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SERVING BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1979

Head Trauma Support Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 215666
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The 2018 HTSP Executive Board

Darla Hagge, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Co-Chair
Darla Hagge is an associate professor and graduate coordinator in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, director of NeuroService Alliance Aphasia programs, co-director of the CSUS CHHS Interprofessional Education Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, and a speech-language pathologist at St. Jude Medical Center.

Jennifer Ratcliff, M.S., CF-SLP  
Co-Chair
Jennifer Ratcliff “Jenna” is a Clinical Fellow, Speech-Language Pathologist for The Speech Pathology Group. She first began volunteering at HTSP as a student volunteer in early 2014, served as a facilitator for the Supportive Social Group for Adults with ABI, and began serving on the board in 2017. When she is not working or volunteering, she likes to spend time with her husband, her two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, and her Maine Coon mix.

Carrie Elston-Akaba  
Vice Chair
Carrie Elston-Akaba was first introduced to HTSP in 2012 when her husband, Jason Akaba had his first seizure due to a TBI. Prior to joining HTSP, she partnered with Blood Source and Mercy San Juan Hospital organizing blood drives and promoting awareness around TBI. She is a fulltime mom, caregiver, and Banker. She loves to watch baseball (Go Dodgers!), attend concerts, and garden; however, her favorite thing to do is watch her daughter on the soccer field.

Regina King, M.S., CF-SLP  
Treasurer
Regina King is a Speech-Language Pathologist in her Clinical Fellowship working with Shamrock Speech Therapy Services. She began volunteering with HTSP as a student volunteer during her undergraduate studies at Sacramento State in 2013 and joined the board early this year. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and dogs.

Sarah Kiesz, M.S., CF-SLP  
Secretary
Sarah Kiesz works as a Speech-Language Pathologist at a local elementary school. She and her husband have four rescue dogs (their fur-kids!). In her spare time, Sarah enjoys home renovation projects, going to stand-up comedy shows, and spending time with friends and family.

Walt Moser  
Board Member
My wife, Naomi, and I have been coming to HTSP’s caregiver group for about 10 years. We are fortunate to have each other as we care for our son, Mark. Mark suffered a brain hemorrhage that was caused by a brain tumor when he was 18-years old. He continues to make progress and we are very proud of him for his accomplishments. I started serving on the HTSP Board in 2013. I was elected President in 2016. I have enjoyed working with a great group of people who volunteer their time to help HTSP. I look forward to continue attending the caregiver group and serving as a board member.

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Deirdre Days-Ward
Board Member
My name is Deirdre Ward aka DeDe. I’m an EastCoast woman enjoying the WestCoast life. I am a mother and a wife and caretaker of my husband with TBI. I have a pretty good sense of humor. I love cooking, gardening, listening to music of all kinds, and I’m a movie buff. Oh yeah, I also love grapes in any form.

Michael Molino, M.S., CF-SLP
Board Member
Prior to receiving his Master’s Degree in Speech Pathology, Michael Molino served in the US Navy for more than 20 years. Michael is also an advocate and mentor for people who stutter. He is an online host for Stutter Social and is the Southwest Regional Chapter Coordinator and Sacramento Chapter Leader for the National Stuttering Association. Michael enjoys the outdoors and when given a chance, he unplugs and takes off.

Jamie Hoffman, Ed.D.
Board Member
I am an Associate Professor at California State University, Sacramento in the Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration. I have been a Recreational Therapist for 15+ years and have worked in a number of setting to include: collegiate recreation, non-profits, Veterans Administration, Acute Rehabilitation, community recreation and adaptive sports, and in home health care. I enjoy sharing my love for recreation with others and providing individuals the opportunity to explore new environments and experience new adventures.

Alexandra Hauptman, M.S., CCC-SLP
Board Member
Alex Hauptman M.S., CCC-SLP is currently a school-based speech-language pathologist who has experience working with individuals representing the entire lifespan and a wide variety of disorders in healthcare, education and private practice.

Eric Williams, Board Member
Shortly after I finished High School I became an active Emergency Medical Services Paramedic, obtained a Associates Degree, and began working in the field. I then began a California State Fire Academy in the area and obtained a full-time position as a Firefighter / Paramedic in a local Sacramento Area Fire Department Agency. After a few years of working there I obtained a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management and a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

At this point, the uphill marathon that I was on was starting to level out and was becoming more comforting. Then something happened to me...
I sustained a Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). From here, the chances that I had to live were extremely low. I had to relearn everything, even including the basics. It has been extremely hard work and I do not expect it to ever end. Two words that have struck huge chords within me are Resilience and Perseverance.
I am greatly proud to be involved within the HTSP group to support others who have sustained any sort of Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and / or Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI).
We can all survive our most difficult times and have the abilities to relearn and overcome our struggles.
Volunteer Infrastructure

Last summer, Dr. Darla Hagge and Jennifer Ratcliff created a new volunteer infrastructure complete with a volunteer handbook, volunteer application and vetting process, training modules with corresponding quizzes, updated forms, and compliance tracking system. This was done to ensure sustainability of HTSP by creating a working system with new positions and sharing responsibilities to create a team environment. We are currently recruiting professionals in the field to lend us their expertise by mentoring student volunteers and facilitating activities for the Supportive Social Group for Adults with ABI, as well as, the Making the Best of it (MTBI) Group. We are looking forward to increasing the quality of the services we provide and growing as an organization. This is our current flowchart:

Financial Update

- Pasco had donated $2300 to be used for survivor/caregiver outings and supplies for resource binders.
- The Acquired Brain Injury group raised $335 selling HTSP decals; totaling 18% of projected yearly survivor outings.
- Fundraising committee raised $430 selling HTSP T-Shirts and Lanyards

Jamba Juice fundraiser cards are currently being sold. Each card allows you to buy one get one free - 6x. Fundraising funds received will cover overhead and facilitation costs.

Current year to date Facilitation fees:
- ABI - $1200
- Caregiver - $3100
- MTBI - $900

Two generous donors have donated $1200 each. One will help cover ABI facilitation costs and the other will cover Kid/Sib group outings for the year.

- Generous donations of $5000 and $2000 were made by the Jacobson Family and the Wilson Family, respectively!

Selling decals for HTSP

The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Group made the decision to sell Head Trauma Support Project of Sacramento (HTSP) decals to raise money for an outing of their choice. The decals were donated to HTSP by Kourtney Moser and were sold for $5.00 each. Jason Akaba, an ABI Member since 2012, expressed how proud he was to ask friends and family to purchase a decal and show their support for the ABI Group and HTSP. Jason, also stated, “I felt empowered! I was responsible for something, had a personal goal to meet, and was able to be part of deciding how the money earned was going to be spent”.

To date the ABI Group has raised $335.00 and have decided to spend the money on going to the movies.