



Life History of Dr. Wanda Berg

Alli Fox, OTS and Tiana Brown, OTS



Introduction

- The purpose of this study is to gather information about influential individuals in the field of OT who reside in ND and WY
- The goal of this study was to gather a history of OT in ND and WY for future students and current students and practitioners to utilize
- The data examines the evolution of OT from the perspective of Dr. Wanda Berg

Introduction to Wanda Berg

- Born and raised in North Dakota
- Educational degrees
 - PhD in higher education in 2006
 - Master's in post secondary education in 2000
 - Bachelors in occupational therapy 1985
- Co-chair (1996) and chair (1999) of ND board of occupational therapy practice
- ND Representative for AOTA for 2 terms
- Mother
- Wife

Literature Review

- In past and current literature, the occupational therapy field, techniques and procedures are studied however, there is little information written about educators and clinicians (Dillon, 2001).
- During the 1980's, the technology shift impacted the scientific and healthcare arenas. IBM released the personalized computer which revolutionized the medical records keeping, patient-clinician communication and instantaneous knowledge sharing world wide (Christiansen, & Haertl, 2014).
- The onset of telemedicine also brought medical capabilities to rural and isolated communities which occupational therapy was able to utilize and access clients(Christiansen, & Haertl, 2014).
- The most influential and significant initiative was the creation of the Occupational Therapy Journal of Research and Occupational Science (Christiansen, & Haertl, 2014).
- This emphasized the importance of advanced research and theory driven-education and the implementation of evidence based practices (Christiansen, & Haertl, 2014).

Methodology

- Qualitative study using life history approach
- Participant was assigned by list developed by course instructors through purposive sampling
- No specific gate keeper issues
- Initial contact was made by course instructors
- Informed consent was given
- Interview questions were modified from a predetermined interview schedule
- Data was collected from verbatim transcription
- Interview was 59 minutes via video chat
- Semi-structured interview
- Coding was then completed by the researchers
- The Kawa model guided the interview schedule
 - Looking at how all elements of Dr. Berg's life were influenced by everything around her, including OT

Data Analysis and Findings

- The transcription was coded and collapsed to categories and themes
 - Elements of the transcription were used to create codes, themes, categories and then an overall assertion
- **Categories and themes**
 - OT profession
 - Great need to advocate for OT profession
 - OT has evolved over time
 - OT values line up with personal values
 - Personal/professional achievement
 - Importance of education
 - Professional/personal benefits of being involved professional OT organizations
 - OT profession provides versatility and ability to work in multiple settings
 - Support
 - OT can provide financial stability throughout ones lifetime
 - Family and colleague support are vital
 - Growth
 - Job changes create life transitions throughout one's OT career
 - Personal and personal growth occurs throughout the career and lifetime
 - Every individualized has their own perception about what OT is to them

Discussion/Conclusion

Assertion: Dr. Berg feels that the occupational therapy profession provides versatility in education and employment. It also provides opportunity for personal and professional growth throughout one's life time. OT has evolved greatly over time, but continues to allow for financial stability and personal satisfaction as professionals can still enjoy a family and positive relationships with their colleagues.

- Dr. Berg's story exemplifies OT practice by overtime by showing the versatility of the profession
- By the use of changing technology in advancing OT practice and education
- Changes in technology greatly affect OT practice and education
- Advocating for OT is still vital since we have reached the centennial and many people are still not aware of what OT is
- Having a positive relation with your colleagues can determine work place satisfaction
- Personal and professional growth are closely tied for OT professionals, growth in one leads to growth in the other
- OT's values are prominent and respected by the practitioners.
- Changes in OT have lead to advancements in care for patients.

References

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- Dillon, T. H. (2001). Authenticity in occupational therapy leadership: A case study of a servant leader. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 55, 441-448. doi:10.5014/ajot.55.4.441