

Oregon Support Services Association (OSSA) Testimony

Katie Rose, Executive Director, OSSA

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Sub-Committee On Human Services

Invited Testimony on eXPRS History

February 10, 2015, 3:00 pm, HR B

My name is Katie Rose and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Support Services Association, representing Oregon's 13, primarily non-profit, Support Services Brokerages. The Brokerages were formed out of the Staley settlement in 2000 to facilitate services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in their own or in their family homes. Our services are based on a strong philosophy of self-determination where the individual and, in some instances, the family, direct their services. We currently support over 7,500 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who in turn employ over 9,000 Personal Support Workers.

What do Brokerages do for Oregon?

Support Services Brokerages provide Oregon with cost-effective CM services, provided primarily by small non-profits formed for the specific purpose of providing these services.

Brokerages create jobs for individual Personal Support Workers and local businesses all over the state.

Brokerages provide an extra layer of support to individuals with I/DD interacting with law enforcement, emergency services, hospitals, and other community resources.

The Support Service Brokerage system is a pioneering, progressive approach to services to people with I/DD, with a focus on helping people

live the lives of their choosing. It puts Oregon forward as a model for the nation in how to provide community-based services.

Current Conditions in the Field

The Community First Choice K Plan requires states to offer choice to people receiving services. Currently, Brokerages capacity is capped. In some parts of the state, there are people on waitlists to enter a Brokerage. This is a problem for Oregon because that's not choice. Additionally, Brokerages have a history of developing new community resources to meet individual needs. Currently there are no plans to expand capacity for Brokerages.

In the Governor's proposed budget, you'll see a line item to fund the Workload Model at 95 %. The workload model is new to the DD field; the modeling was done in May 2014 prior to the September 2014 implementation of eXPRS, and prior to the requirement to double the number of provider payrolls conducted each month. We are currently committing major resources and FTE to new eXPRS maintenance and interface responsibilities, presently unfunded

Because of this, even small reductions to this model's funding percentage will result in a cut to Brokerages biennium over biennium. Coming at a time of heavily increased responsibility, a funding loss would be extremely detrimental to our ability to serve Oregonians.

Please support the Governor's Budget allocation of the new workload model funded at 95%

Please add a budget note directing ODDS to open enrollment to Brokerages, assuring choice

OREGON SUPPORT SERVICES ASSOCIATION

oregonsupportservices.org



BROKERAGE CAPACITY

February 2015

MEMBERSHIP

Community Pathways Inc.
Creative Supports Inc.
Eastern Oregon Support
Services Brokerage
Full Access
Inclusion Inc.
Independence Northwest
Integrated Services Network
Mentor Oregon Metro
Mentor Oregon Mid-Valley
Resource Connections of
Oregon
Self Determination Resources Inc.
Southern Oregon Regional
Brokerage
UCP Connections

REPRESENTATION

OSSA represents 7,500 adult Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state.

OREGONIANS NEED TRUE CHOICE

"True choice" means that when a person makes an informed choice, that choice is honored without delay. We believe that Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right to informed choice of the full array of services for which they are eligible.

WE DO NOT HAVE CHOICE IN OUR SYSTEM UNTIL BROKERAGES HAVE CAPACITY

The Community First Choice Option (K Plan) directs that an individual entering or in services has the right to choose their case management entity. For adults with I/DD, DHS has expanded choice to local CDDPs as well as Brokerage agencies. However, because the Department has not increased service capacity in Brokerage contracts, individuals who choose a Brokerage in some parts of the state must wait to receive services from their chosen agency.

OUR ASK

We request that a budget note be added directing ODDS to open enrollment to brokerages, assuring choice in case management and adherence to Medicaid requirements.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Katie Rose, OSSA Executive Director at katierose@oregonsupportservices.org or (971)235-3671

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WHO ARE WE?

Support Services Brokerages are dynamic (primarily nonprofit) organizations providing high quality case management and facilitating in-home and community-based services to adult Oregonians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Brokerages have been serving Oregon since 2001 and presently support over 7,500 people with I/DD in living independently in the community, who in turn employ over 9,000 Personal Support Workers.

BROKERAGES OFFER:

- A cost-effective way for our state to offer inclusion and integration of all residents, regardless of disability
- A skilled assessment of what each person needs in order to live the life of their choosing
- Job opportunities for individuals and businesses that work with people with I/DD
- An extra layer of support to individuals interacting with hospitals, emergency services, law enforcement, and other community resources

QUESTIONS?

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