

# Independent Facilitator Biography

## **Contact Information**

**Name:** Susan Onan-Swartz

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## **About the Facilitator**

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

I have worked with IDD adults for over 20 years in a variety of roles. As Executive Director of BrickWays, I have been part of the team developing Community Living Supports programs compliant with the IPOS, reviewed IPOS documentation for clarity and compliance with stated goals and assisted in creating individual service strategies to address the unique challenges faced by individuals.

### **Why do you want to serve as an Independent Facilitator?**

I work with many families in my role at BrickWays and also receive numerous inquiries from families who are often overwhelmed with understanding and obtaining services. I feel that my experience will be a great benefit to these families and individuals in negotiating the process to obtain service that both represents the desires of the individual and the needs to maintain employment, skills and housing.

### **What are some 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 am not currently fluent in another language but have some understanding of Spanish and sign language. I have worked with many people who have difficulty communicating and am patient so that I take the time to be certain I can understand what is being communicated.

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

Local and State Chamber of Commerce  
Michigan Assisted Living Association  
Disability Advocates formerly Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services  
Michigan Non-profit Association (MNA)  
Michigan Association of Non-profit Resources (MANPRR)

Updated: SO-S, 12/07/2023

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute (MI-DDI), March 2021

## **Scheduling Details**

**Do you need any accommodations in your role as a facilitator? If yes, what are they?** No

**Times of day you are available to facilitate:** Will schedule according to need.

**Days of the week you are available to facilitate:** Will schedule according to need.

**Geographic locations you are available to facilitate:** Grand Traverse, Missaukee, Wexford

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

## **Independent Facilitator Level of Competency**

**Level of Competency: I (Trained)**

Level 1: Independent Facilitator has completed the Independent Facilitator training provided by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University.