

Community Meeting Notes (April 11, 2018) - Disability Policy

Description

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Resources

- [Disability Policy Model.docx](#)
- [Dissertation \(docx\)](#)
- [Video Recording](#)
- [Slides](#)

Notes

- 1 billion individuals living with some form of disability world wide
- OTs work closely with those with disabilities in many contexts (clinical, research and policy settings; facilitating independence and addressing barriers for individuals with disabilities)
- The problem
 - gaps in existing literature between disability policy and occupational therapy practice
 - Occupational therapy could serve a huge role in disability policy but the political landscape of each nation and the potential role of OT in policy is still under-researched; future opportunities at the moment are unknown
- Long term goal and purpose
- Significance
 - throughout the last 50 years perspectives have shifted away from a medical model toward a social model where disability is a state that needs to be "fixed"; perspectives are aligning with the social model emphasizing how disability is the result of how society is organized and is a mismatch of the individual and their environment
- Universal vs Contextualization
 - Effective policy is typically adapted to fit a specific context; if everyone adopted the same perspective of disability how would this affect policies?
 - There are nuances and contexts embedded in each culture and the intentions of policies can be better shaped for cultural needs
 - Focus on the individual strengths of the individual rather than deficiencies
- AOTA's Vision 2025
 - collaboration and leadership
 - emphasize the provision of care for all people.
 - expand reach of the OT profession and clarify the OT role and articulate what opportunities will be available in the next decades
- OT and disability policy can and do work well together
- Design: Exploratory mixed methods pilot study
 - CRPD was used to analyze the legislation of different countries
 - looked at which codes each country prioritize the most (equality and non-discrimination, participation in political and public life, education, personal mobility, accessibility)
 - identified the gaps between the central policy documents of each nation and the practice of OTs
 - NVivo was used to do thematic coding using the UNCRPD articles as codes
 - word occurrence
 - thematic
 - data modeling
 - For the Canadian Policy
 - "definitions" is the highest coded
 - "rights" and "respect" were the most frequent words
 - For the US
 - "Accessibility" is the most coded
 - "individuals", "disabilities", "accessible", and "transportation" were the most frequent words
 - The OT definition across countries were similar
 - empowerment model vs medical model
 - A proposed model of OT's role in disability
 - capacity build, empowerment, promotion of accessibility and involvement, evaluation or feedback
 - People with disabilities have the best knowledge about what policies should look like for people with disabilities
 - SEE: [Disability Policy](#)
 - Key takeaways
 - US policy rooted in medical model
 - Canadian policy is progressing towards empowerment and social models
 - OTs in both countries are forward thinking and progressive
 - OTs have a role to play