

1704

Dances with Occupational Therapy Models.

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Final year occupational therapy students of Stellenbosch University are placed at various role-emerging community sites as part of their clinical training. The students have to execute an extensive situation analysis in order to determine and prioritize the main problems and needs of the community and its members. A program to address these needs and to broaden the occupational performance of the persons' involved in the project, is then designed, implemented and evaluated for its value, its contribution toward addressing the identified needs, its impact on the wider community, and its sustainability.

One of these role-emerging community sites is a low socio-economic community within the Cape Town, South Africa, Metro Pole. The Division of Occupational Therapy, SU is involved in this community since 1994. The OT service in this community started off by focusing on rendering rehabilitation services to people with physical disabilities. The occupational therapist based at the rehabilitation centre identified the need for preventative and promotive occupational therapy services, especially focusing on the youth (11 - 16 years of age). This age group is vulnerable to engage in high risk activities such as gangs, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse. Since 2007 the final year occupational therapy students are involved in a program for the youth within this community.

Occupational Therapist can choose from a number of theoretical models to develop community practice. In this paper I will focus my discussion on:

1. the use of the person-environment-occupation (PEO) model of Law et al, to conduct a comprehensive needs analysis of the community within which the project is been offered.
2. the application of the spin-off model (Rebeiro et al) in the planning and execution of the project with the emphasis on group development and sustainable participation by all involved.
3. the application of the role acquisition model (Cynthia Heard) to build on previously acquired skills to enable the youth and voluntary workers to assume the demands of new occupational roles.

Congress theme: 2. Occupational Therapy Practice Development

Keywords: Intervention or to practice models

Scope: community work

Age group: teenagers

Presentation types: oral presentation

Presenter: Juanita Bester