

Community-based Level II Fieldwork Program at an Adult Day Program for Clients with Memory Loss: Site, Academic Program, & FW Educator's Perceptions

Nakia L. Lynn MSOT, OTR/L, CAPS, Jeanne M. Coviello OTD, OTR/L, & Nadine Sabila MS, LNHA, CSW

BACKGROUND

- Dementia is the primary cause of disability and loss of independence for older adults (World Health Organization [WHO], 2019).
- Approximately 50 million people globally are affected by this disease and it is estimated that this number will triple by the year 2050 (WHO, 2019).
- The prevention of, or slowing of the disease and associated cognitive decline may be possible through Occupational Therapy (OT) interventions which reduce modifiable risk factors (WHO, 2019).
- Occupational Therapy practitioners (OTPs) are uniquely suited to utilize their expertise within a variety of settings, including community-based programs to address the needs of older adults who experience memory impairment and dementia (American Occupational Therapy Association [AOTA], 2017).
- OTP students should possess the requisite skills and knowledge to address the need of this population.



<https://www.needpix.com/photo/71973/care-dementia-woman-old-age-alzheimers-stamp-care-for-the-elderly-age-spots>

OBJECTIVES

- At the conclusion of this poster, participants will be able to describe at least three benefits of creating a community-based Level I and Level II fieldwork at Adult Day Programs.
- At the conclusion of this poster, participants will be able to state at least three benefits of using the collaborative fieldwork model for Level II OT practitioner students.

PROCESS



- Identified opportunity to establish a FW program between Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program and a community-based day treatment program for older adults.
- Introduced curricular material and fieldwork requirements to prospective site.
- Obtained Memorandum of Understanding.
- Established Level I learning objectives in collaboration with site.
- Implemented Level I program.
- Conducted post-experience follow up with site and students.
- Identified potential to develop Level II program.
- Procured adjunct faculty to serve as 8 hour per week on-site supervisor.
- Established Level II learning objectives in collaboration with site.
- Implemented Level II program using collaborative model with off-site OT supervision.
- Use of collaborative model promotes shared responsibility for planning, selecting, and implementing interventions and peer learning (O'Connor & McKay, 2012).
- Continue to revise program based on site, supervisor, client, staff, & student feedback.

OUTCOMES

Promote Interprofessional & Intraprofessional Collaboration

Develop knowledge & skills to address the needs of adult population

Articulate the Distinct Value of OT to clients, families, & colleagues

Demonstrate effective verbal & nonverbal communication skills

CONCLUSIONS

This community-based fieldwork promotes students' readiness for practice through the development of requisite skills and knowledge to holistically address barriers to occupational performance for older adults. Additionally, the program aligns with the profession's efforts to maximize health, well-being, and quality of life for all people, populations, and communities through effective solutions that facilitate participation in everyday life (AOTA, 2017).

REFERENCES

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