

## **SYSTEMS, SERVICES, AND SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN / ADOLESCENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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Welcome to MHS 6066-- Systems, Services, and Supports for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. I am Doctor Christopher Vatland. And I'll be your instructor for this course. I'm really excited to go through this material with you and share in this experience. I have a real interest in this area.

Prior to going back for my doctorate at the University of Oregon, I had more than 20 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. And one of the things that I saw, one of things that brought me back to get my doctorate, was in working with kids, and then working with adults, and then working with students who are transitioning into adulthood. I saw a lot of challenges with the disparity between the different systems of support. And that's one of the things that we're going to talk about in the coming weeks, is the different systems of support, and some of the gaps in services, and ways that we might address those, and better provide support for individuals across the lifespan.

We're going to be talking about a variety of topics. And these will cover the lifespan. And so we'll be talking about early childhood. And we'll be talking about family support. And we'll be talking about school support, K through 12. And we'll be talking about adult support. And we'll be talking about gaps in services, and ways that we might be able to address those gaps.

One of the things that you'll get out of this is, as we go through these topic areas, be thinking about where your interests lie. And you're going to develop some ideas on how to address supports in your area of interest. And so if that's early childhood, that might be where you do most of your work. Or if it's in adult services. But we'll be talking all together as a group about all of these various topics.

When you finish here, you'll have material that will actually be the core of a grant application that might address some of these gaps in services.

I'm looking forward to working with you these coming weeks. If you have any questions, feel free to email me. Or you can contact me through the campus discussion board. And have a good semester. Thanks.