



**STATE COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

# **OVERVIEW: THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR IN SELF-DETERMINATION**

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# The Basics

- Provided for in Self-Determination
- Optional
- Chosen by you
- Paid for out of your budget
- Helps you navigate and use self-determination effectively

# What does a Facilitator do?

- That depends on what you want and need! Some optional roles:
  - Planner
  - Resource developer
  - Negotiator
  - Mediator
  - Advocate

# Planning

- Helps you with:
  - Logistics for planning meeting
  - Finding a good person-centered planning tool
  - Preparation
  - Getting your ideas into words and practical steps
  - Identifying needs, challenges and solutions
  - Identifying consequences
  - Figuring out steps to reach your goals

# Resource Developer

- Does research
- Thinks creatively
- Pursues possible resources
- Links you up – you decide what you'll use

# Negotiator/Mediator

- Helps you negotiate terms and rates of contracts
- Helps solve problems that might arise
- Helps two sides come to a resolution in a conflict

# Advocate

- On your side
- Fights for your rights
- Helps you fight for your own rights

# What to look for

- Sees you as the leader
- Listens well
- Creative
- Understands system
- Organized
- Calm, level-headed
- Has good judgment
- Other qualities important to you



# Areas of Expertise

- Not all facilitators will know everything.  
What do you need them to know?
  - Education
  - Transition
  - Employment
  - Adult services world
  - Grant opportunities
  - Community resources
  - Other specialized areas

# Put it together

- Decide what you need in a facilitator
  - Roles
  - Character
  - Knowledge
  - Beliefs about people with disabilities
  - Areas of expertise
- To help you select a good facilitator

# 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)