

Occupational Therapy Service Development: Situational Analysis Topics

Topics for consideration in the situational analysis include:

Need Description

- What is the dominant community need for the occupational therapy service?
- What occupational therapy services are currently provided?
- What gaps in service provision are known?

Population Impact

- Who is impacted by the problem or need?
- What are the demographic characteristics of the people impacted (e.g. geographic location, age, gender, health needs, socioeconomic conditions)?
- What is the magnitude of the need or problem?

Need Priority

- Why should the need be addressed?
- Why is this the right time to develop an occupational therapy service?
- What is the impact if occupational therapy services are not provided?

Need for Occupational Therapy

- What part of overall needs can be addressed by occupational therapy?
- What are the best ways to address the identified problem or needs?
- What is the target population for occupational therapy?
- What evidence supports occupational therapy to address the identified needs?
- What is the most appropriate structure for occupational therapy service delivery (e.g. community-based or facility-based services)?
- Will the proposed occupational therapy service be unique, or is modeling the service on an existing service a relevant consideration?
- Where will the occupational therapy service be hosted (e.g. within an existing hospital or clinic or stand-alone service)?
- What are the aims and role of the hosting organisation?

Funding and Governance Issues

- Are funds available for occupational therapy or is sourcing new funds required?
- How do political or cultural issues and sensitivities affect service delivery and management?
- What are the professional requirements for occupational therapists for delivery of the service?
- What are the potential impacts of legislative and regulatory frameworks for occupational therapy?

Community Support

- What supports exist in the broader community for the occupational therapy service (e.g. education programmes, other rehabilitation providers)
- Does the community identify the proposed need as important?
- Is the community ready to address the needs?
- How will occupational therapy fit within existing services?

Barriers

- Why has this need not been addressed before?
- What factors impede meeting the needs?
- What are the barriers to occupational therapy service development?

Facilitators

- What resources are needed for the planning process?
- What consultants are needed and available to assist with the planning team (e.g. from education programmes, professional associations)?