

Independent Facilitator Biography

Contact Information

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About the Facilitator

What qualities do you bring to your role as an Independent Facilitator?

I am the father of a 34-year-old son with autism and cerebral palsy. I have watched him exceed the abilities that were expected of him when he was much younger. In large measure this growth has come from taking an active interest in knowing what his needs and wants are, providing appropriate support for him to be successful...and being there when he falls short of his own expectations. This all started around the time he began using an independent facilitator and opted for self-directed services. I am a true believer in self-determination because I have seen it work with my son, and with many other individuals who celebrate ability, and live inclusively.

Why do you want to serve as an Independent Facilitator?

I want to be a part of the support process that encourages independence and goal attainment for people with disabilities. Whether their goals are modest, moderate, or wildly ambitious, it is their life, and they deserve encouragement and support to live a full and meaningful life by their own definition.

What are some of skills or expertise that you have as an Independent Facilitator? For example, are you fluent in a language other than English, have experience with augmentative communication devices, etc.?

I speak only English and I'm not much of a "techie" but I know where to find that expertise when needed. Prior to retirement I worked as a financial planner and developed the skills of active and empathic listening. True Financial planning is not so much about a person's return on investment...it's about their values, their goals, and aspirations for life. It is also about the people they love and how they can make a difference in the world. I believe the same principals apply for helping people with disabilities realize their dreams and potential.

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Are you a member of any professional organizations or groups? If so which ones?

I am a co-founder and current president of the board for Oasis Community of West Michigan, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping young adults with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities transition from dependent living to appropriately supported independence in their own home, apartment, or condo. I am also a member of the Michigan Developmental Disability Council where I chair the Public Policy Committee. Through my work with Oasis Community of West Michigan, I also work as an advocate in Ottawa County promoting Self-Directed Services and the development of affordable, community inclusive, and disability accessible housing.

Scheduling details

Do you need any accommodations in your role as a facilitator? If yes, what are they?

None

Times of the day you are available to facilitate

Mornings, afternoons, and early evening.

Days of the week you are available to facilitate

Most weekdays. Weekends when necessary and schedule allows.

Graphic locations you are available to facilitate

In Person: *Kent, Ottawa, Allegan, and Muskegon Counties. Occasionally others as need appears and circumstances allow.*

Virtually: *Anywhere I can be helpful*

Do you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access for virtual facilitations?

Yes, to all of these!