

Independent Facilitator Biography

Contact Information

Name: Sandra Keirnan

Phone Number: 616-990-1499 (cell)

Email Address: keirnan_sm@hotmail.com



About Me:

Organizational Membership or Affiliations: Co-founder, board member and President of Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan, OCCMH Advisory Committee (past member), Co-founder of Lakeshore Oasis parent support group

Specific areas of expertise: Person Centered Planning Facilitation, Use of MAPS planning process and self-directed/determined services, Family Support Navigator for MI-OCEAN project, Certified Transition Trainer for the Parent Participation Project, Former advocate (CAUSE) for special education services, Advocacy for Supported Employment and Housing services, as well as Community Living Supports while working at Disability Network/Lakeshore. I co-wrote and developed a video series on issues relevant to individuals with disabilities and their caregivers, including one on Futures Planning (Person Centered Planning).

What unique attributes do you bring to your role as an independent facilitator?
I am a parent of adult children with disabilities. One of my sons has Down Syndrome and the other has severe, persistent mental illness. I also have chronic, at times disabling, health conditions. Additionally, I have worked within the "systems" as well as being a parent, which gives me a unique perspective. Also, my initial training in the "field" of person centered planning, school inclusion and Circles of Support was through Marsha Forest and Judith Snow in Toronto, Canada.

Why do you want to serve as an Independent Facilitator?

I have been an advocate, both paid and unpaid, for over 30 years and it is ingrained in me. I also feel strongly about social justice issues. I understand the perspective of family/parent as well as the Mental Health System.

Accommodations:

Are you fluent in languages other than English? No

Do you need any accommodations in your role as a facilitator? No

Times of day and geographic locations you are available to facilitate:

Day and/or early evening; Kent, Ottawa and Allegan Counties preferred

Virtual meeting facilitation: Do you have a computer, tablet or smartphone with Internet access? Yes

Independent Facilitator Level of Competency: Level 3 (Fully Certified)

At this level of skill, the individual has completed the training offered by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University or The Arc of Midland and has been observed and evaluated as an Independent Facilitator.