



ACBIS Announcements

A newsletter of the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists

Message from the ACBIS Chair

As we begin the New Year, I'd like to take a minute to reflect on the past year, to provide a perspective on ACBIS's strategic plan, and to extend a special thank you.



There are currently 16 out of 21 potential members serving on the Board of Governors with four people in the vetting process. Our goal is to add individuals with unique skills sets, beneficial to our mission and projects.

On projection, CBIS applications are down slightly from 2010; however, renewals are at an all time high. Jessica Kerney, our ACBIS Coordinator reports brisk application and renewal submissions in December, so we anticipate the year end number will be healthy. In brief, this tells us there is a continuing need to demonstrate the value of certification for potential certificants, provide continuing education programs in conjunction with the Brain Injury Association of America, and utilize new technologies such as social networking.

During this past year, the CBIS/CBIST renewal and testing processes were automated and the Provisional Certification Program for Graduate Students was launched. The ACBIS Alliance Award Program, which provides public recognition to providers or facilities that have achieved the benchmark of having 20% of their eligible staff certified, was launched and is growing. In addition, CBIS eligibility requirements were modified, allowing individuals who work with people who have brain injuries but do not work exclusively in the field, i.e. case managers, attorneys and others, to earn certification.

Our international efforts with Acquired Brain Injury Ireland and Transitional Rehabilitation Unit (United Kingdom) have achieved the mid-point of their projects. The next steps will involve editing, manual layout/design, test development, and printing.

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2012 ACBIS Board of Governors

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Message from the ACBIS Chair, cont.

Development of a new Essential Brain Injury Guide begins in January and will include two new chapters, Case Management and Returning Veterans, the latter written in Partnership with the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC).

The Analytic Work Group is seeking to utilize data to prioritize tasks, review operations, identify opportunities, and create intermediate and long term agendas with an ultimate goal of improving customer satisfaction.

The Test Question Work Group is beginning the process of creating new test questions for the new Case Management chapter and will ultimately revise and validate all test questions.

The External Accreditation Work Group Is reviewing and analyzing International Accreditation Standards to determine what best fits our needs. Our efforts with ABI-I and TRU and potential efforts in other countries have underscored the advisability of international accreditation.

The Social Media Work Group has begun investigating how ACBIS might better utilize Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and other social networking entities. Focus will be on external marketing and communication with our constituency.

During the past two years, Erika Mountz, MBA, OTR/L, CBIST, Michael P. Mozzoni, Ph.D., BCBA, CBIST, Ken Handwerker, MA, and Sharon Grandinette, MS, CBIST, their terms expired, stepped down from the ACBIS Board. Also stepping down were Marianne Fenoglietto, CCM, CBIST, and Ellen Deibert, MD, CBIST, their contributions no less important. Each is a highly skilled professional, a volunteer, who gave expertise and time to move ACBIS forward. We are very appreciative.

ACBIS is a standing committee of:



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Lastly, I would like to extend a special thank you to Jim Misko, Psy.D, our former Chair and leader, the fiduciary of our work, and the person who kept us sane and on target. This year's projects were last year's inspiration. Your legacy is secure and we thank you!

