

*Julie M. Alexander*

**CAREER OBJECTIVE:** To work at an independent living center assisting people with disabilities in living more independently in the community.

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Ability to work with consumers and others in the community to meet consumers' needs and resolve problems.
- Skilled in providing advocacy services and promoting community change.
- Vast knowledge of community resources and services other agencies provide for people with disabilities.
- Vast experience in providing independent living skills training to consumers with a wide range of disabilities.
- Knowledge of the Medicaid, County and State systems set-up to support individuals with disabilities.
- Determination and perseverance needed to assist individuals with disabilities in finding resources to deal with unique situations.
- Experience in assisting families with members who have disabilities in evaluating consumer needs.
- Ability to provide families and individuals with disabilities resources so they can plan for the long-term future needs of individuals with disabilities
- Experience in setting up legislative advocacy visits and providing testimony on a variety of issues affecting individuals with disabilities.

**Professional Boards**

- Co-Chair of the Wauwatosa Committee for Citizens with Disabilities
- Chair of the Independence *First* Long Term Care Consumer Advocacy Team

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

- National Council of Independent Living (NCIL)
- National Rehabilitation Council (NRC)
- Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council (WRC)
- Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association (WRA)

## PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Created a model program for Nursing Home Transition. Developed a consumer-based assessment tool to assist consumers in completing the Nursing Home Transition process. This program successfully relocated more than one hundred individuals into the community. Provided consultation to the State and other independent living centers in our State and Country relating to successful Nursing Home Transition model. Provided information for a number of teleconferences on Nursing Home Transition.
2. Assisted in developing and facilitating nine State Conferences dealing with employment and transition. Helped set up speakers; and was a speaker at a conference. Facilitated sessions and assisted in registration and services at these conferences.
3. Served on the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council for six years. Was Vice-Chair of the Council for three of those years and provided input and guidance to DVR and DWD. The Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council received co-signatory authority on the State Plan for employment for people with disabilities during my tenure. This is the only State Council that has such authority.

## Awards

- March 2008-Received an Award from the US Post Office/Women Putting Their Stamp on Metro Milwaukee
- October 2015-Received an the Madonna Award for Professional Excellence from Mount Mary University

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- November 2020 to Present** INDEPENDENCE FIRST (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)  
Promotion to **Community Living Transition Specialist**  
Working with individuals transitioning out of Healthcare Facilities or Institutions into their own home. Also working With individuals who are in danger of having to leave their Own home due to healthcare conditions or disability issues. I am working to assist these individuals to live in their own Homes rather that move into a healthcare facility or Institution.
- November 2000 - 2020** INDEPENDENCE *FIRST* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)  
Promotion to **Lead Coordinator Independent Living Services Program**  
Provide supervision on an as needed basis to coordinators. Provide leadership guidance and skills training activities to coordinators. Heads up Statewide Nursing Home Transition contract. Provide monthly reports to the state

coordinator and other needed documentation. Provide information on Nursing Home Transition for teleconferences in the state and other parts of the country related to Nursing Home Transition. Facilitates as needed on another county contract related to Nursing Home Transition. Assist other management as they interview for new staff. Provide guidance and supervision to interns as needed. Provide advocacy skills training and knowledge to consumers with disabilities, their families and the community at large. Served on a conference planning committee for a statewide rehabilitation and transition conference for 14 years, and the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council for 6 years. Serves on the NCIL ADA/Civil Rights Sub-Committee and the NCIL Mental Health Task Force. Served as Co-Chair of the NCIL ADA Civil Rights Subcommittee for a number of years. Served as a Reviewer for RSA in 2010 looking over grants for funding additional Independent Living Centers. Is able to teach classes to consumers with disabilities on the following subjects: ADA, Self and Systems Advocacy, Transportation, Housing and Community Resources. Provides testimony and participates in systems change activities on a local and national basis.

**1994 to 2000**

**Independent Living Skills and Advocacy Coordinator**

Testify at hearings and organized and participated in system change activities, e.g. protests, letter writing campaigns, and advocacy training sessions. Set up legislative appointments to visit representatives in Washington, D.C. and Wisconsin. Continue to provide skills training, advocacy and Nursing Home Transition to consumers with disabilities. Continue to serve on boards on a local and state basis. Serves on a conference planning committee for a statewide rehabilitation and transition conference, the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council, and the ADA NCIL Sub-Committee. Is able to teach classes to consumers with disabilities on the following subjects: ADA, Self and Systems Advocacy, Transportation, Housing, and Community Resources.

**1992 to 1994**

**Independent Living Skills Coordinator**

Provide long-term case management and independent living skills training to individuals with disabilities. Has specialty in working with individuals who have cognitive

disabilities or head injuries. Started to create a program for Nursing Home Transition of individuals with all types of disabilities from institutions into community settings. Provide advocacy services to assist consumers as they deal with County, State and Federal Systems. Complete assessments for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as requested. Serve on community boards and involved in community activities.

**1991 to 1992**

**Case Manager**

Worked with people who had head injuries needing independent living skills training and advocacy assistance.

**1986 to 1989**

MORTGAGE GUARANTY INSURANCE CORPORATION (MGIC) Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Claims Tele-Counselor**

Contact homeowners delinquent in home loan mortgages, probed hardship situations and assisted in the development of a budget system agreeable to the lender and MGIC. Handled incoming calls, including borrowers, lenders and realtors. Made follow-up calls.

**EDUCATION:**

*UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE (UW-M)*  
1994 Master of Science in Educational Rehabilitation Counseling. G.P.A. 3.778

*MOUNT MARY COLLEGE (MMC) Milwaukee, Wisconsin*  
1981 Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science. G.P.A. 3.30

**VOLUNTEER WORK:**

March 1991 through August 1991 – Volunteered at IndependenceFirst helping update housing lists and providing project support.

**REFERENCES:**

Available upon request.