



Tennessee Brighter Futures

Building brighter futures for Tennesseans by improving how systems of support collaborate to identify, educate and serve people with co-occurring needs.

What is Tennessee Brighter Futures?

A statewide group of agencies and organizations that help people who often have multiple potential diagnoses or needs.

It is organized and facilitated by Brain Links, the Tennessee TBI Program and the Tennessee Department of Health.

The Purpose of Tennessee Brighter Futures

To share expert information and build upon learning from each system of support's experience so we strengthen how we can best



- Screen
- Support
- Educate
- Refer



Consider Nathan's experience: Nathan is 24 years old.

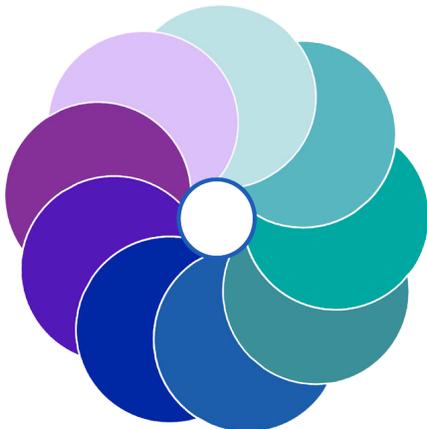
When Nathan was 2, he fell down the stairs and seemed to recover from a pretty scary concussion. Everyone soon forgot about the brain injury.

By the time Nathan was in 2nd grade, he was getting into fights, having difficulty paying attention in school and falling behind his peers. In his teens, Nathan was involved with drugs and alcohol, continued falling behind in school and getting into trouble.

By 24, Nathan had been arrested twice, had issues with substance abuse and keeping a job, experienced depression and attempted suicide. He would be homeless if his mom didn't let him live at home. He was involved in multiple systems of care, but none knew about the concussion.

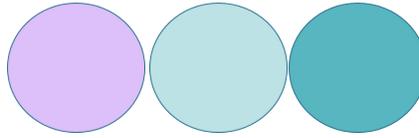
Understanding the possible downstream effects from his brain injury may have prevented some difficulties and could have helped him, his family and the professionals along the way.

Tennessee Brighter Futures helps systems of support to be prepared for people like Nathan. TBF is made up of agencies and organizations with expert knowledge in one of these key areas:



- Mental health
- Trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Brain Injury
- Homelessness/Housing Instability
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice
- Domestic Violence
- Pain
- Substance Use
- Social determinants of health, including racial/ethnic minorities & rural healthcare.

How does it work?



- ☀️ **Tennessee Brighter Futures meets every other month** for 1.5 hours and one system of support shares their expertise at each meeting, with time for questions and ideas.
- ☀️ **After each meeting**, each agency can share with their network.
- ☀️ **Brain Links will facilitate all meetings** & send a follow up email from each meeting.

What do you need to do?

- **Attend each meeting. We meet 6 times a year!**
- **Share your system's expertise. We need what you already know.**
- **Take the information from each meeting to your partners.**



Client outcomes are better when systems of support work together and provide services most relevant to their core missions.

**What's in it for you,
your agency and
those you serve?**



- 1** Get your system's mission out to fellow service providers to increase referrals and improve outcomes for the people you serve across the state.
- 2** Save time and resources by knowing exactly where to refer people.
- 3** Improve your services by providing better, more well-rounded, relevant support and education. **For the whole person. For each individual.**

For more information, contact Brain Links at tbi@tn disability.org

