Once upon a time...

Story telling as a means to help families through the trauma of pediatric brain injury
We tell stories about our lives
We think in stories
We feel in stories
How do stories help us to cope with difficult times?
The CDC reports that “the two age groups at greatest risk for TBI are age 0-4 and 15-19”

Head trauma has a high emotional, psychosocial, and economic impact because these patients often have lengthy hospital stays.

(Kean, 2010) states that pediatric brain injury causes more stress for the family than other medical conditions seen in the ICU.
If you're telling just the facts... you're missing the emotional story.
“If you don't feel it, you won't remember it.”

Bob Dickman
“Ambiguous loss" describes the grief associated with a loss of a person or relationship, in which there is confusion or uncertainty about that person or relationship ...

Coined by Pauline Boss, PhD
Ambiguous Loss: How it relates to the family?
My Child's Brain Injury: Why Do I Feel So Sad?

http://bcove.me/cpj9ba5l
Story telling

WE HAVE TO TELL ALL STORIES
Empathetic listening
Benefits of story telling

- Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Resources
Examples of storytelling
Avery’s You tube story

http://youtu.be/mmfhGLwF_Q0
I like the mornings I wake having dreamt her well in the future. That’s our goal. Not the same but well.
No uncertain terms. We can’t have the same.

The mornings of no dreams seem innocent enough. Innocent as the joy When I dream her as well As she once was.

Reality never dreams.
Mornings

So I sleep in the past
waking to her first kick at the door
and have to learn it all again.
The virus, the seizures,
Pica, on and on.

I open the locked door,
Her hair wild
Her eyes too open
A child in Bedlam

She says my name, her face full of wonder,
As if she’d never expected to see me again.
Scrapbooking
To the families who allowed us to share their stories today in hopes it would help others...
Their story, yours and mine -- it’s what we all carry with us on this trip we take, and we owe it to each other to respect our stories and learn from them. —William Carlos Williams
QUESTIONS?


