

BE BRAVE B BE BOLD

A little personal background

Who am I and what drives me to be an advocate?

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- ❖Earned a Master of Divinity
- Knight of Columbus; serving my parish and community at large
- ❖Bowling Green Swim Club Masters swimmer
- ❖Special Olympics Assistant Coach
- Employee at Nineteen Services
- ❖Creator of Be BRAVE | Be BOLD advocacy movement

Workplace discrimination because of being misinformed



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Defining the term Advocacy

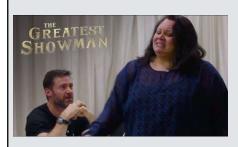
"The action of advocating, pleading for, or supporting a cause or proposal"

-Merriam-Webster Dictionary

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But so ...?

Advocacy must be put into **ACTION!**



Step 1:

ACCEPT that I have a disability and EMBRACE IT!

Living with a rare Developmental Disability

 $\mbox{\@scale}$ Until I was 34 years old, I believed I had Cerebral Palsy because at 18 months old the following were evident

- \succ Delay in speech and inability to form certain words
- > A weaker left arm
- \succ I also started presenting gran mal seizures at 13 years old

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Living with a rare Developmental Disability

*Congenital - During the stages of development prior to birth

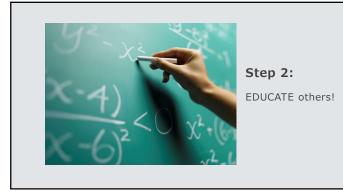
♦Bilateral - Affects both hemispheres of the brain

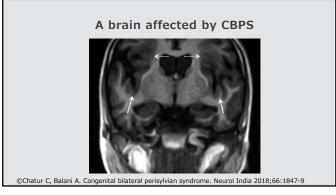
❖Perisylvian - Dealing with the deep grooves and folds in the brain

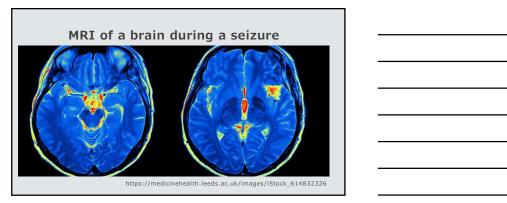
*Syndrome - (in the context of humans) - A chronic lifelong condition

Because of the symptoms, someone with CBPS had often been misdiagnosed with having Cerebral Palsy $\,$

Some Developmental Disabilities have only been recently "discovered" and little is known, despite ongoing research; CBPS which was not discovered until the early 1990's







Things to keep in mind along with seizure protocol

DON'T

DO

> Rush the post-ictal period

> Badger

- rasii tile post letai period
- > Assume activity has stopped
- Allow the post-ictal period to occur
- Phrase yes and no questions calmly
 - Be prepared for possibly another

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Why am I able to share my story?

Intervention \cdots I received intervention as soon as my parents were made aware that I was afflicted!

- ≻Occupational therapy
- ➤Speech therapy
- ≽Family intervention
- ightharpoonupNeighbor boy's intervention
- ▶Traditional classroom education setting instead of Special Education setting

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❖People are not defined by their disability

- ➤Description of diagnoses must stop NO MORE "MR"
- $\+$ Behaviors may not be an "issue to fix" ≻People no longer have their authentic personality
- ♦Showing compassion should never demean
 - > "Hey, give me a high five buddy!"???
- ❖People with DD's are not tasks to be done
 - > Not a Medicaid number, DODD Number, or documentation checklist



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Things to consider as a Provider while in Team Meetings

THINK ABOUT THE IMPORTANT TO'S

What does the individual REALLY want? Not abstract ideas, but concrete wants.

THINK ABOUT THE IMPORTANT FOR'S

Why should the desire for an Outcome or Service happen? Happiness? Productivity? Selfworth?

Remembering who all is part of the Team

- * THE INDIVIDUAL!
- Service and Support Administrator/QIDP
 Guardian/Advocate
- ❖ Parent
- Providing Agencies
 - > Day Program

 - Medical/Behavioral
 ICF/Congregate DSP
 HPC/Independent Provider/NMT



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What does Team need to do?

- ❖ Do not wait until a scheduled Team meeting or annual Team ISP
- ❖ Speak up so the quality of life can be improved by revising the ISP mid-span.



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