Advocacy Defined

- Advocacy is speaking for or with others on their behalf.
- Advocacy involves A.C.T.I.O.N
- Advocacy involves C.O.M.M.I.T.M.E.N.T
- Advocacy involves T.I.M.E.L.Y CONVERSATION
- Advocacy involves I.N.T.E.R.A.C.T.I.O.N
- Advocacy seeks O.U.T.C.O.M.E.S
- Advocacy occurs N.O.W
- Remember with A.C.T.I.O.N.
My Story (Education Inclusion)

- Elsie Madelynn Wright
- Needed 1 on 1 Aid to Facilitate Inclusion
- AAC Device was seen as to advanced for Elsie
- We involved our private speech therapist into meetings showing her level of competence
- Our resolve maintained and we received what we requested
- However, advocacy continues always
My Story (School Lunch Choice)

- Ella Christine Wright
- Adopted from Ukraine at 17 months
- Had a difficult time swallowing food
- School speech therapist wanted to limit her food to pureed only
- We had worked so hard for choice we would not allow this to happen
- We worked with Protection and Advocacy and Ella was able to eat a lunch she could choose
Today
What is Your Story?

- Take a few minutes to discuss an advocacy issue with a friend in the audience
  - What happened?
  - What was the story?
  - What did you want?
  - What were the facts?
  - Did anyone help you?
Your Advocacy Roadmap

1. Identify Your Issue
2. Develop Your Story
3. Define Your Request
4. Get the Facts
5. Find Allies
6. Get to the Right Person
7. Choose Your Tactics
8. Create a Detailed Plan
9. Take Action
10. Keep It Going!
Speechless Lesson

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiBnuJEXumc
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<tr>
<th>Master Advocacy Plan (MAP) Issue:</th>
<th>Angelman Syndrome</th>
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<td>Advocacy Goal/Aim:</td>
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<td>Advocacy Objective:</td>
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<th>Activities</th>
<th>ACTION/Organizers</th>
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<th>Success Indicators</th>
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- **MAP Document Time**
Who Can Help Advocate?

- Planning is the key to success with advocacy
- Having others be part of your team is helpful
- Invite people to join you (i.e., IEPs, Therapy Visits, Doctors Appointments)
- Find community agencies/organizations (ARC, Protection and Advocacy) to help the advocacy process
Connecting With Others: You Are NOT ALONE

• The Angelman Syndrome Foundation offers resource support (i.e., IEP Bank, Family Resource Team)
• Social Media plays a major role in modern day advocacy — Angelman Protection and Rights Group
• Elected officials are important stakeholders to involve in advocacy
• Reaching out to others within your community in mentoring relationships (i.e., other parents, associations)
Go! Tell Your Story and Advocate Passionately

• Dollarhide, Clevenger, Dogan, & Edwards, 2014 found passionate commitment is the key to effective advocacy.
Questions?
Thank you!