

Introduction

- The purpose of this project is to gather information about the history and evolution of occupational therapy (OT) practice in North Dakota and Wyoming throughout the life histories of twenty-nine individuals whom have been influential in developing OT in these two states.
- It is anticipated that the life history process will be a powerful way to gather this information. This study is intended to provide current and future generations of occupational therapists a view of the history and how occupational therapy practice has evolved from its inception to current practice in North Dakota and Wyoming.

Description of Participant

- Jane graduated from The University of North Dakota in the 1997 with a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy.
- In 2009 she completed an online program for her master's degree in occupational therapy.
- Jane is married and has three children.
- Jane currently works in the Altru Outpatient Center, and picks up some shifts in the inpatient area on the weekends.
- Jane used to be an adjunct at the University of North Dakota, and would like to be one again someday.
- Jane is a certified therapist in assistive technology, neurodevelopmental treatment, and certified lymphedema therapy.

Literature Review

- In the spring of 1997 the Red River flooded in Grand Forks at a level of 54.35 feet (City of Grand Forks, 2017). This was an important life event for Jane, as it effected school and pushed back her marriage.
- In 2006, occupational therapy qualifications went from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree (AOTA, 2017). This was an exciting move for the profession, and many individuals including Jane chose to advance their education.
- Reed and Peters (2010) found five themes related to occupational therapy during 1986 and 2000, one of the themes were labor force needs versus job satisfaction. Jane's first job was selected based on the labor need rather than her personal satisfaction. She worked inpatient rehab, acute, and outpatient in the Altru hospital, and worked in any area they needed her to be.
- Jane also received here ATP certification. An ATP recommends appropriate assistive technology that would be best for the individuals (RESNA, 2016).

A Life History of Jane Loscheider, OTR/L, ATP, CLT, NDT *Sydney Person, OTS & Brooke Westrich, OTS*

Data Analysis and Findings

- **Clinical Practice**
 - Treat every patient as though they're your family member.
 - Everything we do should revolve around our patients.
 - Communicating across disciplines is critical.
 - It's important to utilize community resources for the client's benefit.
- **Job requirements**
 - Documentation has continued to change throughout OTs years.
 - New technology is not always the best technology.
 - Her job satisfaction comes from seeing patients improve.
 - Billing makes providing care to those in rural areas difficult.
- **Professional Issues**
 - Insurance is driving treatments
 - Change OTA and OTR may dramatically affect the amount of people drawn to the profession.
 - Continuing education funds have decreased over the years
 - Insurance forces therapists to engage in continuing education classes even if they're already competent in that area.
- **Personal life**
 - Family and colleagues are a strong support group.
 - Finding a mentor as a new grad is very beneficial.
 - The Grand Forks flood affected her wedding and graduation dates.
 - Due to her child's illness, she see's patient care in a whole new light.
 - Patients often continue to be friends after therapy.



Methodology

- The study design was Participant action research. This design focuses on understanding participants views on the practices they carry out.
- The participant was assigned from a list developed by the course instructors through purposive sampling.
- Informed consent was given.
- Data Collection: Before interviewing the participant, background information was found on her LinkedIn site which stated that she is certified in lymphedema therapy, assistive technology, and neurodevelopmental treatment. Jane Loscheider was a speaker for the physical disabilities course at The University of North Dakota, giving us the opportunity to set up an interview date with her.
- The interview took place at Jane's home. The interview lasted approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- The interview was recorded and transcribed verbatim. After transcribing subjective memos were added. The transcription was then coded, and broken down into categories. The interviewers reflected on their work to make sure no outside opinions impeded the outcomes.

Discussion/Conclusion

- **Assertion:** Jane believes contributing to patient progress, establishing strong rapport with patients, and having an extraordinary support group makes being an occupational therapist worth persevering through insurance policies, the extra amount advocating, and the changes in credentials.
- "I approach every patient as though if this were my brother, if this was my mother, if this was my grandmother, how would I want them to be treated?"
- Throughout our interview and research on Jane Loscheider, we have found that Jane is a loving mom, wife, coworker, and practitioner. Jane has been certified in ATP, NDT, and CLT. Jane puts forth extra effort when advocating for her clients, despite the limitations of the rural state of North Dakota. Jane has continuously mentioned and emphasized her still ever lasting joy for this profession and continues to put her heart into the practice of occupational therapy.
- Jane is a prominent occupational therapy figure in the state of North Dakota. She has taught many people her expertise, and has created change in peoples lives all over North Dakota.

References

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