
AUTISTIC CONSULTANT

Oswin Latimer



Personal Message

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

Hi, I'm Oswin!

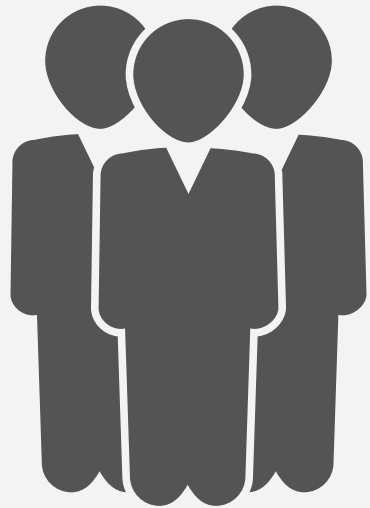
"When I first discovered I was an Autistic person, my singular focus was to find a way to make life better for people like me and for children like my children. In the years that followed, it became clear to me that the only way to make that happen was to fundamentally shift the way we talk about autism and discuss what autism is.

More than my experience being Autistic and raising autistic children, this meant understanding multiple experiences and what research could tell us about how our brains work. Being able to share this with others is one of the greatest triumphs of my life."

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

Areas of Expertise

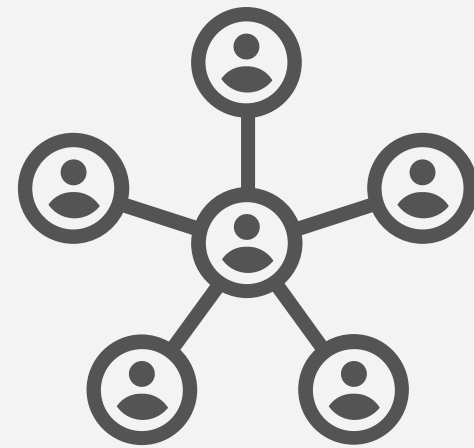
Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant



Leadership



Public
Speaking



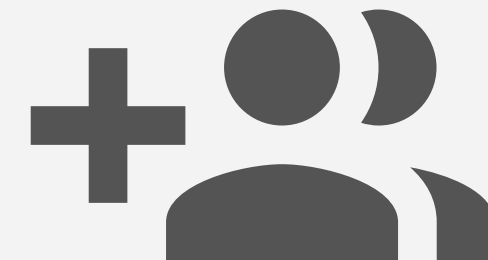
Program
Development
& Grass Roots
Organizing



Research



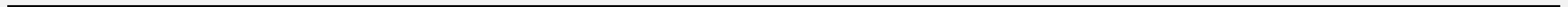
Community
Outreach,
Organizing &
Engagement



Training &
Education



Grant
Acquisition &
Writing



Leadership Summary

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

Oswin Latimer, formerly Melody Latimer, is a lifelong advocate for practices and policies of issues of importance to autistic people. As a recognized expert and leader in his field, he works to empower people to have a voice in the direction and quality of their lives. His experience in leadership, educating, research, and public advocacy for issues surrounding autistic people have made him a highly respected consultant, public speaker, and presenter both nationally and locally.

Oswin is the founder and President of Foundations for Divergent Minds (FDM) and former Director of Community Engagement for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN). He has served as a consultant on policy discussion to the US Department of Labor, Department of Education, and Department of Personnel Management. He is also a valued consultant to many parents, offering useful and practical advice on how to organize their homes and create individualized education plans that best meet the needs of their child.

Oswin Latimer was featured in the 2013 documentary, *Citizen Autistic*, a film directed by William Davenport exploring the advocacy work of autism rights activists. He is regularly called upon for media interviews and to speak at local and national conferences on a variety of topics, including language and perception, executive functioning, and autistic parenting. Oswin also compiled and edited *Navigating College: A Handbook on Self Advocacy Written for Autistic Students from Autistic Adults*.

Leadership Summary

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

1. Decision-Making/Decisiveness
2. Integrity
3. Team Building/Relationships
4. Problem Solving
5. Teaching

Teaching

Teaching, for me, has always been about practical communication of an articulated vision. First, you have to have a vision, which I do. Second, you have to take what you know and present in a way that is digestible for your audience. When I began Foundations for Divergent Minds (FDM), my mentor, who has been working in the field for 30 years, took my course. Afterwards, she told me that she already knew 75 percent of what I was teaching. But she didn't know the other 25 percent, and that, along with the way I combined it all together, is what she said made my teaching revolutionary.

Leadership Summary

Relationships and Team Building

Communication is at the core of relationships and team building, and I've found that listening is the far too often neglected element of that two-way street. During my time at the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), I learned the value of both listening to others and to myself as a leader. When I started FDM, I was careful to explain my specific needs to anyone who I worked with. Consequently, several people who worked for us expressed how life-changing it has been to have such open and effective communication in a workplace.

Integrity

Good communication requires authenticity, and authenticity is the bedrock of integrity. One of the greatest obstacles in life is not being what others would want you to be, but rather than being yourself. I often think of integrity in terms of how I treat and support others. The strategies integrated into the support systems of FDM are built around personal, professional, and community integrity. We set the bar high in this way, which, for many people, can appear at first to be so far out of the box that it seems unattainable. Integrity, however, is both necessary and achievable for everyone. Personally, I utilize the same strategies we teach others in FDM as I do in my personal life.

Employment Background

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

PRESIDENT FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINDS JAN 2018 – PRESENT

- Lead advocacy, programming, education, training, and outreach efforts through a framework designed by autistic and neurodivergent people for use by families and professionals working with autistic and neurodivergent children.
- Provide training and consultation for parents, families, and organizations in adjustments and assessments to improve the environment for autistic children.
- Consult and provide resources for parents to identify sensory needs to make environmental changes and teach children to advocate for their own needs.

Employment Background

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

- Encourage developing steps to increase accessibility in all areas of life through executive functioning by remedying complex or unclear systems.
- Honor all forms of communication and work to support children in their authentic communication style through technology, ASL, picture systems, etc.
- Promote self-advocacy skills and accommodations in home, school, and community to support reciprocal understanding between neurodivergent children and their peers.
- Works with children to identify and discover what the child needs and create a system of support to improve their quality of life.

Employment Background

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

DISABILITY CONSULTANT SELF-EMPLOYED OCT 2013 – PRESENT

- Offer parent consultation in neurodiversity-oriented education planning.
- Provide professional training in home and community based services, transition to post-secondary education, and community life, executive functioning and autism in the workplace.
- Create and provide research-based presentations and best practices in areas including but not limited to language and autism acceptance.

Employment Background

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK FEB 2011 – SEP 2013

- Produce newsletters, action alerts, press releases other materials for distribution.
- Lead the Autism Campus Inclusion project including coordination of all ASAN US chapters, interviewing potential volunteer chapter leaders, and maintaining database of resumes for ASAN's Employment Initiative and pilot internship programs.
- Promote principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism and advocate for equal access, rights, and opportunities for autistic people.
- Empower autistic people to take control of their lives and future of a common community, and organize to ensure their voices are heard nationally and globally.

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Publications

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NAVIGATING COLLEGE: A HANDBOOK ON SELF ADVOCACY WRITTEN FOR AUTISTIC STUDENTS FROM AUTISTIC ADULTS

"Navigating college is an introduction to the college experience from those of us who've been there. The writers and contributors are Autistic adults, and we're giving you the advice that we wish someone could have given us when we headed off to college."

THINKING PERSON'S GUIDE TO AUTISM

Autism News and Resources:
from autistic people,
professionals, and parents

PARENTS MAGAZINE

4 Moms Share What It's Like to
Be an Autistic Parent

Media

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CITIZEN AUTISTIC (DOCUMENTARY FILM)

Self-advocacy, ableism, neurodiversity spectrum, ...discuss how Autism Speaks, one of the largest organizations in America, relies on propaganda to raise funds for genetic research without considering families touched by autism. ...Citizen Autistic seeks to expose the controversies provoked by the organization's so-called advocacy by giving voice to some of the most articulate members of the communities it claims to represent.

AUTISM WOMEN'S NETWORK: IPADS FOR AUTISM WITH SHANNON DES ROCHES ROSA & MELODY LATIMER (RADIO PODCAST)

"Shannon Des Roches Rosa and Melody Latimer have been advocating for the iPad and its numerous accessories due to the technology proving to be a valuable resource for countless neurodiverse children, including their own young sons. Melody continues to share with others the progress her son has made in the short time since he received his iPad this past Christmas, and Shannon has described her child's experience with his iPad as a 'near miracle.'"

Media

NONCOMPLIANT A PODCAST ABOUT NEURODIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DISRUPTING THE AUTISM SERVICES MARKET

INTERVIEW WITH FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINDS FOUNDER OSWIN LATIMER (PODCAST)

"Oswin Latimer shares how they came create the Foundations for Divergent Minds framework with a central focus on happiness and quality of life. Based on neurodiversity, FDM works on the principle that when a child struggles it is because their surroundings need to be adjusted, and assessment should find what is missing from their environment."

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

Conferences

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Autistic Consultant

PRESENTER

AUTISM SOCIETY

TEACHING AND ACCOMMODATING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

An often-overlooked difficulty in people on the Autism Spectrum, Executive Functioning, can create huge hurdles for children and adults alike. Learn how to identify Executive Functioning difficulties; create and evaluate plans to target barriers; and using high-tech and low-tech solutions, and design individualized accommodations.

Conferences

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Autistic Consultant

PRESENTER

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES ON ACCESS, INCLUSION & DISABILITY "WHAT I KNOW"

Resistant Practices:
Early Childhood Education and
Artful Advocacy from Neurodiversity
Perspectives

PRESENTER

2013 44TH AUTISM SOCIETY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

Autistic Parenting Practices
From An Autistic Family

PRESENTER

2018 AUTISTICS SYMPOSIUM BY NEURODIVERSITY NAVIGATORS OF BELLEVUE COLLEGE

Creating Support from Early
Intervention Through Adulthood

MOBILE

972-908-0870

EMAIL ADDRESS

oswin.latimer@divergentminds.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.facebook.com/OGLatimer>



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/oswin-latimer-28512520>

Contact Details

Oswin Latimer
Autistic Consultant

Oswin Latimer - Autistic Consultant - Short Bio

Oswin Latimer, formerly Melody Latimer, is a lifelong advocate for practices and policies of issues of importance to autistic people. As a recognized expert and leader in his field, he works to empower people to have a voice in the direction and quality of their lives. His experience in leadership, educating, research, and public advocacy for issues surrounding autistic people have made him a highly respected consultant, public speaker, and presenter both nationally and locally.

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Oswin Latimer - Autistic Consultant - Long Bio

Oswin Latimer, formerly Melody Latimer, is a lifelong advocate for practices and policies of issues of importance to autistic people. As an indigenous, autistic trans man, parent to 3 neurodivergent children, and a disability advocate with over a decade of experience, Oswin works to ensure the meaningful involvement of autistic individuals and empowers them to have a voice in the direction and quality of their lives. Oswin is a recognized expert and leader in his field, consulting at all levels in making policy decisions, promoting a culture of inclusion and respect for all, and helping to enforce the rights of autistic people to equal opportunities both at school and work. He is a champion of equitable funding for community services and supporter of valuable research and how it can best provide support for autistic people.

Oswin Latimer is the founder and President of Foundations for Divergent Minds (FDM), whose model provides a framework designed by autistic and people for use by families and professionals working with autistic and neurodivergent children. He is passionately committed to educating people in alternative methods to support and instruct autistic and neurodivergent people and providing a comprehensive approach and practical steps for parents and professionals to follow. Oswin's methods are fully supported by extensive global research and best practices and are based on thoughtfully vetted neurodiversity principles. His focus on assessing what is absent from a child's environment and recommending practical adjustments is a skill uniquely suited to Oswin and his extensive hands-on experience and background.

As the Director of Community Engagement for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), Oswin quickly rose from being a leader for the Dallas-Ft. Worth chapter to lead the national office in Washington, DC. There, he oversaw the communications

Oswin Latimer - Autistic Consultant - Long Bio (continued)

committee, ASAN's network of chapters, and the organization's pilot employment program with Freddie Mac, placing well qualified autistic employees. Oswin was frequently sought out for policy discussions with many government offices, including the Department of Labor, Department of Education, and Department of Personnel Management. They also planned and organized the Autism Campus Inclusion training, providing autistic college students the skills they needed to promote positive change for autistic students on their campuses.

Oswin is much more than a veteran activist in the autistic and disability communities, he is also a seasoned parent who has used his knowledge and experienced expertise as a disability consultant. He has provided hundreds, if not thousands, of parents useful and practical advice on how to organize their homes and create individualized education plans that best meet the needs of their child.

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