

PEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

MCH Training Program

PROGRAM HISTORY AND STRATEGY

The goals of occupational therapy as a health discipline are to prevent disability and handicap and to promote, restore, and maintain health through occupation. Since its inception, the goal of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) pediatric occupational therapy training program has been to prepare master's and doctoral students for future leadership roles in the field of occupational therapy, particularly as it relates to mothers and children. The program focuses on both increasing access to developmental programs for children with disabilities and developing culturally competent, community-based systems of care for children and mothers.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The purpose of the pediatric occupational therapy program is to facilitate a national focus on leadership in the field through the following activities: (1) post-professional graduate training of occupational therapists for leadership roles in education, service, research, administration, and advocacy in programs providing services for the maternal and child health (MCH) population; (2) the development and dissemination of curricula, teaching models, and educational resources to enhance the MCH content in occupational therapy training programs; and (3) the provision of continuing education, consultation, and technical assistance in pediatric occupational therapy that addresses the needs of the MCH community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty/Trainees. Participating faculty have demonstrated leadership skills and experience in integrating pediatric occupational therapy services in

local and state health care systems. Trainees enrolled in the program are working toward a postprofessional graduate degree with a pediatric focus. In addition to completing other course work, students participate in special seminars covering topics such as leadership development, grant writing, and the social and economic challenges currently faced by mothers and children. Trainees also gain both discipline-specific and leadership skills in a variety of ways, which include developing and conducting research projects; teaching undergraduate courses and attending seminars on faculty development; and collaborating with public health and community service agencies to provide technical assistance.



Curriculum. The program curriculum includes graduate education at the master's or doctoral levels, with an emphasis on occupational therapy within the context of family and community systems. Course content and philosophy aim to prepare graduates to assume leadership roles in integrating pediatric occupational therapy into state and local systems of care in community-based settings, especially those that provide MCH services and that target children with special health care needs. Training sites function as regional or national resources for the health professional community to improve services and enhance trainee education. Grantees also develop curricula, teaching models, and other educational resources, which are shared with other occupational therapy programs.

PROGRAM PROFILE

- In FY 1999, the MCHB pediatric occupational therapy training program funded three occupational therapy projects, with annual grant awards totaling \$398,000.
- The grant awards range from \$126,000 to \$140,000 per year, with a mean award amount of \$133,000.

Present Grant Recipients

| STATE | GRANTEE |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| CA | University of Southern California |
| MA | Boston University |
| WI | University of Wisconsin–Madison |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. 1997. *Maternal and Child Health Center for Leadership in Pediatric Occupational Therapy Education: Application Guidance*. Rockville, MD: U.S. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

