Erie Community College
Occupational Therapy Department

DEVELOPING LEVEL II FIELDWORK OBJECTIVES TO ENHANCE LEARNING

According to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of AOTA, each fieldwork site should develop fieldwork objectives that reflect the unique settings, expectations, consumer population, treatment approaches and philosophy of your organization.

Just like treatment goals that you develop to demonstrate progress of your patients and consumers, your objectives for interns should be **Relevant, Understandable, Measurable, Behavioral, and Achievable:**

RELEVANT

Fieldwork objectives should be related to the goals and competencies expected of entry-level occupational therapy assistants at <u>your</u> facility. The following sources should be used to guide your development of site-specific fieldwork:

- **OTA/COTA job descriptions**
- **Competencies listed in the Fieldwork Performance Evaluation**
- **Level II Course Objectives** as listed in the Level II Course syllabus as they relate to your facility

Your objectives should address the duties and expectations of entry-level COTAs at **<u>YOUR</u>** facility. Typical expectations often relate to:

- **Documentation-** writing treatment notes, summaries, incident reports, chart reviews, etc.
- **Evaluation-** being able to utilize standardized and non-standardized evaluation tools
- **Intervention-** being able to select, develop, and implement appropriate therapeutic activities for remediation or compensation of patient performance deficits.
- **Fabrication**- being able to create splints, assistive devices, adapted toys and devices, etc.
- **Demeanor-** interacting in a professional manner with patients and staff.
- **Oral Presentation/Communication-** being able to present information at team meetings, in-services, etc.

UNDERSTANDABLE

Your objectives should be clearly *understood* by the intern, and those involved in supervision. Clarify the objectives with the intern at the start of the fieldwork to ensure clear understanding what is he/she expected to know and do in order to successfully achieve each objective. Explain timelines by which you expect the intern to meet each objective.

MEASURABLE

Just like patient treatment goals, intern objectives should be *measurable*. By stating your expectations using units of measure *(# of, % of),* both you and the intern will be able to periodically assess progress towards meeting the objectives. In addition, adding specific conditions (i.e. *independent*, *with prompt from supervisor*, *accurately*, etc.) will help the intern and supervisor to understand the expected *quality* of performance. The following example incorporates measurable units

> By ***6 weeks*** *the intern will independently and accurately write* ***100%*** *of daily treatment notes for a* caseload of at least ***10 patients*** *consistent with the format utilized by this OT Department.*

BEHAVIORAL

Behavioral refers to occurrences that can bee seen or heard. State what you want the intern to *"do".* Reflect those actions that you expect the intern to perform, and the knowledge you expect the intern to utilize. Some behaviors that reflect knowledge are to have the intern *"state", "report", or "describe".* For example:

> *By 6 weeks the intern will accurately and thoroughly* ***discuss one current case*** *including patient's diagnosis, history and prognosis, suggested treatment goals and objectives, and 5 possible interventions that are consistent with the methodology used in this department.*

ACHIEVEABLE

Objectives should be realistic given the academic preparation of the student and the time allotted for Level II fieldwork. Interns will have completed three semesters of didactic course work, lab classes, and Level I fieldwork experiences. It is important to remember that Level II fieldwork is considered an integral component of the education of students. Level II allows interns to begin to put together the many pieces that have been learned up until that point. The internship provides the first opportunity for interns to apply what they have learned within real healthcare settings and circumstances. Interns should be expected to be able to perform at an entry-level by the **END** of Level II *(and not at the beginning)*. Therefore objectives should reflect the intern's need to first learn and practice new skills before mastery is expected.

By setting realistic timelines, and setting reachable steps along the way, both you and the intern will be able to evaluate progress at various junctures of the fieldwork experience. For example, by indicating an objective that the intern will be able to *"independently provide all interventions and documentation for a full caseload (10*

patients, for example) by the end of the 7th week", you could also develop several short-term steps that will help the intern to work towards the final objective:

> ***Objective A:*** *By the end of the 7th week, independently and accurately provide all interventions and treatment note documentation according to treatment plans for a caseload of at least 10 subacute patients.*
>
> > ***Step 1A:*** *By the end of the 1st week, develop and deliver one intervention for one subacute patient and accurately write one treatment note following the session with direct observation and prompt from supervisor.*
> >
> > ***Step 2A:*** *By the end of 3rd week, independently and accurately provide all interventions and treatment note documentation according to treatment plans for a minimum of 4 subacute patients under direct supervision.*
> >
> > ***Step 3A:*** *By the end of the 5th week, independently and accurately provide all interventions and treatment note documentation according to treatment plans for a caseload of at least 7 subacute patients.*

SAMPLE OBJECTIVES

Here are some sample fieldwork objectives. Remember, these are from a variety of settings, so they may or may not be relevant to your organization.

- By the end of the 2nd week the intern will demonstrate understanding by accurately discussing the significance of Public Law 94-142 and subsequent amendments (IDEA), and its relevance to occupational therapy services in school-systems.
- By the end of the 7th week the intern will accurately write, on time, all progress notes for patients on his/her caseload in the format and style that is consistent with this department.
- By the end of the 4th week the intern will independently lead a group treatment session addressing the specified treatment objectives.
- By the end of the 4th week the intern will accurately write educationally relevant short-term objectives and long-term goals for one child's IEP.
- By the end of the 7th week the intern will accurately and independently write all daily and weekly notes on all assigned patients.
- By the end of the 2nd week the intern will be able to discuss the purpose of the FIM, the role of OT in contributing to FIM data, and the relevance of the FIM to occupational therapy.
- By the end of the 3rd week the intern will accurately and thoroughly describe the roles and responsibilities of all other healthcare disciplines that are part of the healthcare team at this facility.