Evolution of Occupational Therapy Practice: Life History of Cassady Hoff MS OTR/L.
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Description of the Participant

Who is Cassady Hoff?
Cassady is a professor and program director for Casper College’s Occupational Therapy Assistant program.

University of North Dakota, Casper College site OT graduate in 2001.

Practiced in pediatrics, physical dysfunction and geriatrics, leading to a diverse experience.

Bachelor’s and Master’s of Occupational Therapy.

Strong advocate for others, and believes in collaboration amongst OTR and OTA.

Mother of two boys.

Her father encouraged her to become an occupational therapist due to her interest in anatomy, and her wide variety of hobbies, including sports, music, crocheting, and woodworking.

Literature Review

Collaboration between OTR and OTA
The OTR and the OTA collaborate together in order to select, implement and make modifications to occupational therapy interventions including occupations and activities, preparatory methods and tasks, client education and training, and group interventions consistent with demonstrated competency levels, client goals, and the requirements of the practice setting (American Occupational Therapy Association, 2014).

Changes of OTR/OTA Over Time
OTR (Bachelor’s) → OTR (Master’s) → OTD
OTA Associate’s → Bachelor’s

Values and Beliefs
Cassady practices altruism by committing to client-centered care through using therapeutic use of self.
Cassady uses prudence by making thoughtful decisions during practice and having the clients best interests in mind.
Cassady uses dignity by respecting others’ unique qualities and treating them equally.

Methodology

This qualitative study utilized a life history approach. The interviewee was assigned to students through purposive sampling.

IRB approval was obtained and informed consent was given prior to completing the interview.

The 90 minute interview was done in Casper, WY in an on campus meeting room at Casper College.

Qualitative data was collected through interview format which was transcribed verbatim.

Trustworthiness was established as the two researchers debriefed following each step of the study. In addition, a reflexive journal was completed and used in developing an audit trail.

Other sources of data that were used were internet sources (such as caspercollege.edu to collect information on the participant prior to the interview.

The Kawa model was used to develop a semi-standardized interview schedule and was a guide in analyzing the data. The questions were designed to be used for all participants in the larger part of this study. Researchers were allowed to modify or add questions as appropriate for each individual interview.

Data Analysis and Findings

Data Analysis was completed by first coding the data. After coding, these codes were then sorted into categories, followed by two themes developed for each category.

The major themes that were found from this life history study are:

Client Centered Care
Cassady believes advocating for patient’s access results in adequate patient care. Cassady believes that an increase in technology will lead to more research, resulting in an enhanced profession.

Personal and Professional Experiences
Cassady’s personal experiences and personal qualities have influenced her style of teaching as a professor, and work ethic as a COTA program director. Cassady’s personal experience within her family life has led her to a passion for OT resulting in a diversity of roles within the profession.

Professional Trends
The transition of the profession of OTR and OTA is altering the level of degree required leading to a conflict and confusion of both professional roles. The collaboration and understanding of the roles of each profession is lacking between UND’s OT and Casper College’s OTA programs.

Assertion/Conclusion

Cassady Hoff is a practicing occupational therapist and program director of the OTA program at Casper College, who emphasizes advocating for others, cultivating amongst multiple professions, views exposure to the community as a large learning experience, and places her children first in her life.

Collaboration between OTR/L and OTA has improved over Cassady’s professional career timespan and has led to a greater understanding and appreciation of the unique role of OTA.

Special Thank you

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References


