

Sandra Cushner-Weinstein PT, LCSW-C

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Sandra Cushner-Weinstein is currently the Director of the Children's Camps and Services within the Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine where she manages and conducts camps for children with Epilepsy, Neurofibromatosis, Tourette Syndrome, Sickle Cell Anemia, and Asperger's Syndrome. In this capacity, she directs camp fund-raising activities, supervises professional and volunteer staff associated with the camps, and develops and implements programs for children with epilepsy and their parents. She also has a clinical practice specializing in children diagnosed with chronic health conditions and neurological disabilities and provides counseling for children, teens, and parents. She assesses, educates and trains families. She created and directs the Newly Diagnosed Seizure Clinic at Children's National Medical Center and recently produced an educational DVD: "*Coping with Epilepsy: From Seizures to Success*" in both English and Spanish. She also serves as the Team Leader for the Epilepsy Learning Collaborative in DC, where she evaluates and implements methods to improve access to care for different populations. She has held several research grants and has a research program investigating quality of life, resiliency, adaptive coping and parenting stress in chronic health populations. She is very active in organizing educational programs for the community and has participated in outpatient clinics including Epilepsy, Neurofibromatosis, Movement Disorders, and Multiple Sclerosis.

Prior to this work, she was the Director of the Epilepsy Foundation for the National Capital Area from 1991-1998. She designed, developed and directed treatment programs for children and adults with epilepsy and other disabilities. She facilitated groups and trained individuals to become peer counselors, models and mentors. She provided educational outreach and training for children and adults with epilepsy. During this time, she established a camp for children with epilepsy. Ms. Cushner-Weinstein previously was the Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Santa Clara, California from 1986-1991 where she wrote grants and conducted research, provided counseling, and developed and organized educational conferences, including one at Stanford University for families. She directed the clinical treatment programs, managed all financial responsibilities for this organization.

Prior to this position, she was Founder and Director of Intervention with PACT (Parents & Children Together), from 1981-85 in Baltimore, Maryland (in 1999, PACT joined The Kennedy Krieger Institute). She designed and established a center-based, non-profit organization with an interdisciplinary team of professionals to perform assessments and interventions for children, age birth to five, and their parents. She also created and established the first mainstream daycare in Baltimore, MD; she wrote grants, managed staff, and evaluated children.

Before this, she was Founder and Director of the Parent Infant Intervention Program (Demonstration Project), Department of Pediatrics, University of Maryland School of Medicine from 1978-81, where she conducted an assessment of need in the state of Maryland. She wrote and secured a Demonstration Project to design and develop an early intervention program for

children and caregivers. Prior to this position, she practiced physical therapy as Chief Physical Therapist for the United Cerebral Palsy Association from 1976-1978.

Ms. Cushner-Weinstein holds licenses in Clinical Social Work and Physical Therapy in several states. She has had several appointments to committees and boards including the American Epilepsy Society, Professional Epilepsy Care, and Abilities Network. She has published several papers and abstracts and has held a number of faculty appointments. Ms. Cushner-Weinstein received a B.S in Physical Therapy from the University of Maryland. She received certification in Neurological Developmental Training, and received and M.S.W. from the University of Maryland and the University of Georgia.