

## **Roles and Responsibilities of an Independent Facilitator In California's Self-Determination Program**

A participant may choose to hire an Independent Facilitator to assist them with their participation in California's Self-Determination Program. As defined by the self-determination law, an Independent Facilitator means:

*A person, selected and directed by the participant, who is not otherwise providing services to the participant pursuant to his or her IPP and is not employed by a person providing services to the participant.*

The independent facilitator may assist the participant in making informed decisions about the individual budget, and in locating, accessing, and coordinating services and supports consistent with the participant's IPP. He or she is available to 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 of the independent facilitator, if any, shall be paid by the participant out of his or her individual budget. An independent facilitator shall receive training in the principles of self-determination, the person-centered planning process, and the other responsibilities described in this paragraph at his or her own cost.

The Independent Facilitator can do some or all of the following:

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

*From material developed by Russell Rankin, Kern Regional Center Self Determination Pilot Project Liaison and language from California's 2013 self-determination law*