

*Physical Disabilities
Through the Lifespan*



Supported Living

July 22, 2003



State of the Field

- Disability and aging have different values and cultures; research skewed to aging
- Successful models (PAS, C&C, CMA, others)
- Need replication at community level
- Not enough is known about how informal caregiving is given and maintained.
- Medical model overlooks the role of social supports in health outcomes/quality of life.



Problems/Concerns/Issues

- Successful demonstration projects are not widely translated into policy and practice
- Insurance and regs limit flexibility to substitute assist. technology, social supports, personnel that could improve quality of life/save \$
- Service fragmentation; variability; complexity
- Difficult for consumers to get info & services
- Costly health problems can be solved with improved access to low-tech, less costly interventions at the community level.

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Research Priorities

- Test costs & benefits of new technologies and alternative delivery systems; consider quality of life as well as health outcomes and costs
- Focus on informal caregivers
- Fund cross-cutting, multidisciplinary research that integrates health and social supports
- Improve translation of research into policy & practice, including community & population-based systems
- Establish information sources for consumers