

Title: Social justice and resource utilization in a community-based organization: A case illustration of the role of occupational therapist

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Major Finding: Occupational therapy knowledge such as MOHO's concept of volition may be useful for community organizations seeking to apply principles of social justice through the fair and just distribution of resources.

Participants:

- One 28-year-old white male, one 32-year-old black female
 - Both living with HIV/AIDS
- Participants were selected from those individuals applying for residency at a supportive living facility for people with HIV/AIDS aimed at promoting resident self-sufficiency.

Method: Evaluation of the participants using MOHO assessment tools and initial staff perceptions of the participants was combined with narrative data about the interventions used and resulting outcomes for comparison.

Analysis: Information about the outcomes achieved by the participants was examined with consideration for the expectations that the supportive living facility team had established for each participant based on historical assessment data, initial participant interviews, and observations.

Findings:

- Outcomes for each participant resulting from interventions within a supportive living environment did not match the expected outcomes discussed by the team prior to intervention.
- Volition and accuracy of participant self-perception of capacities may have been areas not sufficiently assessed or discussed prior to establishment of expectations and allocation of resources by the team.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists can play a role in community-based organizations that must decide how to distribute resources while remaining consistent with concepts of social justice. Occupational therapy knowledge and skills can provide insight into areas of importance that may be overlooked by traditional means of assessment.

Implications for future research: Future research could investigate the application of occupational therapy knowledge central to the field's paradigm as a component of solutions to procedural justice dilemmas encountered by community organizations.

Evidence-based practice implications:

- **Initial judgments and expectations that fail to take into account factors such as volition and accuracy of self assessment of capacities may not accurately reflect potential for self-sufficiency.**
- **Community organizations faced with decisions involving distribution of human, financial, and other resources may benefit from incorporation of paradigmatic occupational therapy knowledge into their decision-making process.**

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