

4-14-2022

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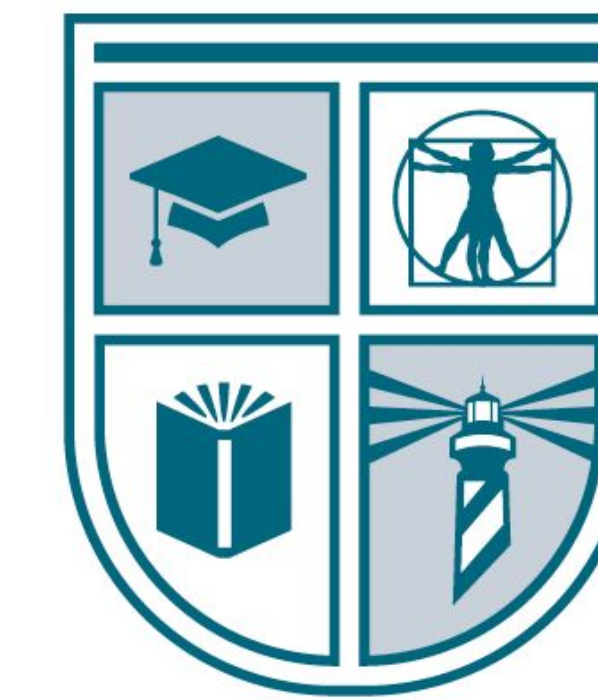
Recommended Citation

Yap, C. K., & MacDermott, S. (2022, April 14). The Role of Occupation Therapy in Homeless Transition-Aged Youth Programs. Poster presented at the Virtual OTD Capstone Symposium, University of St Augustine for Health Sciences. Retrieved from <https://soar.usa.edu/otdcapstones-spring2022/36>

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The Role of Occupation Therapy in Homeless Transition-Aged Youth Programs

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BACKGROUND

Who are homeless TAY?

Transition Aged Youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness who are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (Simpson et al., 2020)

Unstable housing availability and routines often make it hard for homeless TAY to meet their **basic needs**. Such as eating and maintaining proper hygiene, let alone finish schoolwork, maintain employment, or even socialize with others (Simpson et al., 2018).



PURPOSE

Originally, the purpose of this project was to explore the impact of current occupational therapy (OT) services with homeless TAY. However, the assessment of current programming with staff at Urban Street Angels (USA) was necessary before evaluating the impact of OT services provided to the TAY.

With the information gathered proposals were developed to:

1. Implement enhanced programming
2. Enhance current OT services
3. Provide OT Program Evaluation Methods

PROBLEM STATEMENT

OT programming can be beneficial, developed, and advocated for to provide holistic services, address barriers, and advocate for youth's needs.

- 01 Increased occupation needs and barriers to participate in daily activities for homeless TAY.
- 02 Limited literature on the effectiveness and outcomes of programs for homeless TAY, let alone OT programs.
- 03 OT has yet to secure its role in this emerging practice area.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Evaluated programming and occupational therapy (OT) services provided at USA to ensure that they are effective, efficient and beneficial to TAY accessing them. As well as, provided resources and training to staff.

Needs Assessment

Interviews

- USA La Mesa Site Staff (Case Managers, Peer Support Specialist, Housing Navigators, TAY Youth, Director of Occupational Therapy)

Observations

- HOY Collaborative Program Monthly Meetings.
- La Mesa Staff Meetings
- Staff and Youth Interactions

Program Evaluation

Analysis of Interview Responses

- Communication
- Role Clarity
- Optimizing OT Programming

Developing Tools & Resources

Implementation

Presenting and Training Staff

Editing Outcomes and Deliverables

OUTCOMES & DELIVERABLES

- Staff Roles Infographic
- Tools for staff to track TAY client progress
- Four-Week Crash Course on 'Financial Literacy' & 'Employment'
- HOY Collaborative Referral Tools
- OT Fieldwork Student Orientation Tools
- Remind.com account and Process (unsuccessful)

'La Mesa Youth' Excel Spreadsheet	Shared Google Drive 'USAx La Mesa'	'OT Referral Form'
'OT Report Template'	'OT Report Template Instructions'	'OT Intern Orientation Timeline'

FUTURE PROJECTS

- USA OT Program Evaluation.
- Developing Staff Training and Education.
- Exploring the impact of rituals and routines with TAY clients and staff.

References

- Simpson, E. K., McDermott, C. P., & Hild, L. E. (2020). Needs of transitionally housed young people to promote occupational Participation. *Occupational Therapy In Health Care*, 34(1), 62–80. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07380577.2020.1737895>
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Acknowledgements:

Dr. Bianca Doherty, OTD, OTR/L & Urban Street Angel's La Mesa Site Staff and Youth.