

Portland State University Faculty Enhancement Grant (2009-2010) Proposal

An Examination of Consumer Services and Outcomes in the Oregon Brokerage System

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Abstract

(Word Count = 200)

Seven million individuals in the U.S. have a developmental disability to a degree that they need help with daily life activities. In response to these individuals' health, community living, and safety needs, and their associated service costs, the federal government has supported the development of innovative service models. Many of these models are based on self-determination principles that underlie the design of person-centered services.

Oregon is a national leader in offering person-centered services through *self-directed brokerages*. Oregon's statewide brokerage network consists of 14 regional providers serving 7,000 individuals with developmental disabilities. The brokerage system is Oregon's major program for serving adults with developmental disabilities living in the community, yet no system-wide evaluations of it have been conducted.

Drs. McBeath and Powers have been meeting with the Oregon Department of Human Services to plan a collaborative evaluation of the effectiveness of Oregon's brokerage system. Funding is requested to conduct research on this system using existing databases. The results of quantitative analyses will support the development of a grant proposal for a multi-year study of the Oregon brokerage system. Thus, the proposed research will promote the discovery of knowledge in a health policy area of substantial importance to state and federal agencies.