

CERTIFIED BRAIN INJURY SPECIALIST (CBIS) — ADDING VALUE TO THE BRAIN INJURY COMMUNITY

BY: AMY PFARR, M.ED., CBIST, BRAIN INJURY SURVIVOR

ABOUT ME:

- Worked with individuals with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health impairment for 20 years
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Behavior Specialist for State of MT DDP
- Experienced ABI in 2012
 - Led to interest and passion of support those with Brain Injuries (TBI and ABI)
 - Worked for the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington (2020-2024)
 - Board Member of the Brain Injury Alliance of Montana (2023-current)

OBJECTIVES:

- Participants will understand the importance of CBIS certification for the Brain Injury Community
- Participants will understand pathways to become CBIS certified
- Participants will learn how to stay marketable in their specialty

At least 5.3 million Americans live with a TBI-related disability.

You can have an impact on those lives with CBIS certification.

Learn more today at bianys.org.



ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED BRAIN INJURY SPECIALISTS (ACBIS): HISTORY

- ACBIS was established after a 1990 study of sub-acute and post acute brain injury programs were surveyed.
- 75% indicated that specialized training is needed for licensed staff
- 84% indicated that specialized training is needed for unlicensed staff
- 90% agreed the training curriculum include:
 - Cognitive, psychological, and social consequences of brain injury
 - Managing challenging behaviors and promoting positive skills
 - Techniques for working with families
 - 1996 ACBIS was established

CERTIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND DIRECT CARE STAFF

- **CBIS – Certified Brain Injury Specialist**
 - Assist to restore, maintain, and promote optimal health
 - HS diploma
 - 500 hours of direct, paid experience with individuals with brain injury.
 - 70 question exam
 - Demonstrates commitment to learning
 - Remain marketable in your profession

CERTIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND DIRECT CARE STAFF

- **CBIST – Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer**
 - Minimum of 4-year bachelors degree
 - Minimum of 5 years experience in field of brain injury
 - Demonstration of advanced skills in brain injury (published articles, developing protocols, conducting trainings, etc.)
 - Assist other in getting certified
 - Get paid to help the brain injury community

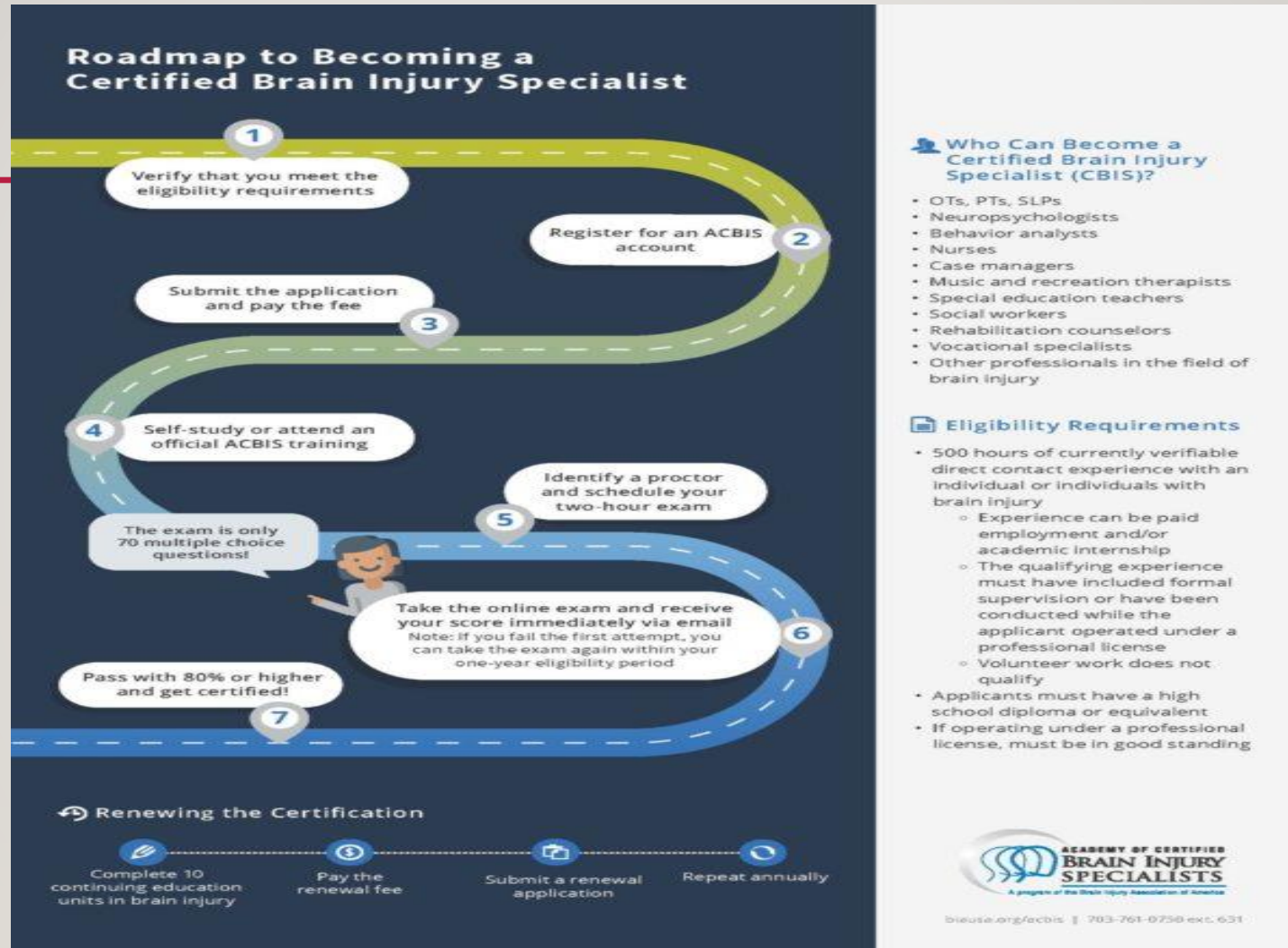
CERTIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND DIRECT CARE STAFF

- **Provisional Certified Brain Injury Specialist**
 - Enrolled in accredited University (pre-med, psych, neuroscience, special education...)
 - Complete 500 clinical hours or supervised internship
 - Transition to CBIS within a 3-year period

CERTIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND DIRECT CARE STAFF

- **Brain Injury Fundamentals Program**
 - Training and certificate program for non-licensed direct care staff, family, facility staff, first responders, etc.
 - Med management
 - Best practice for interaction
 - Behavior and brain injury
 - Required course training and exam

PATHWAYS TO CERTIFICATION:



BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE OF MONTANA:

- **In-person CBIS training in the fall in Butte, MT**
- Training includes:
 - Study materials, focus on content on the exam, practice exams, 1:1 sessions with CBIST,
- Who would benefit?
 - PT, OT, SLP, Attorneys, Voc Rehab Counselors, Social Workers, Victim Advocates, Teachers

Stay tuned to www.biamt.org to register for the training and view upcoming events!