SURVEY RESULTS

GAPS AND BARRIERS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BRAIN INJURY CARE

A meta-analysis conducted by the Ontario Brain Injury Association’s Brain Injury Speaks Network to help facilitate optimal outcomes for people living with the effects of a brain injury.

METHODS

Information was collected from 4 reports that consisted of survey responses from volunteers of the Brain Injury Speaks Network. These reports covered topics such as:
- Social isolation after an acquired brain injury
- Identity change after an acquired brain injury
- Mental health after an acquired brain injury
- Long-term impacts of acquired brain injury

3 AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT WERE IDENTIFIED

1. Brain Injury Awareness & Education
2. Holistic Models of Care
3. Financial & Employment Supports

HOW TO ADDRESS THE GAPS & BARRIERS WITHIN BRAIN INJURY CARE

Public Health Campaigns

Acute and Post-Acute Education & Awareness

Increase Access to Mental Health Supports

Interdisciplinary Care Between Brain Injury and Mental Health Providers

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS & EDUCATION

People living with the effects of an acquired brain injury are met with a lack of understanding about brain injury symptoms by the people and systems surrounding them. This exacerbates people’s challenges and causes a significant delay in care as they have to manage their symptoms, and adapt to new ways of living while trying to educate others and advocate for themselves.

HOLISTIC MODELS OF CARE

Mental health services are rarely offered in a holistic model of care. Rehabilitation programs strongly focus on treating physical and functional limitations after a brain injury, ignoring the psychological concerns associated with brain injuries. Thus, people do not receive the mental health support they need, causing a delay or halt in their recovery.

FINANCIAL & EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

Increased Financial Supports

Workplace Accommodations

Brain injuries can cause debilitating symptoms that can impact people physically, cognitively, emotionally, socially, communicatively, and functionally. This results in widespread changes in people’s employment abilities and financial capacities. However, there is a lack of awareness of financial assistance opportunities and minimal accommodations to allow individuals to return to employment. Thus, brain injury survivors are disproportionately impacted by the practical obligation of daily living tasks and often struggle financially.

The gaps and barriers within brain injury care must be addressed to facilitate optimal outcomes for brain injury survivors, families, and ultimately, society. Brain injury awareness and education, holistic models of care, and financial and employment supports are three areas that must be improved to best help support Ontarian’s living with the effects of a brain injury.

If you have any questions about the report, please do not hesitate to reach out to OBIA by e-mail at: braininjury-speaks@obia.on.ca, or by phone at 1-855-642-9877, ext. 255.