

## SW Chapter Meeting Summary 050714

Attendance of 18 at the Rider-Sammons Residence.

- 1) Organized the Southwest chapter according to MiOTA standards.
  - a) Unanimously appointed: Deb Lindstrom will be our chapter's MiOTA liaison and take care of the chapter budget as needed. Christine Vlietstra will continue to take care of communications within the chapter.
  - b) We discussed the purpose of our chapter and aligned it with the MiOTA policies and procedures manual. Annually, we will re-evaluate the structure and purpose of the Southwest chapter to make sure it is still meeting the needs of the OT practitioners in this region.
  - c) Voted 10-4 to continue to allow a non-MiOTA member to try our chapter meeting once (vs 2 times). We will continue (and begin enforcing) the policy of one visit and then the OT/student should join MiOTA in order to have the privilege of attending the meetings. Nancy Krolikowski and Denise Hoffman volunteered to follow up with first time visitors, in particular those who are not MiOTA members. Nancy will provide copies of MiOTA membership forms at future meetings.
- 2) Friends of OT in Michigan PAC update: Donors to the PAC will be listed and thanked in the MiOTA newsletter. If you do not want your name listed, please contact Deb Lindstrom as soon as possible. The PAC is taking donations for 2014. Deb: [debra.lindstrom@wmich.edu](mailto:debra.lindstrom@wmich.edu)
- 3) Denise Hoffman, MiOTA's Advocacy Director shared updates on what is going on in the state. Her position was vacant for about 1 ½ years and during that time OTs lost ground in the legislative front. One of the casualties, that MiOTA is now working on, is getting OTs back in as a payable provider for Medicaid autism treatment, ages 0-5. ABA (applied behavior analysis) therapists have been able to get reimbursed up to 15 hours/week for working with this population while OT and speech have been left out. (Bill 655) There are concerns on the qualifications of the ABA therapists to provide treatment as well as the loss of the specific skills OT brings to the table in this age/population. MiOTA has submitted a positional paper with evidence to support OT in autism treatment, but we need OTs to continue to educate clients, psychologists, and law-makers on the unique and irreplaceable difference OTs can make for children with autism diagnoses. Questions or to volunteer to help, contact Denise: [dhoffmanot@gmail.com](mailto:dhoffmanot@gmail.com)
- 4) Pediatric OT, Peggy McCourry invited people to the open house of her new clinic, Sensory Systems Clinic West, PLC. It is Thursday, May 15, located in Wayland. Time: 4-7:00 pm at 145 S. Main St. Suite #4 (Behind the Library downtown), Wayland, MI 49348. During the open house, she is volunteering to use to provide further education on OT in autism or introduce people to the Interactive Metronome (IM). Peggy: [pegtheot@aol.com](mailto:pegtheot@aol.com), Phone: 269-792-2353.
- 5) A future meeting topic will be how to reach out to our legislatures, with the possibility of inviting some of our actual representatives or senators to join us.
- 6) Due to the length of time needed to discuss the above, the workshop in IM will be offered again at a future meeting, probably the next one. Thanks to Peggy who did offer time after the official

meeting ended to answer some questions about IM. Keep an eye on your email towards the end of summer for information about the next meeting.

- 7) Sharon Schaafmeyer shared that there is a job opening for an OT at both Iona and Gratiot County Community Mental Health. They are planning to provide this job information to the universities, and a job posting has already been provided to MIOTA. Questions about the job openings, contact Sharon: [sschaafmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:sschaafmeyer@gmail.com)

Attendees of the meeting on 5/7/14 will be sent a CEU certificate via email soon. Thanks to Dr. Atchison and the Western Michigan University OT Department for providing these.

Respectfully,

Christine Vlietstra