

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA



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Brain Injury Association of Virginia Wins National Excellence in Programs and Services Award from Brain Injury Association of America

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia has been selected as the 2021 Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) winner for Excellence in Programs and Services. The Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV), the voice for Virginia's brain injury community for nearly 39 years, submitted the award application based on a year-long resource database project to help people with brain injuries, their family caregivers, professionals, and members of the community navigate life after brain injury while simultaneously providing the association with rich data to inform program development, advocacy, and resource allocation.

BIAV's information systems house thousands of brain injury resources - it became critical to organize and simplify this information. Much more than a filing system, BIAV developed an elegant, intuitive, resource management system to ensure people were being served appropriately and in alignment with BIAV's standards of excellence.

Practically speaking, this resource management system means essential resources are accessible to program staff with a few keyword searches and clicks, increasing efficiency and ability to deliver resources in a systematic, intentional way. This project would not have been possible without support from IT4Causes, a nonprofit dedicated to providing information technology solutions for other nonprofits and BIAV interns Mia Dini, Hyewon Hong and Michael Pittman, each of whom contributed to the design and functionality of the system.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by our national association for excellence in programs and services, particularly on this project which is garnering interest from peers across the country. We believe the resource system we developed is a blueprint for other states and can improve collaboration, data collection and analysis, and ultimately provide us with critical data necessary to advocate for systems change, particularly in terms of what resources people impacted by brain injury need. The next phase of this project will be outward facing for everyone to access, and we can't wait to share it" said Anne McDonnell, Executive Director of BIAV.

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About The Brain Injury Association of Virginia: The Brain Injury Association of Virginia is the primary source of information and personal support for thousands of individuals, families, and professionals living in Virginia whose lives have been touched by a life-altering, often devastating brain injury. The mission of the Association is to advance education, awareness, support, treatment and research to improve the quality of life for all people affected by brain injury. For more information visit biav.net.