MiOTA Lansing Area Chapter Meeting

April 13, 2016

Attendance of 12 (7 MiOTA members) at the Wardcliff Abilities Center of CMHA-CEI.

1. Meeting began at 6:00 pm with 15 minutes of networking and appetizers. Cheri Ramirez welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present each gave a brief introduction including his or her name and place of work.
2. Cathleen Johnson (MiOTA board member) presented on MiOTA’s primary roles, purpose, and benefits to members including:
   1. Difference between MiOTA and OT Board. MiOTA is a voluntary membership organization that seeks to advocate for the occupational therapy profession in Michigan. The State of Michigan OT Board is a group appointed by the governor that is responsible for carrying out disciplinary actions and developing state practice rules and regulations for licensed occupational therapy practitioners. The Michigan OT Board is made up of 5 OTs and 4 community members.
   2. Continuing education requirements to maintain OT practitioner license in Michigan will likely be enacted in January 2017. The MiOTA board anticipates that the requirements will be about 20 credits for every two-year cycle, with specific requirements for pain and human trafficking.
   3. Benefits of MiOTA. With the assistance of the MiOTA lobbyist, Brett Marr, MiOTA monitors bills and legislation that could affect our scope of practice. They then distribute this information to MiOTA members in order to collectively to support and protect our distinct value in health care. 99% of dues go to support MiOTA’s lobbying efforts. Additionally, MiOTA hosts monthly webinars (free for members), networking events such as local chapter meetings or special interest groups, the annual conference, and other events.
   4. Lansing Lobby Day is on April 21, 2016 at the Capitol Building in Lansing. Everyone is encouraged to attend for all or part of the day. Supplies, talking points, and general information will be provided. The purpose is to educate legislators about pertinent issues related to OT practice, upcoming continuing education requirements for OT practitioners, and to present a unified front for our profession. Dress code is business casual. Attendees are encouraged to also wear green and blue, which are the MiOTA logo colors.
   5. The MiOTA annual conference will be hosted in Grand Rapids this year on October 6-7. There will be special topics on pain and human trafficking in order to meet the proposed requirements mentioned above for OT licensure in Michigan. MiOTA is also hosting a 5K again before the conference on October 5.
3. Cheri Ramirez and Alissa Baker led a discussion on how to move the Lansing area chapter forward and maintain the current momentum.
   1. Vision. Those present indicated that they are interested in having the Lansing area chapter serve as an opportunity for networking, training and continuing education credits, legislative updates from MiOTA, and provide an opportunity to support professional growth (e.g. collaborate to present at MiOTA).
   2. Opportunities. The group brainstormed future topics for meetings including OT regulations in Michigan (most recently enacted in 2014), how to navigate the CMS (Medicaid/Medicare) website/requirements, the role of OT in health maintenance and management and how to write goals specific to this type of treatment, and other continuing education opportunities. The group also expressed interest in rotating the meeting location in order to take tours of different facilities in the Lansing area.
   3. Staying Connected. It was suggested that a Lansing Area MiOTA Chapter Facebook page could be created. Cathleen indicated that she would check with the OT board to see if this would be okay. Cathryn Caswell volunteered to create and help manage the page. Review events in the area that support local OT practitioners such as the 5K to support CHUM. The group areed that these would be beneficial to share at meetings in order to facilitate connections and general support. The group also discussed a meeting schedule and agreed to meet 5 times per year in February, April, June, September, and November. Alissa will create a survey with dates, opportunity to host, and meeting topics that can be sent to the MiOTA Lansing area listserv.
4. Michael O’Connor brought up a proposed bill (SB395) that would allow a tax credit of up to $5000 for home modifications to support aging in place. This could be a great benefit to OT clients.
5. Cheri gave out door prizes to attendees to thank everyone for coming ☺.
6. Jenny Houston provided interested attendees with a tour of the Wardcliff Abilities Center.
7. Meeting attendees will be provided with a CEU certificate via email from MiOTA. Alissa will send the attendance list to Holly Mauk.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.