

Defining Occupational Therapy Services in Acute Psychiatric Hospitals through Information Pamphlets

Sharon Rolland, Tamar Paley-Altit, Adina Maeir

Sharon Rolland, OT, MSc, Shalvata Mental Health Center. sharonro@clalit.org.il

Tamar Paley-Altit, MSc, OTR, School of Occupational Therapy of Hadassah and the Hebrew University Mt. Scopus. tamarpaltit@gmail.com

Adina Maeir, PhD, OT, School Chair and Director of Graduate Studies School of Occupational Therapy Faculty of Medicine Hadassah and Hebrew University. adina.maeir@mail.huji.ac.il

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Over the past decades, major changes have been made in the mental health services provided worldwide, including in Israel. New community mental health services have been developed, fewer hospital beds are available and the hospital stays are shorter. All these changes have served to affect the roles of multi-disciplinary teams practicing in acute psychiatric hospital settings. Occupational therapy is central to mental health but the multi-disciplinary teams are not clear as to its role in these types of settings. Clarifying the role of occupational therapy service can enhance cooperation among the multi-disciplinary teams and improve treatment outcomes. Currently, there is a lack of information pamphlets produced in Israel that depict the role of occupational therapists in acute psychiatric hospital units. This project is presented within the framework of the master's graduate studies in the School of Occupational Therapy in Jerusalem for the purpose of producing an information pamphlet defining the services of occupational therapy for adults in acute situations hospitalized in psychiatric hospitals. A clear description of the role of occupational therapists in these settings will clarify and increase knowledge regarding the service they provide, resulting in improved multi-disciplinary staff services. A pilot version of the pamphlet was distributed to psychiatric units in an Israeli hospital and the positive responses received support the need to increase their distribution to other hospitals in a systematic manner.