

Example Scenario – Sandy

Consumers' Name: Sandy, Frank and Sam

Dx's: Down Syndrome, mild cognitive impairment, and dysphasia

Family/Supports: Sandy's mother lives in Portland and has started visiting more often since the death of Sandy's father 2 years ago. Frank's family live in Ohio and try to visit once a year. Neither have siblings.

Age: Sandy – 28, Frank – 30, Sam - 5

Language: English

Income: Standard employment, employer sponsored disability

Home Setting: Purchasing a house

Social History:

Family of three have lived in their new house for just over a year. Sandy and Frank both grew up in families that moved around a lot. In response they set a goal when they had their first child, Sam, to purchase a house before he entered school in attempts to stay in the same neighborhood during his school age years.

Sam started kindergarten just a couple months ago and the school had called to express they had concerns about Sam's developmental health. They wanted to have a meeting to discuss their observations and further testing for potential intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sandy and Frank always just considered themselves lucky they had a laidback child who wasn't overly friendly with strangers or family he hadn't seen recently. Since he was their first child they doted on him and enjoyed helping him get dressed, cut his food, and other activities requiring fine motor skills. Their doctor always seemed to think Sam was healthy. During the well child checks they measured his height and weight and asked about his diet and physical activity. It always ended on a positive note that he was in a healthy range. They scheduled the appointment with the school immediately wondering what signs they should have caught sooner.

Rachel - What are some symptoms the kid might be expressing I can suggest?

On her way to the appointment with the school Sandy was involved in a severe car accident. She was taken to the hospital where it was determined she was now paralyzed from the waist down. She also suffered a concussion and broken arm. Frank and Sam has spent as much time at the hospital and the rehab center, but Frank's sick time is running low and although he knows he can apply for family leave, financially they cannot afford for him to take time off. He is thankful that Sandy has both short term and long term disability insurance through her work which will help cover some of her lost income.

Rachel – does trauma impact DD consumers differently? Are there some points here about Sam I can make?

Sandy is almost complete with her short term rehabilitation and will have to return home soon. With her broken arm and loss of function from waist down and she needs 1 person assist transfers, pushing of wheelchair while arm heals and cleaning after toileting and bathing.

Frank must return to work in 2 weeks and is struggling to know what to do next. His mother-in-law has agreed to stay with them for a few weeks after Sandy returns home. She suggested that Frank call the local ADRC as they were very helpful after her husband had a stroke. She even suggested they may have some resources for children if Sam does have an intellectual or developmental disability.

The team should take a no-wrong door approach to this case. The family is new to all types of social services available locally and through the county, state, and federal programs. When Frank calls ADRC what resources or services will be offered to him. Where will he be referred? What type of hand off to other agencies will happen to ensure the family doesn't get lost in the system?

If the family is referred to another agency in your group, that agency should discuss their process, resources and any additional referrals they would make.

All agencies should have an opportunity to share what resources or services they could potentially provide to the family and opportunities for collaboration between the agencies.

The group should staff the case with the representatives in the room to see if Assistive Technology Inc or Portland Utility Commission has any devices that could assist any members of the family.

Are there any other community resources your team is aware of that could help this family?