

Example Scenario – Robert

Name: Robert

Dx's: Alzheimer's, high blood pressure

Family/Supports: Wife (Linda); children Robert, Jr. (lives with parents), Dahlia (lives in Portland), and Marybeth (lives in California).

Age: 65

Language: English

Income/Services: Social Security Benefits, SNAP

Home Setting: Lives in his home that he and his wife own in La Grande.

Social History: Robert was born and raised in Clatsop county. He went received his bachelor's degree in Engineering from Oregon State University in 1976. Robert met his wife Linda when they were both students at OSU. He liked her fiery spirit and love for travel. He had a stable career and family; he and Linda have three children. Robert retired in 2007. Due to the financial recession in 2008 Robert and Linda lost a lot of equity and are now struggling to recoup. The retirement funds that they had saved are all but gone and they are relying on social security benefits.

Their oldest son, Robert Jr, who they call Junior, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age 3. His family pursued SSI benefits for Junior and has a personal agent through the local IDD brokerage who has authorized a personal support worker to assist with meal times and bathing. Linda provides all other direct care. Junior's symptoms include muscle weakness, involuntary movement in hands and arms, difficulty swallowing and risk of aspiration combined with some digestive issues. Junior can sometimes walk with the use of a walker or cane but tires easily and often uses his electric wheelchair. He needs hands on assistance with eating especially on days when the involuntary movements in his hands and arms are bad.

Presenting Issue: Robert was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2016. Linda reports that his condition has worsened rapidly. Robert gets lost easily and cannot leave his home without be accompanied by another person. Robert has a hard time recognizing when he needs to eat; when he does, he will attempt to make food for himself and often cannot complete the tasks on his own, he regularly gets frustrated and walks away from the kitchen with the stove still on. He struggles to communicate his needs to Linda. Robert has cried, yelled, and thrown objects when he is very upset. Linda is Robert's only care provider. Linda is very concerned about her ability to continue to be Junior's full-time care giver and meet the care needs of Robert. She mentions this to Junior's personal agent at the DD brokerage during a call.

Linda found a brochure for the Alzheimer's Association but can't read some of the print because her eye sight is worsening. Their daughter Dahlia said she would bring her laptop and help her mom investigate that resource during her next visit. Linda no longer uses her home computer because the letters on the keyboard are hard to read.

What supports, referrals, and information can the personal agent provide Linda with? If Linda asks about supports for Junior, specifically some sort of care setting, what information and directions will she be given? What agencies in your group can help meet Junior's needs? What does the process look like to engage Junior in these programs or supports?

If Linda and Dahlia are referred to your agency when they call the Alzheimer's Association what can they expect when they call your office? Each agency in your group should discuss the process Linda and Dahlia would go through and the resources available to them through each agency as they follow up with the different referrals.

Explore the assistive technology and devices displayed around the room and discuss the case with the representatives from Access Technologies, Inc and Public Utility Commission present at the workshop today. What assistive technology would be useful for Linda, Robert and Junior? What would be the most affordable way to access these items?