



NorthWest Senior and Disability Services

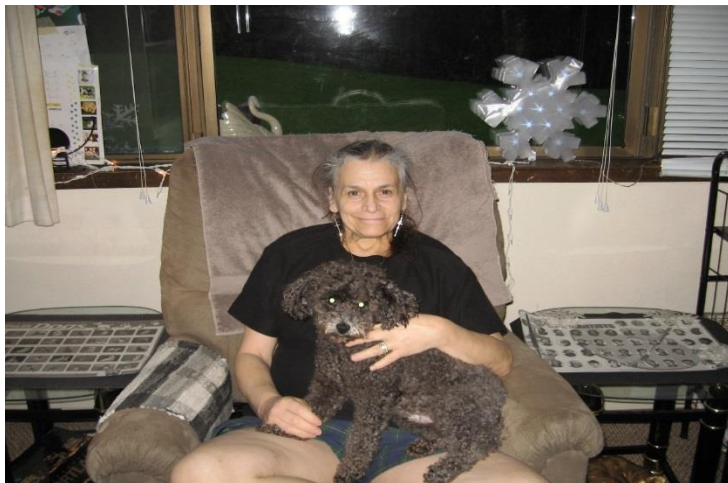
2014-2015 Expansion of Oregon Project Independence (OPI)

For

Adults with Disabilities

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Oregon Revised Statute 410.435

- In 2005 the Oregon Legislature amended the law for Oregon Project Independence (OPI) to expand eligibility requirements for OPI to cover persons 19 years of age or older with physical disabilities. However, the statute prohibited the implementation of the expansion until the amount of funding for OPI was “sufficient”.
- On July 1, 2014, HB 5201 authorized funding and directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop a one year pilot to expand OPI services to adults younger than 60 years of age.

OPI Expansion Pilot

- DHS selected seven Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to participate in the OPI Expansion project.
- DHS contracted with one of the seven, NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS), as the lead entity to manage the project.
- DHS established a steering committee to guide the pilot.
- DHS promulgated Oregon Administrative Rules at OAR 411-032-0050 to authorize the pilot, effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Consumer Data

Date	# of consumers enrolled
09/25/2014	52
10/29/2014	89
11/25/2014	166
12/23/2014	182
01/14/2015	205
02/02/2015	229
03/16/2015	287
04/16/2015	321
05/04/2015	351

Consumer Data

AAA (counties served)	# of consumers as of May 5	Projected # consumers by June 30
CAPECO (Morrow, Umatilla)	13	20
LCOG (Lane)	44	48
MCADVS (Multnomah)	151	186
NWSDS (Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clatsop)	23	35
OCWCOG (Linn, Benton, Lincoln)	47	70
RVCOG (Jackson, Josephine)	47	65
WCDAVS (Washington)	23	40
TOTAL	351	464

Consumer Demographics

- 77% of the consumers have a gross monthly income of less than \$1,500
- 80% having Social Security Disability as the income source
- 80% have Medicare for health insurance
- 78% indicate “liquid” resources of less than \$10,000 (\$15,000 for a couple)
- 73% are between the age of 50 and 59
- 74% live alone
- 60% are female and 40% are male
- 83% are white or Caucasian

Consumer Characteristics

- Using a validated tool to measure risk for an out-of-home placement, 73% of the consumers had an overall risk score of moderate to high.
- 30% report having a fall with injury in the past 6 months and report that their family and friends who provide them support are overwhelmed or stressed.
- 50% of the consumers have a Service Priority Level at 13 or below which means they meet the same functional eligibility criteria as an individual who qualifies for Medicaid funded services.

Lessons Learned (to date)

- *Outreach to Referral Network*: Initial and ongoing outreach to internal and community referral sources is critical. Dedicated staff time to deliver in-person outreach was found to be much more effective in building referral relationships than phone calls and printed materials.
- *Service Provider Capacity*: Several Area Agencies on Aging were hindered by a lack of capacity within their local service provider contracts to serve the pilot consumers.
- *Expansion of Medicaid to MAGI (modified adjusted gross income) population*: Difficulty accessing and communicating with state data systems about an individual's status with Medicaid caused frustration for both AAA staff and the consumers who were ultimately determined to be on Medicaid and therefore not eligible for OPI.

Lessons Learned (to date)

- *Unique Characteristics of Younger Individuals:*
 - Different life priorities; some still work part-time, strong desire to live independently, some not wanting to “give in” and accept help.
 - This cohort tends to have more natural supports and a broader community around them than older people. The pilot is providing services to people who otherwise would “fall through the cracks”; for some it is providing “stop gap” services until found eligible for more comprehensive services.
 - More so than with older individuals, this population has complex issues such as a physical disability with co-occurring mental health disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities and behaviors such as extreme hoarding.

BARBARA

Barbara is a 58 year old women that lives in Astoria, Oregon, with her dog named "Keiko". Barbara has a Master's degree in Special Education, and a teaching certificate. Barbara stated she loved her work and would love to be doing that again. Barbara has no children. Barbara has multiple chronic health conditions and is unable to use her right arm. Barbara has a friend in the complex to assist her with her laundry. Barbara receives 20 hours of assistance per month, through the OPI pilot program, at a cost of \$364.40. Barbara receives assistance with washing her hair, lunch and dinner preparation, and housekeeping. Her monthly income is \$882.



Darla

Darla is a 52 year old woman living alone in her Albany apartment. At one time, she was homeless for 6 years. She has gone through many difficult challenges in her life and is proud of the positive steps she has taken to create a home for herself and to live as independently as possible. Darla has multiple health conditions and has approximately 13 prescribed medications to manage on her own.

She is aware that sometimes she struggles with mild memory loss or confusion with her medications and will forget to take them. Food preparation and clean-up is especially challenging and it is made more difficult due to arthritic stiffness in her hands. She is a high fall risk especially when showering.

Darla is receiving Home Delivered Meals through OPI and 20 hours of in-home assistance each month. The in-home caregiver provides assistance with showering, household chores, shopping, laundry and a social connection with others.



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