

Background and Objectives

The study titled: *Parents Seeking Adult Services: Understanding Innovative Practices* aims to explain why and how certain formal or informal “innovative” supports are implemented and are effective for certain families. This poster will describe methodological, theoretical and empirical insights and approaches that inform the study’s framework.

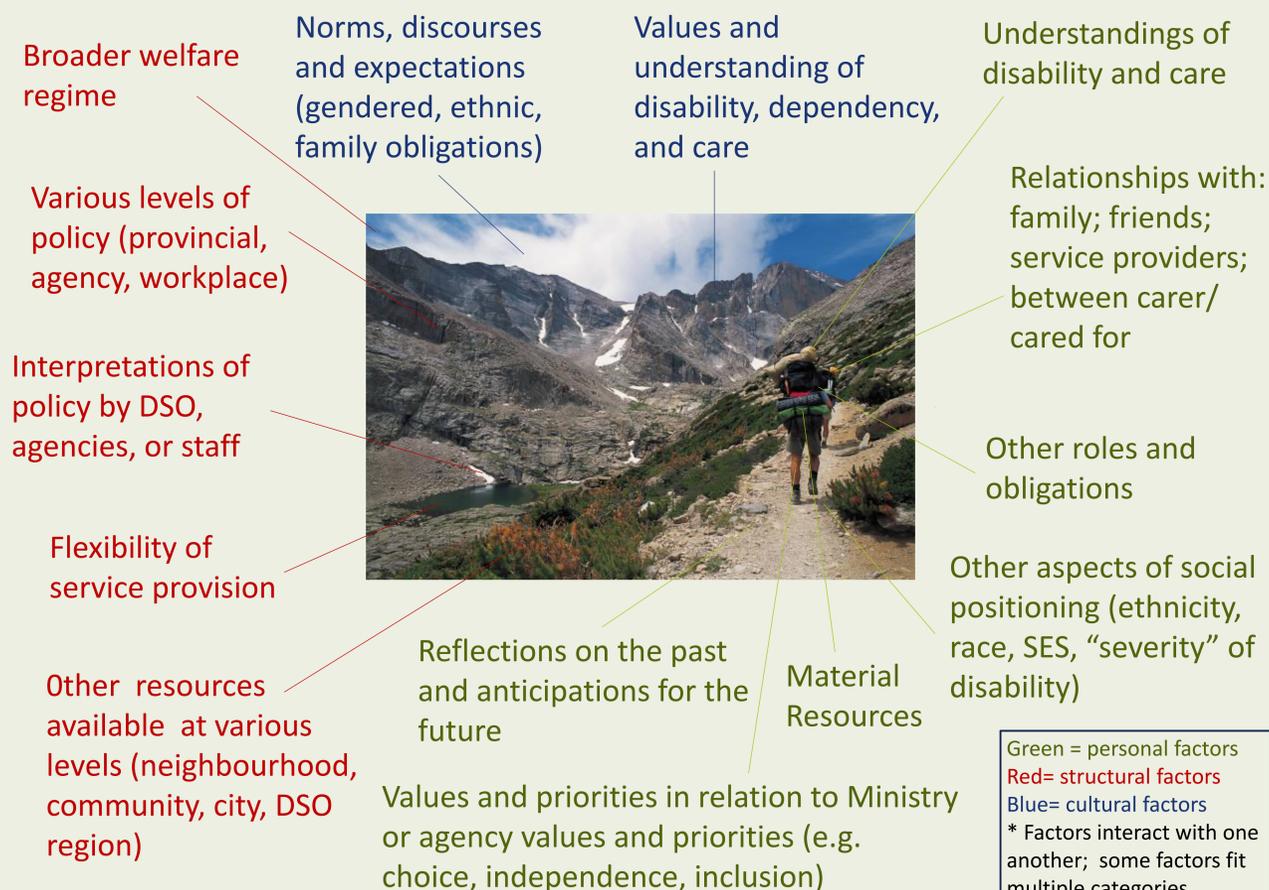
Acknowledgments

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Empirical Research: Families, Intellectual Disability, Care, and Support

- Most research on families, service use and care is descriptive, not explanatory¹.
- Examination of individuals and families’ characteristics and social positioning in relation to experiences with care often yields contradictory results (e.g. ethnicity in relation to frequency of service use or evaluations of service use)².
- “Carers” and “cared for” are often considered separately, which impedes comprehensive understandings³.

Putting it all Together: Factors for Consideration in Understanding Families’ Experiences with Care



Combining Contributions Caringscapes

- Uses a landscape metaphor to draw attention to ways that personal experiences with care are affected by interactions between personal, structural and cultural factors.
- Assumes personal experiences and the broader context are mutually informing, contingent, shifting, and imbued with power relations⁶.

Narrative, Life Story Methodology

- An account of a portion of a person’s life in addition to autobiographical details⁷.
- Will be used with multiple family members and care providers to “map” individual families’ caringscapes.

Feminist Approaches: Contributions

- Policy assumption: women will perform or arrange caring work in the ideal context of the nuclear family or for little pay.
- Interdependency and caring work are universal but are often unrecognized and undervalued or stigmatized⁴.

Disability Studies Approaches: Contributions

- Academic or practical focus on “carers” can position the “cared for” as objects of charity and obscure reciprocity.
- Carers can exercise considerable power and control over the lives of persons with disabilities⁵.

References

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2. Goldner, Melinda and Patricia Drentea. 2009. “Caring for the Disabled: Applying Different Theoretical Perspectives to Understand Racial and Ethnic Differences Among Families.” *Marriage and Family Review* 45(5):499-518.
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6. Bowlby, Sophia, Linda McKie, Susan Gregory, and Isobel Macpherson. 2010. *Interdependency and Care Over the Lifecourse*. New York: Routledge.
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