MiOTA, Southwest Chapter Meeting 5/9/18 Summary

Attendance of **19** at the Rider-Sammons Residence from 6:00-7:30 pm. Thank you again to our gracious hosts, Barb and Fred!

The meeting started with 30 minutes of networking and dinner, then:

1. Debra Lindstrom shared that the MiOTA Advocacy Committee is now meeting regularly as the formerly empty Advocacy Director position has been filled. Look for more information and activity as this important committee works on advocating for our profession at the state level.

2. **Meeting the Needs of the Medically Underserved** presented by OTs from the Family Health Center, Joel Phillips and Kristen Hamlin. They gave an inspiring and informative talk about the impact occupational therapy has made on the clients of the FHC, especially as OT has the unique ability to deal with the multiple comorbidities that present in almost all of their patients. Addressing these issues (which include other health conditions, homelessness, lack of basic life skills, mental health, trauma, lack of nutritious food, and more) are vital to recovery and health.

They began offering occupational therapy services in 2013, at that time the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Michigan that did so and one of the first in the nation. Now the FHC is one of 3-4 centers in Michigan offering OT. During this journey, the Joel and later the other OTs that joined him on the team have had to educate physicians, residents, and patients about occupational therapy. FHC now employs 3 full-time OTs as well as 3 PRN OTs and administrative staff!

Now they are working on getting occupational therapy to be one of the primary disciplines assessing patients at the initial visit as part of the integrated model of primary care at the FHC. Occupational therapy’s holistic approach could be an asset in determining the best treatment for clients.

Interesting stats from FHC in 2017: 31,000 patients; 85,000 medical visits; 22,000 dental visits; 14,000 mental health visits; and **17,000 PT/OT** **visits**.

The Occupational Therapy Department invites anyone to come visit and see the work in action. Locations are 117 W. Patterson and 505 E. Alcott Road. Contact Joel Phillips, Director of OT – kasyris@gmail.com and Kristen Hamlin - kristen.hamlin2@fhckzoo.com

3. We would love to have a speaker present on Human Trafficking at one of our meetings as this will become required course for renewing our Michigan license. If anyone has expertise in this topic or knows of someone who would be available, please let me know by responding to this email. We also welcome any topics related to occupational therapy practice or advocacy for our profession. Please contact me if you are interested in presenting or have an idea for a future meeting topic.

4. Reminder to check the MiOTA website for updated information relevant to occupational therapy in Michigan, [www.miota.org](http://www.miota.org) . To become a member, use this link: <https://mms.miota.org/members/newmem/registration.php?orgcode=MOTA&>

5. Free MiOTA webinars/a benefit membership! Here is the link to the MiOTA webinars: <https://www.miota.org/webinar_list.php>

Attendees who are MiOTA members should have received a PDU certificate by email from Holly at the MiOTA office. Please contact me if you did not receive your certificate.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine