Early Identification of Infants with Cerebral Palsy

Sydney Marable, OT Student and LEND Fellow
## Outline

1. CP Task Force Background Information
2. Why is this important?
3. Step 1 – NMOTA Conference Presentation
4. Step 2 – Toolkit Creation
5. Step 3 – Website Organization
6. What’s Next
7. What I learned
Cerebral Palsy Task Force

- Multi-disciplinary
- Multi-Agency
- Goal: Early Identification of Infants at High Risk of Cerebral Palsy and Early Referral for appropriate services
Why is Early Detection Important?

- Cerebral Palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood
- About 1 in 500 births
- Diagnosis usually made between 12-24 months of age
- Neuroplasticity in the early years!
- Early Identification can mean Early Intervention
  - Optimize motor, communication, cognition
  - Prevent secondary impairments
  - Promote caregiver coping and mental health

(Novak, et al., 2017)
Step 1 - NMOTA Presentation

- Investigation Methods:
  - What are the evidence based interventions being used for Occupational therapists working with infants are risk for or with cerebral palsy?
  - PubMed
  - AJOT

- Results:
  - There isn’t a ton of information for this population
  - Use research with older children + clinical judgment + parent wishes
  - 30 minute presentation
Step 2 – Toolkit Creation

- **Investigation Methods:**
  - What do parents want to know?
  - What signs can they look for?
  - How can we modify the CPF toolkit for New Mexico?

- **Results**
  - Parent Brochure with definition, signs, and resources
  - Medical Toolkit waiting for group input and approval
Step 3 – Website Organization

- Investigation Methods:
  - What will the public want to know about our group?
  - What resources will they need?
  - Collecting information from others, organizing and sending

- Results:
  - Pending Approval May 5th
What’s Next

1. GRADUATION!!
2. Public Release of Project Items
3. Continued Participation in NMCPTF
4. Fieldwork
What I Learned

- What Multi-Disciplinary Teaming Should Be
- How to Jump-In
- The Benefits and Challenges of Collaboration
- Putting Together Information is Hard
In Summary

- I helped facilitate future outreach by creating materials
- I presented for the first time at a conference
- I was able to participate in an incredible group of professionals