

An Innovative Interprofessional Team to Enhance Refugee Resettlement into U.S. Daily Life

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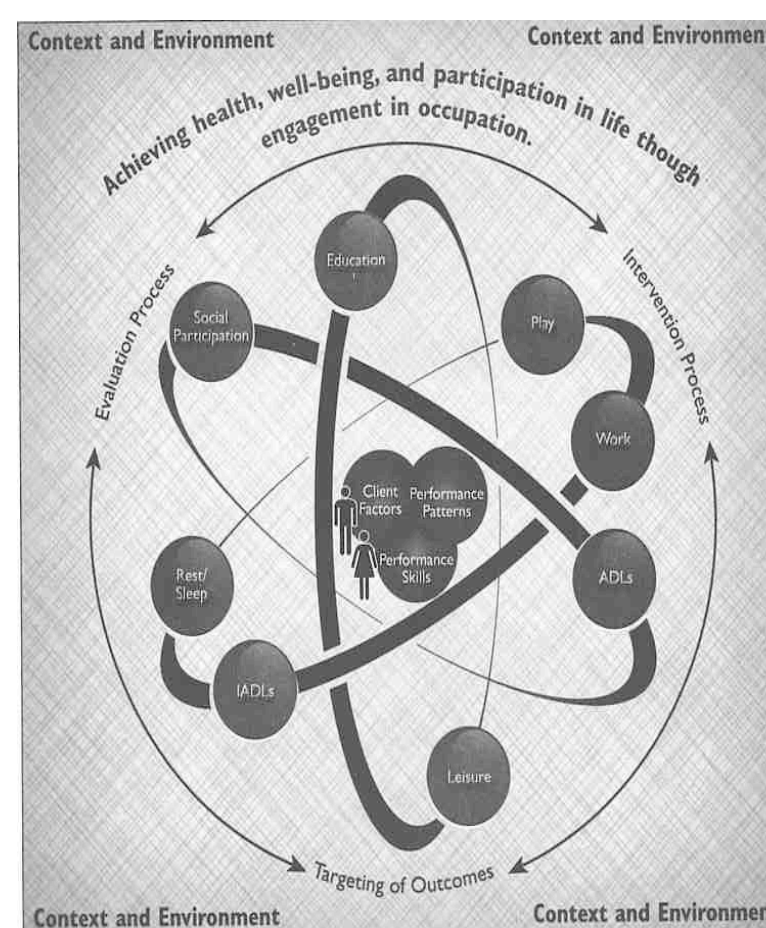
Background Information

The world continues to see dramatic increases in the numbers of refugees as new humanitarian crises emerge. Once approved by a host nation, the resettlement process begins. To facilitate successful resettlement, a collaborative partnership between a refugee resettlement agency and a university occupational therapy program has continued to successfully serve the needs of the partnership's three key stakeholders; the organization; the individual refugee or family; and the clinical training of occupational therapy students. Through ongoing program development and enhancements, an innovative interprofessional team approach to resettlement has emerged.

Together, with the individuals and families served, a client-centered, interprofessional approach was implemented to collaboratively establish goals and customize intervention plans to achieve the goals. General goals are to facilitate resettlement and integration into U.S. culture, and daily function.

Innovative Support Program for Immigrant & Refugee Empowerment (InSPIRE)

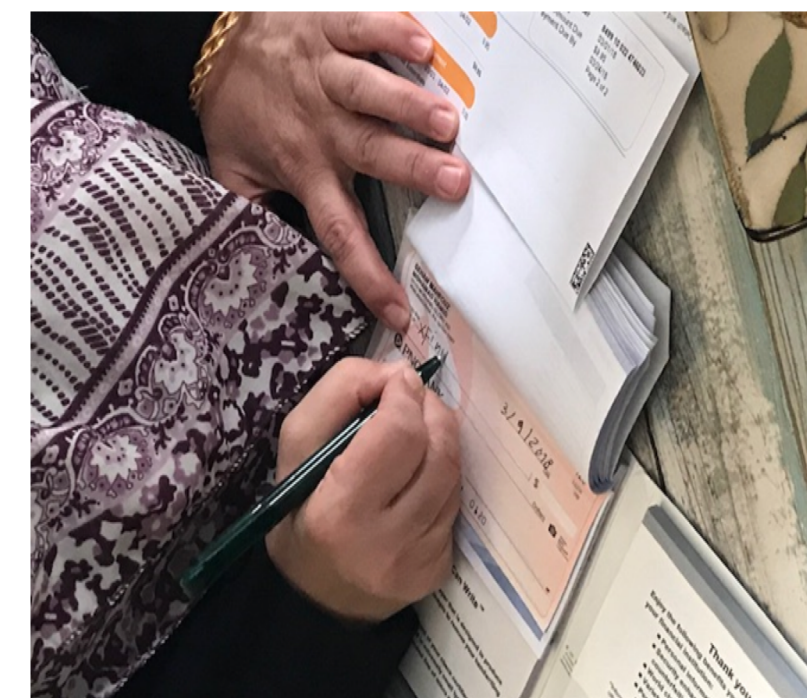
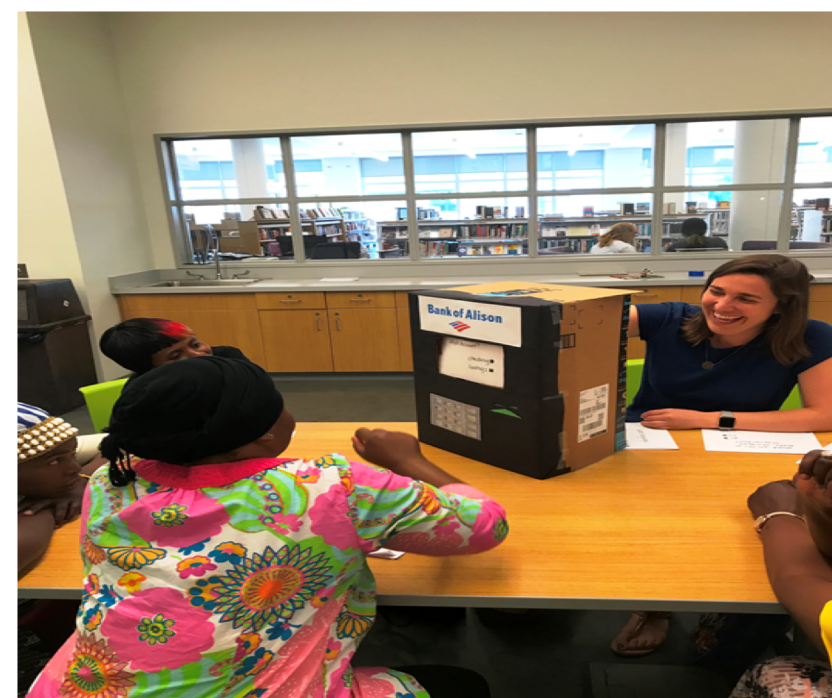
Up to 1-year strength-based case management and occupational therapy support to immigrants and refugees with extensive medical needs, including developmental disabilities.



Participatory Occupational Justice Framework

Refugees enter the resettlement phase after experiencing extended periods of [occupational] deprivation, alienation, and imbalance. These occupational injustices are argued to have pervasive and long term effects on individuals (Whiteford, 2012) and can also have significant implications of a persons health status (Wilcock, 2006)

The framework “emphasizes people’s unique occupational needs, habits, & capacities that impact on individual and community health” (Durocher, Gibson, & Rappolt, 2014, p. 427) . Focuses on “what people do every day on their own, and collectively; how people live to seek identity, satisfaction, and autonomy; how they organize their habits, routines, and choices to promote health” (Whiteford & Townsend, 2011).



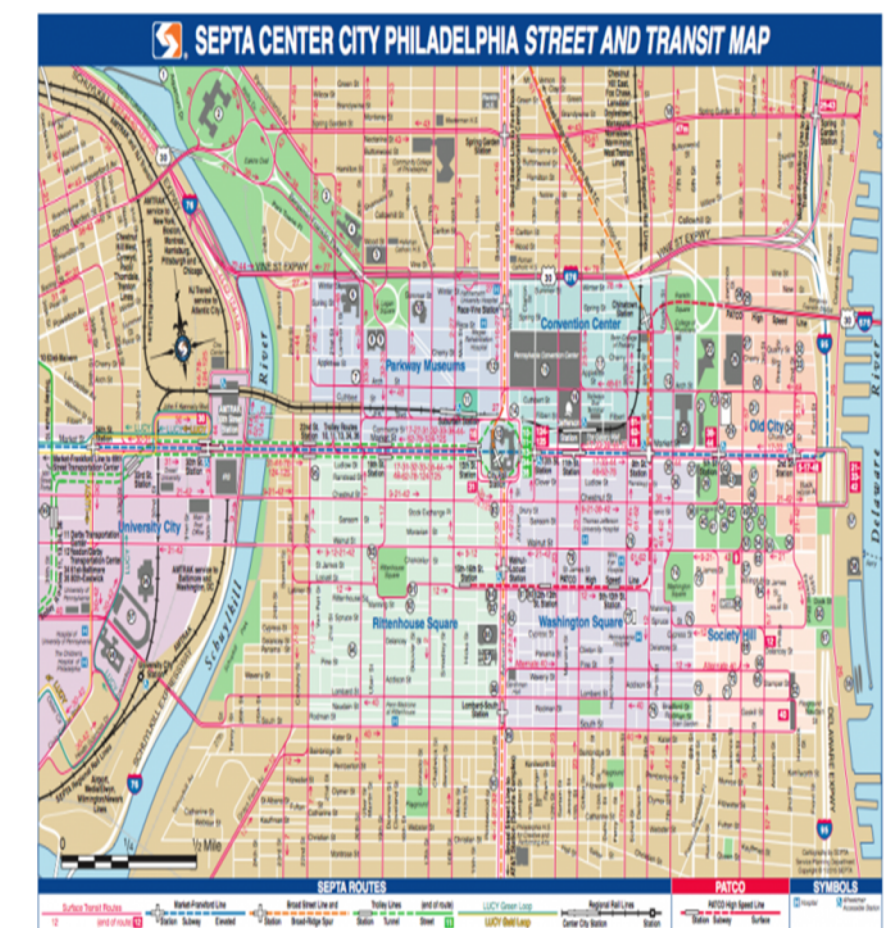
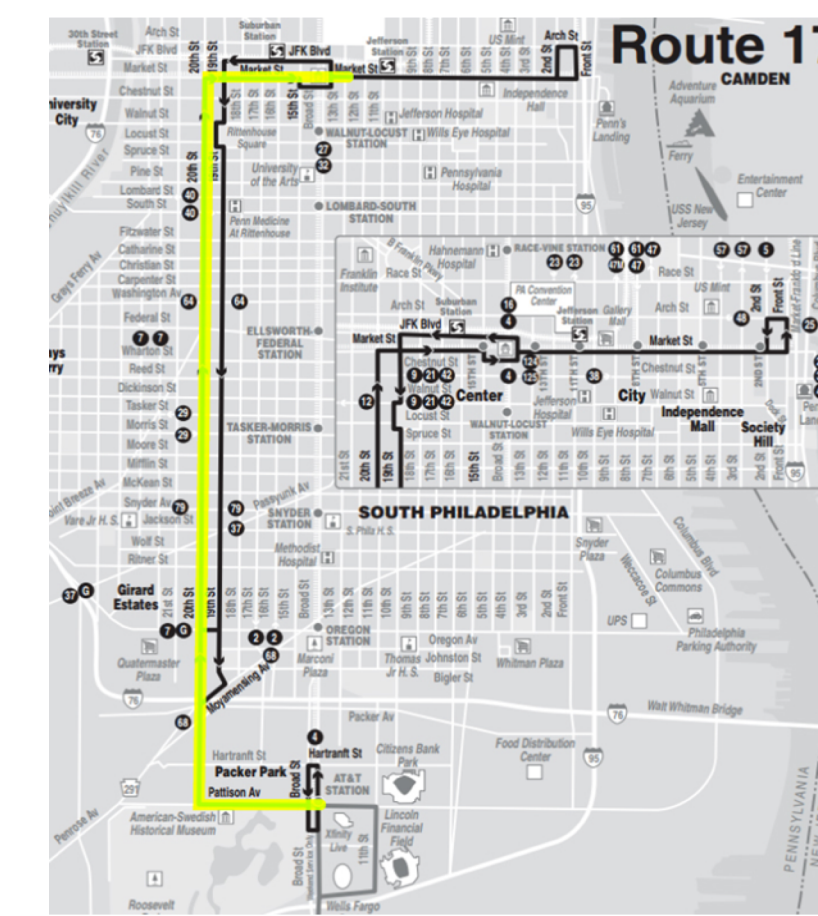
Occupational Therapy/Case Management Interprofessional Collaboration*

*“When multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with patients, families, [careers], and communities to deliver the highest quality of care.” (WHO 2010)

- Comprehensive Assessment (skills, deficits, environmental demands, resource availability)
- Collaboratively identify individualized or family-centered goals and interventions to achieve the goals
- Enabling & Empowering
- Awareness, access, and utilization of resources

- Analysis & break down the complexity of activities to ensure successful, sustainable participation and satisfaction
- Weekly IP Team Meetings to review clients’ progress, supports, and barriers toward participation in U.S. daily life

Upgrading Complexity & Capacity



As clients progress toward goal achievement, activities are upgraded in terms of complexity & capacity; consistency and frequency of independent performance and participation in everyday [U.S.] activities.

References

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