Neurodiversity: the diversity that exists within the human population regarding neurological differences resulting from normal variations in the human brain.

Ableism: a set of beliefs or practices that devalue and discriminate against people with physical, intellectual, or psychiatric disabilities and often rests on the assumption that disabled people need to be ‘fixed’ in one form or the other. Center for Disability Rights: http://cdrnys.org/blog/uncategorized/ableism/

Ableist: discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities based on the belief that non-disabled people are superior, and that disabled people need to be ‘fixed.’ Ableist can describe people, therapy objectives, discrimination against equitable inclusion

Allistic: A non-autistic person.

Ally: a person with privilege on a particular axis who makes a conscious choice to work against oppression on that axis. When discussing Autistic rights, an ally is a non-autistic person working with and for autistic rights. - Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Neurotypical: A person who does not exhibit neurological differences. Abbreviated as ‘NT.’

Neurodivergent/Neurodivergence: Differences in mental or neurological function from what is considered typical. (Examples include Autistic, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia). The terms neurodivergent and neurodivergence were coined by Kassiane Asasumasu, a multiply neurodivergent neurodiversity activist. Definition provided by Oxford Dictionary.

Acquired Neurodivergence: acquired neurological conditions such as traumatic brain injury, post-stroke cognitive, swallowing and communication deficits, or patients with dementia, Alzheimer’s, Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome.

Neurodiversity Movement: A social, political and human rights movement lead by Autistic, Neurodivergent and other disabled people with the end-goals of acceptance of neurological differences, autism acceptance, self-determination, autonomy, the end of discrimination, equitable inclusion, and equal opportunity. It is a Cultural Movement.

A slogan of the Neurodiversity Movement is the Autistic Self Advocacy Network’s motto, “Nothing about us without us.” Neurodiversity Movement activists focus their efforts on changing systems to assure that neurodivergent people have active roles in determining policies directly impacting them, such as government initiatives, equal rights, civil liberties, public mandates, access to healthcare and social services, equitable access, as well as education, therapy and research.