



Shane Fetui – My Story

I was 16 years old in November 2000, a sophomore in high school when I suffered my traumatic brain injury by falling off a hood of car. My mom was working and had a feeling something was wrong with me so she came home early and found me lethargic and thought I was on drugs. She called 911. I was air lifted by helicopter to Dubuque, Iowa to Mercy hospital. Six to nine men had to hold me down, as I was combative. I was then air lifted to Iowa City to the University of Iowa hospitals. I was placed in a medical induced coma and they took my left bone flap out of my head.

When I woke up from my coma, I asked where my tongue pierce was at. My mom said if I you get thru this I will buy you a 100 tongue rings. I was in recovery at the University of Iowa Hospitals for three to four months, where the doctors asked me pretty common questions such as what year it is, what my birthday was. I had to relearn how to walk, talk and they had me do some memory work. I returned home eventually.

We tried to have services in our home, but it was difficult to find services. My struggles included: mood, anger, anxiety and depression. Because I was aggressive with people and out of control with my anger, 24-hour care services were found at a facility in Dubuque, Iowa. I was at this facility for 7 months. I was then transferred to a facility in DeWitt, Iowa, which was also 24 hour services. I was not at this placement for very long as I was moved to Camanche, Iowa into hourly Home and Community Based services (HCBS).

All of these years I struggled with taking my medications. I did not want to take meds. My hourly services failed due to lack of support, having the wrong support and my unwillingness to stay healthy. The agency discharged me. I then moved to Des Moines, Iowa into a rehabilitation group home that specialized in brain injury. I was there for two years when I tricked my mom into taking me back home to Clinton, Iowa, where she was living. I was there for a week and a half and then was transported to Brookhaven Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At Brookhaven I achieved a lot of goals such as becoming my own guardian. I had a job coach and had job working maintenance. I made it to the transitional living center program. I became in control of my moods, anger and behaviors. I learned the importance of medications and how to deal with my anxiety. I stayed at Brookhaven for about two and half years and was ready to move out/graduate from the program.

In June 2016, with the help from REM of Iowa and Money Follows the Person (MFP), I was able to move back to Iowa and into the community. REM provided me with 24 hours of HCBS Brain Injury Waiver services and MFP offered me enhanced case management services, household set up items, rent deposits, and specialized employment services. I lived with two other men in a three bedroom apartment. While I was at REM, I became my own med manager with doctor's approval; passed my National Careers Readiness Certificate test; passed the Math Assessment/Placement test and was accepted into Des Moines Area Community College to get a culinary arts degree. I was also successful in taking my medications on a regular basis, controlling anxiety, my anger and frustrations. With my success and goal achievement I moved out to my own apartment where I receive hourly community services.

I am grateful and thankful to the following services and supports that helped me achieve my successful journey: MFP; REM of Iowa; HCBC/IFA housing; IVRS; IWD; Evlyn K Davis Center for Working Families; Premier Payee and Iowa Family Assistance.

“MFP is such a great program for people coming out of institutions” – Shane Fetui