



# ***Main Line Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.***

## ***NeuroCognitive Specialists in the Home and Community***

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### COMMUNITY NEWS

September, 2015

## **Main Line Rehab Continues Advocacy Efforts**

For almost 30 years, Main Line has been committed to providing home and community based services for individuals with disabilities and has strongly believed that advocating for consumer rights is at the forefront of services. We are pleased to announce that MLRA has teamed up with the Disability Rights Network (DRN) to collaborate on a mission to ensure that individuals with disabilities are fully informed about their voting rights. We believe that it is essential to achieve full inclusion for those in need of assistance to participate in the democratic process. By partnering with DRN, we plan to provide information sessions collaboratively about the registration process and the rights of those with disabilities related to this important civic responsibility. We want to thank DRN for leading the charge to ensure every individual will be informed and have the ability to vote. Main Line will continue to participate in these programs to educate our consumers on how to advocate for their individual rights.

In other advocacy news, at Governor Wolf's direction, the state of Pennsylvania is in the beginning stages of a major shift from funding services through the current waiver system to funding them through a Managed Care system. The switchover is expected to begin in 2017 in one part of the state, and then spread through other parts of the state by 2019. There has been little information provided about what the managed care system will look like, and this lack of specific information has made planning for the change difficult and has made consumers and their families anxious. There are ongoing discussions between the state and the stakeholders to ensure that when this transition occurs, the level of care remains the same and individuals will continue to have the same access and control over their service as they currently have under the waiver programs. Main Line's Clinical Director, Bridget Lowery, has been a key member at the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) meetings where many of the brain injury service providers in the state continue to discuss ongoing concerns and make suggestions to state officials about how this new model can continue to best meet the various needs of those that we serve. Main Line remains dedicated to lending a voice when this transition happens to protect consumer services and help lay the groundwork for this new structure. Stay tuned for additional information regarding this change to Managed Care.

## Fun In The Sun Day

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey held its annual beach day in Ocean City, NJ. Main Line Rehab joined the fun with 10 individuals, family members and a support team of staff. Each year, the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey sponsors a day at the shore and invites brain injury service providers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to participate in the event. Accessibility accommodations were provided such as special all-terrain wheelchairs and extended boardwalks to access the beach. Though many view the day as a relaxing day on the beach, cognitive goals such as organization, planning and communication were addressed throughout the day. The outing was a major success and those that attended can't wait for the next beach day in 2016. Connecting with others is a key to independent living after brain injury and this event is a great way to implement the social and communication skills and strategies that each individual works on so hard during the year. Stay tuned for more social events coming soon in the Fall.

## Exciting New Funding Opportunities for Individuals with MS

We are pleased to announce that recently, we have forged new relationships with experts and advocates in the M.S. community including Dr. Miriam Franco, Dorothea Pfohl, and Jamie Hall, Esq. These individuals have truly dedicated their lives to helping people with M.S. live meaningful and healthy lives. Through these many new relationships, Main Line forged exciting new funding possibilities for Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy for individuals with MS. Most notably, we were approved for full membership by the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis. The Consortium was designed "to be the pre-eminent organization of Multiple Sclerosis health care providers improving the lives of those affected by multiple sclerosis". Main Line has also become a contracted provider through the Greater Delaware Valley National M.S. Society. This will allow us to provide short-term services for those individuals that may not qualify for services through other funding sources that reside in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Recent studies show that up to 75% of individuals with M.S. experience cognitive issues and our goal is to provide access to Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy to those individuals. Stay tuned for more exciting news.

## BIAPA Conference 2015

In June, the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) held their annual conference in Lancaster, PA. Two of our seasoned Clinical Coordinators, Meaghan Wright and Stacey Henrich, were presenters at the conference this year. Meaghan presented on the topic “Exploring Meditations and Mindfulness: Techniques and Resources for Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy”. Stacey did a poster presentation on the “Group Process in Building Cognitive Skills, Community Involvement, and Self Esteem for Survivors of Brain Injury”. Main Line also had a display table manned by Mark Cola, Referral and Outreach Coordinator, to provide literature for those interested in accessing services or in need of information. This year, BIAPA’s keynote speaker, Kevin Pearce, gave an inspiring lecture about his journey from being a professional snowboarder preparing for the Winter Olympics, to suffering a traumatic brain injury and almost dying. He spoke of his the barriers he has faced during his recovery, and how he eventually persevered and is now inspiring others with TBI to live successfully. There were over 300 individuals in attendance including service providers, family members, and survivors at the three day event which included expert speakers, several breakout sessions, exhibits, and networking opportunities. Once again, the BIAPA conference provided an outlet for providers, survivors, and families to gather and discuss the ongoing issues, continuing barriers, and latest strategies being implemented for brain injury.

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For more information, contact us at:


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CARF Accredited Home &  
Community Based Brain Injury Program



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