



**25th Annual
Best Practices in Brain Injury Services Conference**
"Shattering the Myths,
Unmasking the Opportunities"

**General
Friday, March 3, 2017
9:45am-10:45am**

Roxanne Cogil, BS, CBIS

Roxanne is the Director of Iowa Epilepsy Services for the Epilepsy Foundation since May 2012. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Iowa State University in 1995 and completed training and testing to become a Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) in March 2015. Responsibilities include overseeing statewide programs, services and advocacy, as well as providing direct service in central and western Iowa to individuals, families and professionals impacted by epilepsy.



Hope in One Hemisphere

When removing the bad half of the brain to save the good half is the only option to rescuing their daughter from severe, intractable epilepsy, this family faced hemispherectomy brain surgery and Hope in One Hemisphere to get their daughter back. This presentation will provide a first-hand account of their family's journey with their daughter's various brain injuries, rehabilitation therapies utilized to help with neuroplasticity after hemispherectomy brain surgery and various skills learned to help with independence. From apnea/blue spells at birth, to lesions later identified throughout all lobes in the right hemisphere, intractable epilepsy, a clinical diagnosis of Rasmussen's Encephalitis, atrophy in white matter & gray matter, a right hemispherectomy brain surgery, which resulted in vision loss and hemiparesis, to a confirmed diagnosis of cortical dysplasia, three years of asymptomatic hydrocephalus, then returned seizures and a 2nd brain surgery to stop the seizures. Retraining the brain how to learn all over again, how to sit up, walk, run, as well as overcoming other ongoing challenges with vision and having use of only one hand in a two-handed world.

Objective:

- To relay a first-hand account of various brain injuries of a child.
- To identify various rehabilitation therapies utilized to help with neuroplasticity.
- To describe various skills learned to help with independence.

Target Audience:

Case managers, counselors, professionals

*Not limited to target audience