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Providing Pediatric Occupational Therapy with Marginalized Communities: Lessons from Learning the Hmong Way

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Providing Pediatric Occupational Therapy with Marginalized Communities: Lessons from Learning the Hmong Way

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OTD Capstone Presentation | July 27th, 2023

"Ntau txhais tes ua hauj lwm sib; ntau lub tswv yim ua tau txoj kev qhib."

"Many hands make work light; many ideas open the way."



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Literature Review and Needs Assessment

Hmong Population

- Southeast Asian ethnic minority group from mountains of Laos and Thailand
- Fled homeland in 1970s following involvement in Vietnam War
- Largest populations in California, Minnesota and Wisconsin

Knowledge Gaps

- Meyers (1992) Culturally appropriate care during OT assessment process
- Baker et al. (2010) Focus group study to improve access and services for persons with IDD
 - community-based participatory research methods are effective to study health inequities in marginalized communities
 - social stigma intersected with spiritual beliefs
- Khuu et al. (2017) Lack of Hmong terminology for mental disabilities

(Baker et al., 2010; Collier, 2012; Khuu et al., 2017; Meyers, 1992; Sparks, 2014)



Literature Review and Needs Assessment

Capstone Site: Hlub Hmong Center | Merced, CA

Strengths

Centered on social justice, measurable results and providing solutions; staff diversity; community participation

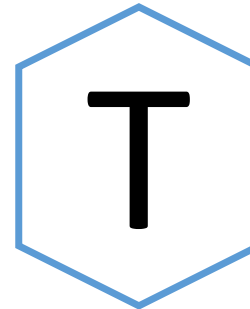


Weaknesses

Effectively managing community partnerships; stronger presence in social media; community participation

Opportunities

Partnerships with other Hmong community-based organizations; capacity for OT consultant or community advocate



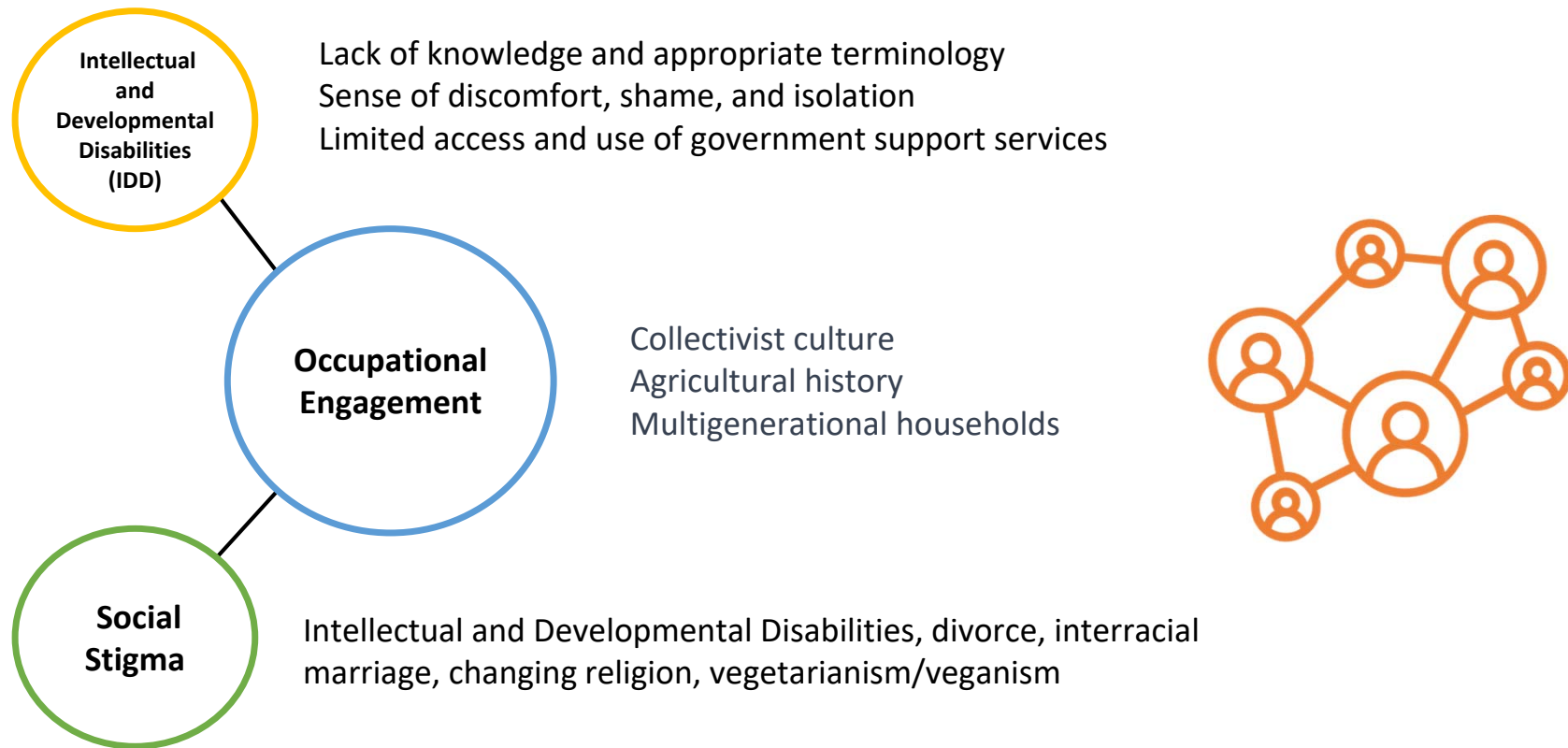
Threats

Grant-based community projects; visibility of Hmong in America; data disaggregation and data collection



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Background



(Baczuk, 2022; Baker et al., 2010)



Program Purpose

Scholarly Paper

- Need: Social stigma in the Hmong community
- Method: Interviewed with 7 Hmong community members

Hmong CommunOT Resource Webpage

- Need: Unable to find web resources on Hmong, IDD, and OT
- Method: Created a hub for Hmong people seeking introductory knowledge on the role of pediatric OT and IDD

Community Presentation

- Need: Lack of public service staff participation in HHC program
- Method: Interviewed with 4 Regional Center staff members

How have the Hmong successfully navigated other socially stigmatized experiences?



Guiding Theories



Framework of Occupational Justice (FOJ)

- Occupational perspective of justice or injustice in everyday activities; impact of structural and contextual factors; emphasis on inclusion of all people with mental disorder
- Scholarly paper discussing social stigma impact on occupational engage



Model of Human Occupation (MOHO)

- Three key components working together: volition, habituation, and performance capacity
- Volition: deciding not to attend family event to avoid discomfort from relatives

(Christiansen et al., 2012; OT Theory, 2022; Townsend, 2012)



Outcomes

Lessons from the Hmong

Social stigma is an ongoing struggle

Embody deep sense of self empowerment

Multifaceted individuals with multiple identities

Take time away from unsupportive spaces

Prioritize confidentiality when seeking help

Disability as a subculture



Discussion

Implications

- Findings not generalizable due to small sample size
- Ongoing discussions about disability
- Hard to find strategies for inclusion when distressed with stigma
- Create accessible support networks
- Evolving attitudes around stigma

Recommendations

- Larger sample size studied over a longer period of time
- Further explore of disability as a subculture of the Hmong
- Document new shifts in views and attitudes towards socially stigmatized experiences in Hmong population



Impact



Personal

Opportunity to reconnect with
Hmong community leaders

Privileged position to converse with
community members and public
health leaders



Community Site

Application of OT lens

OT consultant and
community advocate



OT Profession

Lessons for OTR working with
marginalized community

Awareness of OT services

Call to action for more research



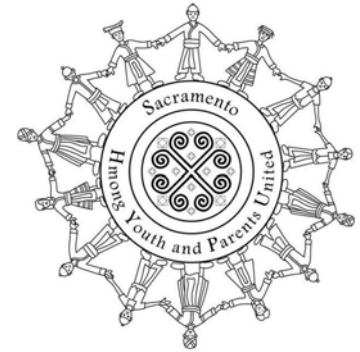
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