



# ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

## Educational Programs

### **Introductory ABI Series: Understanding, Assessing, and Responding to Challenging Behaviors Related to Acquired Brain Injury**

- Date & Time:** Session I: Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Session II: Wednesday, June 30th, 2021 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Cost:** Member \$125; Non-Member \$150; Call for Group Rates
- Register:** [www.biama.org/abiprograms](http://www.biama.org/abiprograms) (Agenda and additional information found on website)
- Venue:** Virtual remote program – via ZOOM
- Faculty:** Susan Roberts, Ph.D.

#### **Description of Training:**

Challenging behavioral outcomes of acquired brain injury (ABI) often impact recovery and compromise long-term quality of life. This six-hour training provides a brief overview of the most common behavioral challenges associated with ABI as well as evidence-supported practices for assessment and treatment.

Session I reviews brain structures associated with behavioral outcomes including socially disinhibited, withdrawn, and agitated presentations. The components of a therapeutic environment and the use of Positive Behavior Supports for reducing challenging behaviors are reviewed.

In Session II, cognitive disorders contributing to challenges in behavioral regulation are presented. Assessing behavior and implementing evidenced-supported practices for reducing challenging behaviors as well as techniques for teaching socially functional behaviors are reviewed.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Identify areas of the brain associated with challenging behavioral presentations.
- Describe components of a therapeutic environment and Positive Behavior Supports to reduce challenging behavior.
- Identify cognitive disorders contributing to behavioral challenges.
- Explain evidence-supported strategies for preventing and reducing the occurrence of challenging behaviors.

#### **Faculty: Susan Roberts, Ph.D.**

Dr. Roberts is a behavioral psychologist and received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in Human Development and Child Psychology. She has consulted for Brain Injury and Statewide Specialized Community Services Department and numerous agencies supporting individuals with brain injury for over 30 years.



Dr. Roberts began her clinical work in the field of brain injury at the Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) Neurobehavioral Unit, established to meet the needs of individuals with severe behavioral disorders, associated with acquired brain injury. Dr. Roberts also has been a psychologist with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and served as a member of the Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Positive Behavior Supports and the DDS statewide Clinical Consultation Team. Dr. Roberts was Clinical Director of the South Shore Mental Health/DDS Inpatient Unit at Arbour-Fuller Hospital and served as an adjunct faculty member in the department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She has authored published numerous articles for peer-reviewed journals, as well as two books published by New Harbinger Press: "Living Without Procrastination" and "Living With ADD". Dr. Roberts is currently the Clinical Director for Adult Services for Brockton Area Multi Service, Inc. (BAMSI).

### **Who Should Attend:**

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts offers an introductory educational series regarding Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) via a Zoom platform. These presentations have been designed for staff who are currently providing services to individuals with ABI, as well as those who may be new to the field of brain injury.

Participants for whom this series was developed include: Case Managers, Program Coordinators, Residential Program Staff, Day Support Program (e.g., club house) and Day Habilitation Staff, Certified Brain Injury Specialists, Nurses and Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs), Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistants, Family Counselors and Other Mental Health Clinicians, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, Home Health Agency Staff, and Community Support Workers.

**Accommodations for the Differently Able:** Individuals needing special accommodations please contact Laura MacFeeley at [education@biama.org](mailto:education@biama.org) or 508-475-0032. Requests for ASL and CART services will be honored to the best of our ability, based on the availability of ASL/CART providers.