



THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR IN SELF-DETERMINATION

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In the Lanterman Act

- “Independent facilitator”
 - Selected and directed by the participant
 - Cannot provide any other service to participant
 - May assist the participant in making informed decisions
 - Assist in identifying immediate and long-term needs, developing options to meet those needs, leading, participating, or advocating on behalf of the participant in the person-centered planning process and development of the IPP, and obtaining identified services and supports
- The cost is paid by the participant out of individual budget.
- An independent facilitator shall receive training in the principles of self-determination, the person-centered planning process etc. at his or her own cost
- Facilitator is optional

Facilitator Tasks

- Provide guidance, resource information and support
- Assist in defining support needs and life dreams
- Assist with locating and developing innovative resources
- Support with advocacy and advice
- Develop and coordinate person-centered planning meetings including scheduling meeting, writing plan, and developing the individual budget
- Assist the participant with implementation of the plan including negotiating prices, developing and issuing contracts and agreements
- Assist to find supports to meet the changing needs of the participant

From material developed by Russell Rankin, Kern Regional Center Self-Determination Pilot Project Liaison, and language from CA's Self-Determination law. – Autism Society of Los Angeles, November 2014



Facilitator Tasks

- Maintain regular face to face or telephone contact with participant if desired by participant
- Assist with mediation on any issues
- Provide intervention in complex and/or high risk situations
- Maintain confidentiality and secure signed releases
- Ensure public funds are used appropriately
- Maintain a working relationship emphasizing quality, collaboration and partnership
- Facilitate emergency intervention plans as needed.

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What Makes a Good Facilitator?

- “Skilled generalist”
 - Strong personal qualities
 - Values system that recognizes the participant’s inherent worth, uniqueness, and right to live the life they choose
- Must understand
 - Person-centered planning/thinking
 - How the developmental disabilities service system works

Personal Qualities & Skills of a Good Facilitator

- A commitment to empowering people and safeguarding basic human rights
- An acceptance of the participant's right to make their own decisions without imposing personal or professional bias
- Self-directed and able to prioritize work tasks
- Calm under pressure



Personal Qualities & Skills of a Good Facilitator

- Other qualities
 - Tact
 - Diplomacy
 - Initiative
 - Sound judgment
 - Empathy
 - Patience
 - Integrity
 - Sense of humor
 - Tenacity
 - Trustworthiness



Any questions?



Citations

- References in the law
 - WIC §4685.8(b)(2)(E)
 - WIC §4685.8(c)(2)
 - WIC §4685.8(d)(3)(A)
 - WIC §4685.8(d)(3)(F)
 - WIC §4685.8(n)(1)(A)(iii)
 - WIC §4685.8(n)(1)(B)(iii)