The Evolution of Occupational Therapy Practice: Life History of Kelly Taubert, MS. OTR/L
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Introduction

This life history is one of twenty-five life history interviews, which are a part of a larger project. Life Histories of Individuals Who Have Been Influential in Developing Occupational Therapy (OT) in North Dakota and Wyoming. The purpose of this project is to gather information about the history and evolution of occupational therapy (OT) practice in North Dakota and Wyoming through life histories of individuals who 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 history and how occupational therapy practice has evolved from its inception to current practice in North Dakota and Wyoming.

Methodology

Kelly noted that she is very proud of and confident in her skills as a teacher.

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from University of Puget Sound…………..…...1976

Participant selection was conducted from a participant’s list compiled through
Data analysis occurred through a coding process. Key phrases, sentences, and
Differences in degree do not have an effect on quality of practice and is, therefore,
Statewide Early Intervention Council……………………………………...….1987

The Casper College OTA Program was accredited by the American Occupational
Teaching was the most meaningful experience of her career. Though retired, she
Fieldwork coordinator for Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant
Overall, Ms. Taubert described her experiences and practice as being very
Continuing education, modality training, and great teachers in graduate school were
Professional Advisory Committee for the OTA program at Casper College....……....1996

The UND satellite OT program at Casper College was established in 1993 (University
Occupational Therapy

According to Kelly Taubert, occupational therapy is a meaningful and
Values, Personality, Personal Resources (driftwood)

● Building of rapport with clients and their families results in meaningful and client
● Membership within Professional Organizations

○ American Occupational Therapy Association, the Wyoming Occupational Therapy
○ Faculty for Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program———1984-1999
○ Fieldwork coordinator for Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant
Program———1985-1996.

○ Membership within Professional Organizations

○ American Occupational Therapy Association, the Wyoming Occupational Therapy

○ Joint Advisory Committee for the National Council of Community Health
○ Professional Advisory Committee for the OTA program at Casper College———1996
○ Southeast Early Intervention Council———1987-1989

○ Education

○ Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from University of Puget Sound———1974
○ Master of Occupational Therapy from Colorado State University———2000

○ Work Experience

○ Child Development Center of Natrona County—1985-present
○ Counselor for the Wyoming Medical Center, the Wyoming School for the Blind, St.
Joseph’s Children’s Treatment and Correction Center, Goshen County Nuring Home, and
Nebraska County Nursing Home—1985—1987
○ Adjunct faculty for the University of North Dakota’s Occupational Therapy Program at
the satellite campus in Casper, WY. —1999—2001
○ Fieldwork coordinator/sites for the University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy
Program———1985-2002
○ Faculty for Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program———1984-1999
○ Fieldwork coordinator for Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant
Program———1985-1996.

○ Literature Review

● Occupational Therapy

○ According to the Occupational Therapy Act of 2008, occupational therapy is defined as
the therapeutic use of occupations, including everyday life activities with individuals,
groups, populations or organizations to support participation, performance, and function in
roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community and other settings. According to the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Act of 2013, for Wyoming residents, occupational therapy must be practiced by occupational therapists, the educational training of which, must be practitioners of occupational therapy or practicing occupational therapy for at least five years.

○ Child Development Center of Natrona County

○ The CDC works with infants to children of the age of 5 years and their families in the
Natrona County area to improve services (Child Development Center of Natrona County,
2017).

○ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

○ According to the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1997, the law assured all children
with disabilities have the opportunity to receive free and appropriate public education. Additionally, the law ensured the rights of the children and parents were protected ( Individuals with Disabilities Act, 1997).

○ Casper College Occupational Therapy Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

○ The Casper College OTA Program was accredited by the American Occupational
Therapy Association in 1993. After going through a re-apply process, which took two years, was completed. Kelly became involved in the program development in 1996 (Casper College, 2007).

○ University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy Program

○ The UND satellite OT program at Casper College was established in 1993 (University
of North Dakota, 2011). It was noted to address the shortage of professional therapists and student needs in the state of Wyoming (University of North Dakota, 2011).

Data Analysis

Through the interview with Kelly, four categories emerged, which provide an overview of Kelly’s practice over the years. These categories were developed using quotations from Kelly during the interview.

○ Category One: Education

● Continuing education, modality training, and great teachers in graduate school were
associated with quality education.

● Professional experiences and learning opportunities contribute to professional development
beyond the classroom.

○ Category Two: Environmental Factors

● The environment of Wyoming impacts access to resources and treatment.

● Factors related to nature of practice, occupational therapy is a constantly evolving profession.

● Differences in degree of test have an effect on quality of practice and is, therefore,
unsystematic odds from competed in the healthcare field.

○ Category Three: Career

● Teaching was the most meaningful experience of her career. Though retired, she continues to provide advice and education to students.

— Through challenging times, Kelly found working in the CDC to be a very rewarding career.

○ Category Four: Professional Relationships

● Inter- and interdisciplinary collaboration contributes to effective therapeutic services.

— Building of rapport with clients and their families results in meaningful and client
centered treatment.

Conclusion

Assertion: According to Kelly Taubert, occupational therapy is a meaningful and
challenging career that has developed over time. Experiences within the profession
are impacted by external factors, professional relationships, educational opportunities and career setting.

The Kawa Model was used as a framework to assess the data within this study.

That model uses the symbol of various aspects of a river to describe the flow of
an individual’s life.

○ Challenges (rocks)

● Working as an occupational therapist in rural Wyoming was often difficult due to the distance and lack of resources.

● Kelly expressed the belief that skills in degree requirements, both Bachelor to Master and Master to Doctorate, were excessive as these changes do not ensure better therapists.

○ Environment (river walks and banded)

● Kelly ‘has worked in Wyoming for the entirety of her career.

● Kelly has worked at the Child Development Center for most of her career. Though retired, she continues to provide services at the facility.

● She also served as a professor at the University of North Dakota, Casper College MOT Program.

● Kelly also worked as a professor within the Casper College OTA Program.

● Occupational therapy, as a profession, is constantly evolving.

○ Values, Personality, Personal Resources (driftwood)

● Kelly’s education was cited as a quality experience and very beneficial in preparing her for her future as a career practitioner and professor.

● Kelly noted that she would not want to change her ins and confident in her skills as a teacher.

● Kelly noted that the practice of building rapport is a meaningful aspect of
practicing as an occupational therapist.

● Satisfaction with Life (spaces between)

● Overall, Ms. Taubert described her experiences and practice as being very
fulfilling and meaningful.

References


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