



**Acquired  
Brain Injury  
Network**

**November 3-4, 2008**  
*Hilton Toronto • Toronto*

### **Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation**

**Date/Time/Room:** Tuesday, November 4, 2008 10:55 am – 11:40 am Tom Thomson

**Abstract ID:** 6c

**Title:**

**Turning Point Program: Taking Chances Towards Independence. A Community-based Partnership Program for Youth with Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI)**

**Authors:**

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**Summary:**

Experiential learning in a supportive environment, staying overnight in a downtown Toronto university residence, traveling around the community using local transit, community safety, cooking, grocery shopping, budgeting, recreational planning, friendships and relationships, are all components of the overnight independence program called Turning Point. In its 4th year, this community based partnership initiative between Bloorview Kids Rehab and Ontario March of Dimes targets youth ages 16- 25 years that have an ABI and are thinking about the next steps towards independent living and their transition to adulthood.

The objectives of Turning Point are to encourage positive interpersonal development and foster independence for community re- integration. To provide the opportunity to develop social and community living skills by participating in an overnight/ residential program, independent from parents/ caregivers. Lastly, to provide an opportunity for accessible programming for youth in isolated areas.

This workshop will outline the successful community partnerships that support this program, in addition to the community development component of the partnership. We will share program initiatives, structure, outcome measures and introduce the parent component. Lastly, we will highlight the benefits and challenges of an overnight independence program based in the community. This workshop seeks to inspire other ABI service providers and groups to develop their own partnerships and ABI community independence programs.

**Outcomes/Objectives:**

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