Evolution of Occupational Therapy Practice: Life History of Marsha Waind, OTR/L
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Introduction
The purpose of the project was 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. This project is one of 29 life history interviews which are a part of a larger project, which is titled Life Histories of Individuals Who Have Been Influential in Developing Occupational Therapy (OT) in North Dakota and Wyoming.

The focus of this project was Marsha Waind, an occupational therapist practicing since 1975, with a majority of her career spent in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Methodology
- Qualitative research design using a life history approach
- Participant was assigned from a list of purposively selected participants that were occupational therapists practicing in ND and WY. Initial participant contact was made by the course instructors.
- Data collected through a semi-structured interview that lasted 48 minutes. Audio was recorded via a computer and cell phone
- The interview was conducted in Marsha’s Altru Hospital office. The interview was transcribed verbatim from the audio recording of the interview and coded. Four categories with themes emerged from the coding process.
- Informed consent was obtained via email prior to the interview
- The semi-structured interview was guided by an interview schedule prepared by the course instructors; the questions on the interview schedule were designed to be used with all the individuals as part of the larger project. The researchers were allowed to modify or add interview questions as needed for each specific interview.
- Trustworthiness was ensured by completing reflective journals about the research process. Additional information about the interview questions was obtained in an email from Marsha following the interview.

Data Analysis & Findings
Categories
- Professional growth
  - Marsha grew to become passionate about collaboration with other disciplines for the best treatment of her clients.
  - Has advocated for COTAs and working alongside other professions.
- North Dakota Influences
  - Was an influential person in helping OT reach rural areas throughout the state as the rural context provided challenges to client care and practicing therapists.
  - Through her involvement in organizations, she was intentional about trying to connect isolated therapists throughout the state.
- Special Interests
  - Advocacy for OT and her clients is important to Marsha’s values.
  - Her membership in organizations and certifications add special meaning to her daily practice.
- Education/School
  - When Marsha went to school, arts and crafts were a primary focus of her curriculum.
  - She has been open to learning about and applying different frames of reference and models.
- The Kawa model guided the data analysis process. The Kawa model looks at a person’s life or career as a flowing river

Discussion/Conclusion
Marsha has served on the North Dakota Board of Occupational Therapy Practice for two terms (3 years long) and her final term expires at the end of 2017.

During the time period 1986-2000, membership in the American Occupational Therapy Association emphasized continuing education courses, advocacy for the profession, and assistance to state associations (Reed & Peters, 2010). Marsha’s career experiences are aligned with the trends of OT at the time.

Relating to the Kawa model, Marsha’s life experiences and contexts have shaped her career. Her environmental, personal, and professional experiences have both challenged and supported her practice as an occupational therapist, as well as progress the field of OT in North Dakota.

References