

Occupational Therapy in Justice-Based Settings

Kelli Daller, OTDS

Huntington University Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program



Project Description & Sites

Explore the role of occupational therapy in justice-based settings; includes prisons, jails, secure mental health facilities, and community-based criminal justice settings (Muñoz et al., 2016).

Area of Study: Clinical Practice Skills, Leadership, Program and Policy Development.

Area of Practice: Mental Health

Sites: Pacific University & Washington County Community Corrections Center (WCCC)

WCCC- minimum security facility with a focus on transitioning into the community; average stay is three weeks; OT used to help in 90-day treatment program that closed in September 2019 due to budget cuts; currently transitioning services to general population.

Literature Review

Occupational Therapy (OT) practitioners currently practice in justice-based settings across the world including the United States. The United States makes up 5% of the world's population, yet it makes up 25% of the world's incarceration population; along with that, 68% of persons released from incarceration are arrested again within three years of release (Alper et al., 2018).

Justice-based occupational therapy is considered an emerging area of practice in occupational therapy (Muñoz et al., 2016; Ferrazzi, 2019).

Group sessions often included vocational exploration, goal setting, interpersonal communication/social skills, problem-solving skills, stress management skills, coping skills, leisure skills, money management, health and fitness skills, and anger management skills (Muñoz et al., 2016).

Mission & Vision Statements

Mission Statement:

Advance the occupational therapy programming provided by Pacific University to persons at Washington County Community Corrections Center in the life skills group and the potential evening program.

Vision Statement:

To demonstrate the value of occupational therapy for persons involved in justice-based settings.

Contact Information

Email: kelli.daller@gmail.com

Future Interests: Mental Health and Justice-Based Settings

Outcome Measures

1. Advance the programming of occupational therapy groups at Washington County Community Corrections Center life skills group and the evening program.
2. Gain first-hand experience working with persons involved in the justice system, through an occupational therapy context.

Learning Objectives

1. Lead life skills groups at Washington County Community Corrections Center for at least six weeks using previously established curriculum outlines and mentor modeling.
2. Summarize the main concepts presented at justice-based occupational therapy meetings at AOTA conference or from CEU course "A Trauma-Informed Approach Distinct to Occupational Therapy: The TIC-OT Model."
3. Develop a proposal for an evening program at Washington County Community Corrections Center that is occupation-based, client-centered, and skills-based with a focus on education and leisure.

Deliverables

1. Outlines of the life skills group curriculums at Washington County Community Corrections Center.
2. PowerPoint pdf summarizing the capstone project, including insights gained from first-hand experience working with persons involved in the justice system, through an occupational therapy context.
3. Certificate of completion for CEU course or proof of participation of AOTA specialty group meetings.
4. The proposal developed for the evening program at Washington County Community Corrections Center.



Future Implications for OT

Occupational therapy can provide occupational justice to those whose lives are interrupted by incarceration and/or addiction, through education including life skills and leisure skills classes.

Individual OT sessions provide an opportunity to address occupational needs; COPM & GAS

New ideas and connections created through JBOT

KEY REFERENCES

*Full reference list available upon request

Alper, M., Durose, M. R., & Markman, J. (2018). 2018 Update on prisoner recidivism: A 9-year follow-up period (2005-2014) (Rep. No. NCJ 250975). <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/18upr9yfun0514.pdf>
 Ferrazzi, P. (2019). Occupational therapy and criminal court mental health initiatives: An important emerging practice setting. *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, 35*(3), 238-261. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0164212X.2019.1571467>
 Muñoz, J. P., Moreton, E. M., & Sitterly, A. M. (2016). The scope of practice of occupational therapy in U.S. criminal justice settings. *Occupational Therapy International, 23*(3), 241-254. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oti.1427>