiel, VA

NASHIA Annual Report 2021

"Being a member of NASHIA has given me the opportunity to advance our state Brain Injury efforts related to public policy at the national level. Thanks for all your support!"
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As NASHIA grows, so does the variety of learning experiences to meet member needs. Training U was launched in 2021 and is committed to helping states create the strongest workforce possible to provide supports to those they serve. NASHIA offers professional development at every level of experience and depth to build basic skills or enhance seasoned staff expertise. All training opportunities incorporate latest practices from leaders in the field to enhance knowledge and skills related to service delivery, research, and promising practices.

Podcasts - a listen and learn aspect to training, introduced during SOS 2020. Members asked for more, so in 2021 NASHIA recorded:
- Virtual Approaches for Real Supports in Brain Injury
- Parenting with Brain Injury
- Customized & Supported Employment Trends Across Populations
- Neuropsychiatric Challenges and Approaches for Adults with BI
- The Not-So-Lonely Walk

Customized state tools - combining online training with an in-person or virtual consultation to maximize guidance geared towards a particular topic. NASHIA offered:
- REAP: A Concussion Management Tool
- What If There's A TBI?: Brain Injury Basics

Workshops - focused training with smaller groups of attendees, allowing a more interactive training with specific skill building. The 2021 topics included:
- Grant Writing Basics
- Leadership/Succession Planning
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Protection & Advocacy Partnerships

Leading Practices Academies - centered on building topic-focused intensives over a series of courses so that states can reach their goals of infrastructure development and capacity building surrounding a particular area of need. We introduced our first LPA on Criminal/Juvenile Justice and are repeating this LPA due to overwhelming and favorable responses.

growing leaders.
Committee Highlights:

- Assessed trends/issues important to TBI community for training
- Balanced content development for new and long-standing members
- Increased the number of webinars provided
- Increased committee recruiting
- Increased type and number of CEs provided
- Enhanced content for YouTube Channel Training U
- Conducted first enhanced training intensives: Leading Practices Academy and hosted workshops

Month | 2021 Webinar Series
--- | ---
January | Untangling the Complex Relationship Between Suicide and BI
February | Website Overview for Members
March | Public Policy and Hill Day Orientation
April | Building Partnerships That Last: Working with the TBI Model Systems
May | Distracted Driving and TBI
June | Part 1: Sexual Development and Disruption
July | Part 2: Addressing Problematic Sexual Behavior
August | Part 3: Rebuilding Intimacy and Relationships
October | Collaboration Across Systems: Making the Most Out of Partnerships
December | Employment Accommodations, Innovations and Assistive Technology

COMMITTEE:
Gabriela Lawrence-Soto, MA

Traci Barney, UT
Najah Britton, MD
Donna Cantrell, VA
Maria Crowley, AL
Haleigh Cushen, AL
Brenda Eagan-Johnson, PA
Anastasia Edmonston, MD
Jennifer Logan, PA
Caitlin Starr, MD
Susan Vaughn, MO

"Thank you for sharing these evidence-based resources. I feel I have more to offer clients with brain injuries!" Community provider
NASHIA participated in the CBITF’s Brain Injury Awareness Day’s activities, including the Congressional briefing.

To assist members with advocacy and visits with Congressional meetings arranged by Becky Corby, NASHIA Governmental Relations, the Public Policy Committee offered a webinar prior to CBITF Awareness Day, providing tips, materials, and resources to assist with office visits.

NASHIA also promoted March Brain Injury Awareness through a toolkit, promotional materials and weekly spotlights featuring state programs and services.

NASHIA garnered significant support from Congress to increase funds for the ACL TBI State Partnership Programs and the CDC National Concussion Surveillance System.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Hill Day

The Public Policy staff worked closely with stakeholders and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) to promote brain injury awareness:

- NASHIA participated in the CBITF’s Brain Injury Awareness Day’s activities, including the Congressional briefing.

- To assist members with advocacy and visits with Congressional meetings arranged by Becky Corby, NASHIA Governmental Relations, the Public Policy Committee offered a webinar prior to CBITF Awareness Day, providing tips, materials, and resources to assist with office visits.

- NASHIA also promoted March Brain Injury Awareness through a toolkit, promotional materials and weekly spotlights featuring state programs and services.

Congressional Briefing:
“The Impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Brain Injury”

Moderator: Brent Masel, M.D., Moderator, BIAA
Panelists: Cong. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), Co-chair, CBITF
Cong. Don Bacon (R-NE), Co-chair, CBITF
Michael J. Hall, Ph.D., Neuropsychologist/Licensed Psychologist, Iowa City Veterans Affairs Health Care System
Jennifer Braun, Brain Injury Manager, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Special Health Care Needs
Eric Washington, Kansas City, Missouri, Individual Living with a Brain Injury
Matt Breiding, Ph.D., Traumatic Brain Injury Team Leader, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Injury Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Our 32nd State of the States Conference in September was our second virtual event. Attendees networked and learned from experts all over the world through the conference platform. SOS was able to explore different avenues of collaboration which resulted in our most successful event to date.

- **Pre-conference Advance to Go: Brain Injury Initiatives Across the Globe**
- **48 National/International Speakers**
- **342 Attendees**
- **23 Featured Sponsors and 35 Virtual Exhibitors**
- **24 Distinct Sessions**
- **19 Hours of CEs**
- **4 Regional Meetings**
- **4 Podcasts**

"This was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. I can only imagine what it would have been if it was in person. Totally enjoyed the virtual version!"

"Fantastic job as always...The conference went way too fast!"

**Attendees**

**COMMITTEE:**

Jill Tilbury, MN  
Jennifer Braun, MO  
Donna Cantrell, VA  
Lesley Cottrell, WV  
Maria Crowley, AL  
Haleigh Cushen, AL  
Judy Dettmer, CO  
Anastasia Edmonston, MD  
Maggie Ferguson, IA  
Ronen Friedman, CO  
Heather Hotchkiss, CO  
Donna Huckestein, AL  
Monica Lichi, OH  
Christine Medieros, TX  
Stefani O’Dea, MD  
Keisha Rowe, TX  
Caitlin Starr, MD  
Rebecca Wolfkiel, VA
Katie Cash Award
Established to honor a NASHIA State agency employee member whose tireless efforts directly and significantly contribute to their State and to NASHIA’s achievements and growth.

Jennifer Braun, MO Department of Health and Senior Services

William A.B. Ditto Excellence in Public Policy
NASHIA advocate demonstrating leadership in developing, advocating and implementing innovative public policy resulting in improved services for individuals with brain injury & families that also can be replicated by other States.

Eric Washington, Brain Injury Kansas City, MO

Partnership Award
Organization that collaborates and provides invaluable assistance in furthering the goal of helping states develop, expand and improve service delivery for individuals with brain injury in order to live and work in the community as independently as possible.

Pat Stillen, Mid-America ATTC and Dr. Carolyn Lemsky, CHIRS

Friend Of NASHIA Award
Awarded to an individual(s) who make outstanding professional contributions to NASHIA and to the field of TBI.

National Center of Advancing Person-Centered Practices & Systems and Team

President’s Awards
Given to NASHIA members for their commitment, dedication and significant contributions to our organization.

Christine Medeiros, TX
Jill Ferrington, CO

Susan Vaughn Legacy Scholarship
Awarded to applicants selected to receive a registration fee scholarship for the Annual SOS Meeting

Justine Ashokar, SD
Kelly Lang, VA