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Justice Involved Individuals and Sensory Processing

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Abstract

- **General Focus:**
 - Educate faculty at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) on topic of sensory processing and its prevalence in their work
 - Faculty took pre- and post-test to determine impact of educational aspect
 - Provided ODRC with resources created by myself
- **Site:**
 - Chosen because of focus on incarcerated individuals, their needs and educating those working with them
- **Prior to Creating Learning Module:**
 - Performed research on the types of facilities in Ohio and their security levels
 - Researched sensory processing regarding this population
 - Created learning module presentation and pre- and post-test as well as resources to be given to the ODRC
- **Results:**
 - Results of the pre- and post-test showed that the faculty learned something new
 - There was a lot of positive feedback on the content of the module
 - Faculty enjoyed the learning module and learned from it
 - Saw the value of having an occupational therapist (OT) involved on the team



Bio

My name is Anessa Kleem, and I am a third-year occupational therapy doctorate student at Cleveland State University and will graduate in May 2024. I chose this capstone because I believe the incarcerated population is underserved in general but especially when it comes to the topic of sensory processing, and I believe this need can be fulfilled by getting OT involved. Although I highly enjoyed this experience, in the future, I see myself working with Breast Cancer and Lymphedema patients.



Capstone Experience and Implications

- **Capstone Activities:**
 - Created a learning module presentation to educate faculty at ODRC
 - Alongside this module, I created a list of sensory tools with pricing and diagnoses that would benefit from them, a list of essential oils and their benefits, and handout on the Wilbarger brushing protocol
- **Major Accomplishments:**
 - Provided the faculty at the ODRC with a beneficial learning experience
 - Impacted the ODRC in a positive way and advocated and showed the importance of having occupational therapy involved in the ODRC system
 - Important to educate on this topic with this population as it is relevant to the lives of the incarcerated individuals and faculty
 - There is a gap in the education on this topic, but I was able to help decrease this gap throughout my capstone
- **Main Takeaways:**
 - Education on this topic with this population is essential
 - There is a drive to bring this programming into the ODRC system
 - The ODRC and other like systems would benefit from getting an occupational therapist involved

*Written materials can be found on my eDossier via the QR code

Synthesis

- **Wider Scholarship of OT Literature:**
 - Fits within the area of innovative practice; experiential learning
 - The area that I am working with, the ODRC and incarcerated individuals, is an innovative area of OT not widely explored
- **Unique Contribution to Community of OT:**
 - Able to advocate for our role with incarcerated individuals and open the door for OTs to work with this population
 - Showed our distinct value as well as advocating for our profession and our work with these individuals
 - This made an impact on faculty at the ODRC

Challenges and Recommendations

- **IRB Approval:**
 - Challenges faced throughout this was getting IRB approval as it was a lengthy process
 - If I were to repeat this capstone experience, I would have started my IRB application and advocated for myself sooner than I did
- **Sustainability of Project:**
 - A student to continue this work can further develop materials on sensory modulation and incarcerated individuals
 - This would include ensuring that the sensory tools are being implemented correctly and they would serve as a valuable resource as sensory processing is within the OT scope of practice

Key References

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