

**Craig Hospital School Program:
Serving HS Students with
Traumatic Brain or
Spinal Cord Injuries**



Presented by
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April, 2019

TBI Model Systems

Georges Brunet
Craig Grad, 2014
Fairview High School, Class of 2015
University of Colorado Grad, 2019!



**Laura and Cory
Teachers in our Craig School Haus**






Craig School "Haus"
In honor of
Daniel R. Haus
Made possible by the gifts of the Craig House

RBG, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Sonia Sotomayor
Halloween, 2018 Important Women in History



Background Info...

- Our school program has been in existence for 35+ years.
- Laura is the 10th teacher and Corey joined us last year.
- Last year they saw a total of 50 students
- 36 so far this year: 18 TBI; 18 SCI; 22 from CO; 4 GED candidates/graduates
- Private, Public, Alternative, Urban, Suburban, Rural
- Valdez, AK...WY...CA...SD...KS...MO...NV...AZ...
OK...NM...OR...IA...AR...NJ...CO...Maui, HI
(2018-19 school year, that is)



Rationale

- To provide the opportunity for high school – aged patients who have sustained TBIs or SCIs **to continue with academic or remedial work** as appropriate during their rehab at Craig Hospital
- To **earn school credit** while participating in rehab
- To **advocate and set students up for success** as they head back to their home school upon discharge



Some Faces of Our School Program



Whaaaaat? School, here??



Let's Get Going!

- Meet student/patient and family; gather background info; get release signed (HIPAA)
 - Home school? Or school of choice?
- Establish contact with guidance counselor, administrators, and teachers
 - Learning strengths/style; Social skills
 - Transcripts, schedules, credit needs
 - Learning/behavior plans (share with Craig team)
- Attend initial family conference at Craig to hear from therapy team and docs



Game Plan

- Sometimes students are here for extended in- or outpatient programs:
 - TBI ave: 2 months
 - SCI ave: 2-3 months (ballpark)
- Many students here for shorter timeframes, sometimes only a few weeks
- Meet 2-4 times a week for 30 or 60 minutes, depending on readiness, schedule, census...
 - If not ready for academics, I still reach out to school personnel and open the lines of communication.



Academic Work...when appropriate

- Typically work on one subject due to busy therapy days
- Often, but not always, English
- In best of worlds...
 - I get work from teachers
 - M - Great Gatsby/Winter Dreams (F.Scott Fitzgerald)
 - Right field vision cut; processing speed; attention
 - Audio
- Not always the case, though...

Same author, similar themes, different lengths!



Please Meet Ben!

- Sadly, teachers and school personnel are not always helpful.

Ben was at Craig his entire Sr. year:

- Fine Arts/T Rec
- English
- Elective
- Gov't/Econ



...And Mackenzie, with friend, Harlee!



- At Craig her entire Jr. year (2016)
- Dual injury (TBI/SCI)
 - English
 - Health (Modified Science)
 - Elective Credit

- Teachers very supportive!

Mackenzie is now a junior at Denver University!



Academic Work

- An extension of cognitive therapy for those with TBIs and a connection to life at home for all

- Incorporate speech goals
 - Attention
 - Memory
 - Processing
 - Higher level thinking skills
 - Problem solving: planning, monitoring, organizing, mental flexibility



Teaming with Other Disciplines

- Co-treat and communicate with Speechies, OT, PT, TRec, CCM, Nursing, and Psychology
- Work with all the docs and therapy teams, inpatient and outpatient
- Connect with Respiratory if student will be returning to school on a vent



Teaming with the Techies

- Work closely with the tech lab specialists
- Goals: Access curriculum and support learning
 - Adaptive Mice! 😊
 - Dragon, Naturally Speaking; MathTalk
 - Online textbooks
 - Ebooks and audiobooks
 - Sonocent, AudioNote, or Livescribe Pen
- Practice the non-techie process of...
 - Dictating and scribing
 - Ever try to "talk" a math problem?



Earning Credit

- Academic work
- Therapy classes
- Recreation activities
- Tally hours of therapy to apply toward elective or PE credit



Sample Letter: Therapy Hours for Credit

JW
Therapy Hours at Craig Hospital
April 6, 201x – May 20, 201x (Inpatient)

Hi Kathy,
I've tallied J's therapy hours while he has been at Craig. These hours reflect his inpatient work – outpatient therapies begins 5/23 for him. Please apply these toward Elective/PE credits, as appropriate. In addition, J is working on his Career Exploration Project to complete his English credit during our school time (not included below).

<u>Therapy Hours</u>	
Speech Therapy	27 hours
Physical Therapy (Individual/ Group)	35.5 hours
Occupational Therapy (Individual/Group)	35.5 hours
Therapeutic Recreation (TRec)	11.5+ hours
Medical/Nursing Education/Psych (formal)	31+ hours
Hours of Informal ed)	
Total to apply toward Elective/PE Credit	140.5+ hours



Keeping in Mind...

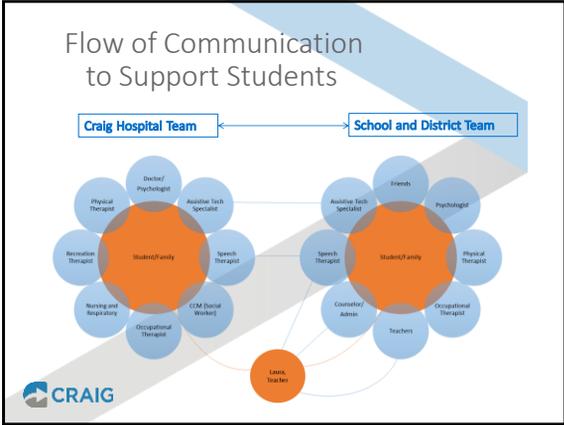
- Rehab is main goal while here.
(School is actually on the back burner.)



Lots O' Communication!

- During a student's stay and planning for return to school
 - Student/family
 - School/District Team
 - Craig Team





Liaison Between Craig and Schools

- One of my important roles is to share with school personnel how to set the student up for success based on strengths and needs.
- Having students return to school after brain or spinal cord injuries may be scary to school personnel. My goal is to come alongside, educate, and support all involved. I tap into the resources of both our Craig team and the school/district team to help with this crucial task.

• **But how??**

School Accessibility Inventory: Gathering Info with Family

School Accessibility Inventory

Student/yr: _____ D/C Date: _____
 School: _____ Return to school: _____
 Contact: _____ Partial/Full days? _____

TBI SCI Dual Injury level: _____ Meeting with _____
 Mobility: walking cane/crutches manual power

1. Transportation

- How have you been getting to school? _____
- How far to school? _____
- Plan now? _____
- Accessible bus? _____
- Parking? _____

2. Access: Physical

- How many levels? _____ elevator? _____ Need key? _____
- Front of building – automatic door opener? _____
- Steps/ramps where needed? _____

classrooms _____ library _____ cafeteria _____
 auditorium _____ gym _____ locker room _____
 science labs _____ computer room _____

Gathering More Info...

3. Access: Curriculum with Assistive Tech

a. tablet/laptop available with appropriate software? _____
- Dragon, Naturally Speaking - Sonocent - Audio Note - Planner - Other?

b. Writing tools? Wrist cuff/stylus? _____

c. Other adaptive equipment? (mouse - microphone) _____

d. Laptray? _____

4. Access: Bathroom

a. Bladder: Independent IC Cath Need help w/ leg bag? _____

b. Bowel: Independent Program: AM PM _____

c. Staff bathroom to use? _____

d. Nurse's office if needed? Place to leave supplies? _____

e. Other? _____

5. Lunch

a. Eat with assistance or independently? _____

b. What are your needs? Wrist cuff? _____

c. Cafeteria: make it through the line? _____

d. Seats connected to tables? Or separate chairs? _____

e. Other? _____

6. Staff

a. Nurse at school? _____ How often? _____



Gathering a Bit More Info...

7. Medical

a. weight shifts? _____

b. regulate body temp? _____

c. spasms? _____

d. AD? _____
symptoms and triggers: _____

e. nerve pain? _____

f. meds during the day? _____

g. clotting? _____

h. body pains/aches? _____

i. seizures? _____

j. other? _____

8. Scribe/aide needed? _____ Notetaking assistance needed? _____

9. Extended time? _____ Private room? _____

10. Homebound instruction before returning to school? _____

11. Physical abilities at this time: _____

CRAIG at school: _____



A School Day in the Life of "Megan"

- Days are structured at Craig. Know what to expect.
- Now let's envision...and role play:
 - Getting ready for school at home
 - Getting to school
 - Moving around from class to class
 - Being in each class on your schedule
 - Eating lunch in the cafeteria
 - Using the bathroom
 - Staying after school for activities
- Building/classroom accessibility
- Curriculum accessibility



For a student with a TBI, we could take pics of their morning/home or classroom routine to guide memory.



School Communication via Pics



Suggested School Transition Plan (STP)

- Comprehensive compilation of information, in table form

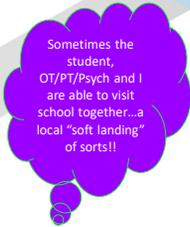
Frank Craig: Suggested School Transition Plan				7/31/2018	
Return to Dixx HS a couple weeks after transition home (flexible); potential homebound instruction until then					
School Grounds and Building Accessibility Accommodations	Classroom Accommodations	Curriculum Accommodations / Modifications	Health-Related Resources	Comments	

Physical
Cognitive/Language
Soc/Emotional
Visual
Bowel/Bladder
Other



Prior to Discharge

- Share STP with school personnel and invite them to visit and then join d/c conference if appropriate – in person or via phone
- STP used as basis of IEP or 504 Plan created by school/district personnel



Sometimes the student, OT/PT/Psych and I are able to visit school together...a local "soft landing" of sorts!!



Home, Sweet Home!

- Return to school for a “dry run”, following class schedule and noting accessibility
- Attend IEP or 504 meeting at school
 - I often participate in these meetings either in person (if local) or via phone.
 - Sometimes a Speech Therapist joins me.
 - Extended School Year Services? (ESY)
 - Review often
- Start school 2-4ish weeks after discharge, depending on OP therapies
 - Full or modified schedules

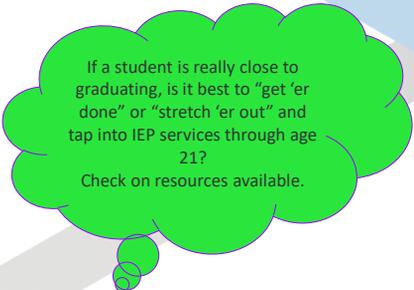


Yes, Challenges

- Returning to school....now what?



Huge Question



Time To Circle Back and Follow Up

- Check in regularly with student, family, and school team
- Advocate as needed
- Share challenges and successes!



Speaking of Success...

Jeanie Sederberg!

Craig Grad, 2010
Littleton HS Grad, 2010
Santa Clara Grad, 2014
Nursing School Grad, 2016
Craig Hospital Nurse, 2016
...and Friend!



Congratulations, Grads! Class of 2018



GED (General Equivalency Diploma)

- 4 Craig patients have earned GEDs during my time!
- Graduate Scott Gleason
- Chalmer Naugle, Former Director of the GED program for the Colorado Dep't of Education



Additional Activities

- Write ACT/SAT letters requesting accommodations
- Work with Foundation and tech lab specialists to determine tech needs and potential funding
- Write letters of recommendation for scholarships and college applications
- Develop TRAC Program (Teen Rehab at Craig)



Put a Lid On It!



Cooler Parts of My Job

- Building relationships with the students
- Teaching one-on-one....sometimes with them on bedrest and me holding books over their head
- Creating lesson plans to meet individual needs
- Building on their strengths while remediating as needed



More Cool Parts of My Job

- Empowering students to advocate for themselves as they return to school
- Advocating for students as needed
- Staying in touch after discharge
- Being able to "think outside the box" and being creative with learning opportunities
- Attending graduations – lots of them!
- Working with such a solid team of professionals!



"Never give up...and
Never surrender!"
- Buzz Lightyear



Huge Thanks....

- To the amazing Craig Foundation Team for supporting our unique School Program and our students!
(not a billable service)



Mahala and Samantha (Sam)
Craig Grads, 2017 (TBI)
ThunderRidge HS Grads, 2017!
Different accidents; Same SR class;
Both attending college!



Thank you!

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