MR and Developmental Disabilities
Federal Guidelines for Defining Developmental Disability

• A severe chronic disability of an individual that:
  – Is attributable to a mental, or physical impairment or both
  – Is manifested before the age of 22
  – Is likely to continue indefinitely
  – Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of
    the following areas of major life activity; self-care; receptive and
    expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity
    for independent living; and economic self-sufficiency; and
  – Reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of
    special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, supports, or other
    assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are
    individually planned and coordinated.
Five Types

• There are five different types of developmental disabilities.
  – Cerebral Palsy
  – Autism
  – Epilepsy
  – Other neurological disorders
  – Mental Retardation
Cerebral Palsy

• A developmental disability that occurs during or shortly after birth.
• Characterized by permanent motor impairment.
Autism

• Characterized by extreme withdrawal, language disturbance, difficulty in forming affective ties, frequent lack of responsiveness to other people, monotonously repetitive motor behaviors, an inappropriate response to external stimuli, an obsessive urge for the maintenance of sameness and/or impaired intellectual capacities.
Seizure Disorders

• Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders are characterized by recurrent seizures.
• The “stereotypical” seizure is just one of many types.
Other Neurological Disorders

- May consist of traumatic brain injury, Tourette’s syndrome, Prader Willi syndrome, specific learning disabilities, and a variety of other disorders.
Mental Retardation

• Characterized by significant sub-average intellectual functioning with substantial limitations in adaptive skill areas

• Four levels:
  – Mild
  – Moderate
  – Severe
  – Profound