

2026 BIAK BRAIN INJURY SUMMIT

Bouncing Back: Building Resilience and Fostering Change

We care about brains.

March 6th, 2026

UofL Conference Center
Founders Union Building
450 N Whittington Parkway
Louisville, KY 40222

Attend in person or online!



**BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE
OF KENTUCKY**

2026 BIAK Brain Injury Summit Speakers

Instructional Personnel Disclosures:
In compliance with the requirements of ASHA's Continuing Education Board concerning transparency in course planning, delivery, and marketing; we present the following information on presenters' financial and non-financial interests relevant to the content of his/her presentations.

Carole Starr, MS

Keynote Speaker

Author- To Root & To Rise: Accepting Brain Injury
Co-Creator- Get on Board, A Training Program for Brain Injury Survivors

Financial – Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky and received an honorarium

Non-Financial – No relevant relationship

Deborah Eck, MA, RDN

Professional Development Manager

Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals

Financial – No Relevant Relationship

Non-Financial – No Relevant Relationship

Allison Ferguson, MS, CCC/SLP

Licensed Speech Language Pathologist

Financial – Co-Owner of Blossom Neuro Speech and Wellness

Non-Financial – No Relevant Relationship

Christine Szesny, PT, DPT

Rehab Director

Financial – No Relevant Relationship

Non-Financial – No Relevant Relationship

Patti Weiter, Psy. D.

Deputy Section Chief, Primary Care Mental Health Integration

Financial – Employed by VA Medical Center and receives a salary. Owner of Shine Psychology, LLC

Non-Financial – No Relevant Relationship

Agenda

7:30-8:30 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast and Sponsor Exhibits
8:30-8:45 am	Opening Remarks
8:45-10:15 am	Weasillience <i>Carole Starr, MS</i>
10:15-10:30 am	Break
10:30a-12:00p	Acquired Brain Injury and Nutrition Therapy: Integrating Diet for Recovery and Rehabilitation <i>Deborah Eck, MA, RDN</i>
12:00-1:00 pm	LUNCH, provided
1:00-2:30 pm	The Power of "I Can": A Survivor and Therapist's Guide to Neuroplasticity in Chronic ABI Recovery <i>Allison Ferguson, MS, CCC/SLP & Christine Szesny, PT, DPT</i>
2:30-2:45 pm	BREAK
2:45-4:15 pm	Conversations That Move People: An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing <i>Patti Weiter, Psy. D.</i>
4:15-4:30 pm	Questions and Wrap-Up



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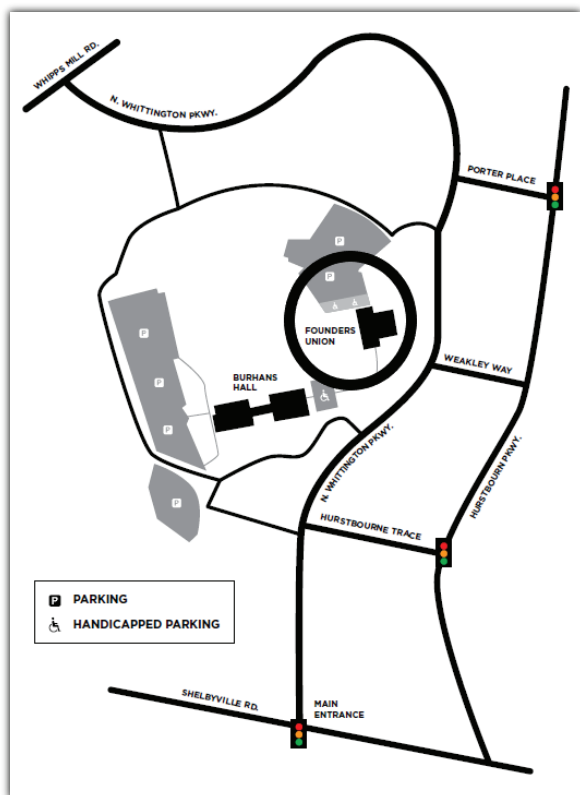
This program is offered for 0.6 ASHA CEUs. (Intermediate Level; Related Area).

Continuing education approval is pending for the following:

Case Management: 6 hours
 KY Nursing: 7.2 hours

This program has been approved for 7.2 contact hours through University of Louisville Hospital provider number 4-0068-12-24-1158. The Kentucky Board of Nursing approval of an individual nursing education provider does not constitute endorsement of program content. Completion criteria to obtain contact hours: Attend entire session and complete the evaluation.

KY Licensed Professional Counselors: 6 hours
 KY Occupational Therapy: 6 hours
 KY Physical Therapy: 6 hours
 KY Psychology: 6 hours
 KY Social Work: 6 hours



Brain Injury Summit Registration

Registration closes March 3rd. To register after March 3rd, please contact Bobby Paisley at bobby.paisley@biak.us or call him at (502) 493-0609.

Registration Fees

Professional and CEU Credit
 \$150 before March 3rd
 \$175 at the Door

Survivor, Family, Student, Non-CEU
 \$40 before March 3rd
 \$50 at the Door

To register to attend in-person:



Scan QR code or
 CLICK HERE
 TO REGISTER
 TO ATTEND
 IN PERSON

To register to attend online:



Scan QR code or
 CLICK HERE
 TO REGISTER
 TO ATTEND
 ONLINE

Directions

Shelby Hurst Campus Founder's Union Building
 450 North Whittington Pkwy, Louisville, KY 40222

From I-65

Take the I-264 (Watterson Express Way) Exit 131-A to I-64 East. Then take Exit 20-A (Shelbyville Rd. E, US 60 Middletown). Shelby Hurst Campus is approximately 2 miles on the left at the stoplight at Whittington Parkway

From I-64

Take Exit 15 (Hurstbourne Pkwy.) North to US 60 (Shelbyville Road) Turn left onto Shelbyville Road. Shelby Hurst Campus is approximately ¼ mile down on the right, at the stoplight at Whittington Parkway

From I-71

Take the I-264 West (Watterson Expressway) to Exit 20 (Shelbyville Rd. E, US 60 Middletown). Shelby Hurst Campus is approximately 2 miles on the left at the stoplight at Whittington Parkway

2026 BIAK Summit

Bouncing Back: Building Resilience and Fostering Change

Course Description

The 2026 BIAK Brain Injury Summit will center around themes of resilience, overcoming adversity, and the incorporation of evidence-based practices to promote recovery, health, and wellness for brain injury survivors. Through the exploration of evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing and hearing firsthand inspirational stories from a brain injury survivor, participants will gain practical skills to facilitate engagement and promote change during the rehabilitation process. A focus on the principles of neuroplasticity and the application of relevant treatment activities across therapy domains will emphasize the importance of life-long recovery from a chronic condition. Participants will also gain a greater understanding of the role nutrition therapy has in supporting recovery and the rehabilitation process.

At the completion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Define what resilience is.
- List three “Weasilience” lessons that relate to overcoming adversity.
- List three strategies to increase resilience.
- Describe the role of the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist in the recovery of ABI.
- Identify how nutrition therapy supports recovery and rehabilitation after ABI
- Demonstrate the skills to critically evaluate and detect nutrition misinformation relevant to ABI recovery.
- Define neuroplasticity as it relates to ABI.
- Identify timeline variations in chronic condition recovery.
- Identify person-centered outcome measures used to assess progress.
- Identify personally relevant treatment tasks across therapy domains.
- Identify how specific language and terminology used to discuss progress impacts survivor wellbeing.
- Describe the psychological and emotional challenges of living with a chronic condition, including changes to self and identity.
- Identify and describe the core principles and spirit of Motivational Interviewing, including distinctions between Motivational Interviewing and directive or advice-giving communication approaches.
- Differentiate and accurately identify change talk and sustain talk within client or stakeholder conversations, and select appropriate Motivational Interviewing-consistent responses to each.
- Demonstrate application of at least two foundational Motivational Interviewing techniques (e.g., open-ended questions, affirmations, reflective listening) in professional practice to support behavior change.



Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky
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