

## FROM BIANH TO THE MOORE CENTER

Newton Kershaw, who recently finished his term as Chairman of the Board of Moore Center Services, has been active in the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire since 1997. He joined the Board that year upon being invited by Joanne Devine. He was elected Board President in 2003. He has continued to serve on the Executive Committee as immediate past president.



Newton became involved with brain injury when his daughter suffered a stroke at age 15 in 1992. That tragic experience caused Newton to become a passionate advocate first on behalf of his daughter and then on behalf of others in New Hampshire dealing with brain injury. Newton is a full time practicing lawyer at one of New

Hampshire's largest law firms, Devine, Millimet & Branch, Professional Association. His legal specialty is employee benefits.

Newton's involvement with the Brain Injury Association put him in touch with Paul Boynton, the President and CEO of Moore Center Services, Inc. Paul appreciated Newton's passion and his abilities and urged him to consider becoming involved with the Moore Center. The Moore Center is the largest Area Agency in New Hampshire and has a mission which includes empowering and supporting individuals with acquired brain disorders. In 2001 Newton volunteered to become a member of the HR Committee at the Moore Center. In 2003 he became a member of the Moore Center Board, and in 2007 he was elected Chairman of the Board.

Newton's involvement with an Area Agency at that highest volunteer level marks the first time that a past president of the Brain Injury Association has so served. He hopes this kind of connection will enable a level of collaboration that will be beneficial to people affected by brain injury. Newton has always thought of the Moore Center, the Brain Injury Association and the State of New Hampshire as "players" in connection with brain injury in New Hampshire. Brain injury can happen to anyone, with nightmare ramifications. Brain injury has been seriously underserved and misunderstood for a long time and he has volunteered his efforts in an attempt to change that.

As Chairman of the Board of the Moore Center, Newton helped guide the agency in its efforts to provide disabled people individualized services directed at enhancing each person's quality of life. The Moore Center serves individuals in a variety of community settings—with their own families, in a community residence, in foster care families and in independent settings. The

Moore Center is committed to the principles of individual self-determination about services that will enable the individual to live life as well as he or she can.

The past several years have been pivotal in the Moore Center's history and Newton has been centrally involved in those events. During Newton's tenure



on the Moore Center Board, he assisted in connection with the agency's move from its long-time home on Titus Avenue to newly renovated space at the Mill West Corporate Center and Eddy Road. The new space has made the agency more acces-

sible to its clients and better able to innovate and meet their needs.

Newton's volunteer efforts have extended beyond the Moore Center and the Brain Injury Association. He serves on the New Hampshire Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council and he has served on the Board of Directors for the Krempels Foundation (formerly 2001 Brain Injury Support Fund, Inc.) and the Disabilities Rights Center. Newton's efforts have not gone unnoticed. He received the Ellen Hayes Award from the Brain Injury Association in 2009 and in the past he was recognized with a gubernatorial citation for his volunteer work for the Brain Injury Association.

"Newton embodies our mission of empowering and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders, thereby enriching the lives of everyone in our community," said Paul Boynton, President and CEO of Moore Center Services. "We are so grateful that having ended his term as Chair, Newton remains an active participant on our Board, and more importantly, in the lives of those we serve."

Brain injury in New Hampshire has received more and more attention since the founding of the Association in the 1980's. As Newton said in his first President's message in Headway in 2003, "When I was invited to join the Board of the Brain Injury Association, I was eager to help. Since joining the Board, I have become familiar with an extensive network of people who are connected to each other by brain injury. It is a powerful network. This network thrives in large part thanks to years and years of persistent efforts by the people who are involved with the Brain Injury Association." Now that Newton has completed his stint as Chairman of the Board of the Moore Center, he has opened even more doors which will hopefully further benefit a population we all care about.

## 2010 BIANH Legislative Leadership Statehouse Tour

The Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire recently organized a Legislative Leadership Statehouse Tour that was held on April 29, 2010, in Concord. Twenty-two individuals participated in the tour and were treated to lunch at the statehouse cafeteria. After lunch the group met in a vacant hearing room in the Senate and enjoyed a discussion on the current status of the state budget with Representative James Pilliod from Belmont and Representative Laurie Boyce from Alton.

Following the discussion the group enjoyed a fascinating tour with the guide that included touring the Hall of Flags that has a display of original flags carried by our New Hampshire soldiers as far back as the Civil War, the Spanish American War and the Boxer Revolution.

While touring the Senate Chamber, individuals had an opportunity to sit in the chairs used by the Senate while the tour guide provided the group with Senate legislative history along with the history behind the beautiful murals located on the Senate Chamber walls. Did you know that the New Hampshire Senate Chamber has the recognition of being the longest used chamber in the United States?

Senator Lou D'Allesandro from Manchester visited with the group and answered questions about the Senate and State budget. He also discussed his legislative proposal of a gaming bill that would bring revenue into New Hampshire.

We also learned some of the history behind the portraits that are located on the wall corridors of the statehouse. Did you know that there is only one portrait of a woman on the wall corridors of the statehouse in recognition of her nursing services to the State? The only other portrait of a woman in the statehouse is of Governor Jeanne Shaheen dressed in her red power suit which is located in the Governors Chamber.

It was an enjoyable tour and one that made all feel proud of the work that our grassroots legislative network does in working with the largest citizenry legislature in the country to promote worthwhile public policy and/or legislation for individuals with brain injury.

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