

# INDEPENDENT FACILITATION:



## What's It All About?

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

### What is independent facilitation?

An Independent Facilitator is an individual who facilitates the Person-Centered Planning (PCP) process in collaboration with the person. In Michigan, individuals' receiving support through the Community Mental Health Service Provider (CMHSP) have a right to choose an independent or external facilitator for their PCP. The terms independent and external mean that the facilitator is independent of or external from the CMHSP. It means that the person has no financial interest in the outcome of the supports and services outlined in the PCP. CMHSP's are required to have contracts with enough independent facilitators to ensure availability and choice of people to meet their needs. Independent facilitators must not have any other role within the CMHSP. The Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) permits billing for independent facilitation as one aspect of coverage called "Treatment Planning." This is billed to Medicaid under code H0032. Using an independent facilitator is valuable in many different circumstances, not just when there is disagreement or conflict.

### You should you use an Independent Facilitator when:

- ✓ You want your needs and desires put forward by someone who doesn't decide what will be paid for
- ✓ You are concerned that your plan will not become action
- ✓ You need some changes in your life
- ✓ You want control of planning your life

For information or questions contact the Developmental Disabilities Council at: (517) 335-3158, or on the web at: [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)

### The role of the independent facilitator

- ✓ Personally know or get to know the individual who is the focus person of the planning
- ✓ Help the person with all pre-planning activities and assist in inviting participants chosen by the person to the meeting(s)
- ✓ Assist the person to choose planning tool(s) to use in the PCP process
- ✓ Facilitate the PCP meeting(s), or support the individuals to facilitate his or her own PCP meeting(s)
- ✓ Provide needed information and support to ensure that the person directs the process.
- ✓ Make sure the person is heard and understood
- ✓ Keep the focus on the person
- ✓ Develop a person-centered plan in partnership with the person that expresses the person's goals
- ✓ Is written in a language understandable to the person
- ✓ Provides for services and supports to help the person achieve their goals

### Who can be an Independent Facilitator?

- ✓ An advocate
- ✓ Someone you trust
- ✓ Someone who puts your needs FIRST
- ✓ Someone other than your Case Manager, or Supports Coordinator
- ✓ A member of your family

Any person you want, can choose to help you at no charge, or you can facilitate your own PCP. However, to be paid through Medicaid, the facilitator must be free of any financial interest in the outcome of the supports and services outlined in the PCP and be trained to be an Independent Facilitator.