

CSUDH | OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational Therapy Association of California
2018 Annual Conference

(But I Thought I Was Being Ethical)

Session #77
Saturday, October 27, 2018
2:30-5:45pm

CSUDH | OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

(But, I Thought I was Being Ethical)

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OTR 530: Professional Development Seminar – Portfolio II, Ethics

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- Who you are
- Why this session
- What goal(s)

Objectives:

- Discuss the ethical codes of conduct by AOTA and CBOT
- Describe systematic approach for ethical decision-making
- Analyze potential ethical situations; determine ethical course of action

This afternoon:

- Review AOTA's *Code of Ethics* and CBOT's *Ethical Standards of Practice*
- Ethical dilemmas and moral distress
- Jurisdiction
- Ethical decision-making
- Case scenarios
- Resources

CBOT citation statistics:

Reviewed?

- AOTA's *Code of Ethics*
- CBOT's *Ethical Standards of Practice*

Groups:

- Students
- Work in academia (as primary job)
- 1st year of practice
- 2-5 years in practice
- 6-10 years in practice
- 11-20 years in practice
- 20+ years in practice

**Let's see how you did ...
let's do it again!**

What is an ethical dilemma?

Dilemma

"situation in which there is not one clear-cut, right answer but two (*di-*) possible courses of action (*-lemma*) that however, conflict with one another"

(Slater, 2016, p.291)

Ethical Dilemma

"conflict between two divergent moral challenges that one must resolve in deciding a proper course of action"

(Scott, 2017, p.39)

What is moral distress?

- "tension that arises when a moral agent encounters a barrier that prohibits him or her from doing what he or she knows to be right" (Slater, 2016, p. 292)
- Jameton: "relates to painful feelings and psychological disequilibrium that results from a moral conflict in which one knows the correct action to take, but constraints prevent implementation of the action (as cited in Slater, 2016, p. 117)

Major causes of moral distress

- AOTA's Ethics Commission survey
- Initially in 2008 – identify causes of moral distress in OT practitioners
- Survey repeated 2015, 1,956 responses (AOTA members)

(Slater, 2016)

Putting it altogether ...

What to do?

- Recognize moral distress
- Implement educational strategies
- Improve communication
- Create healthy work environment
- Promote ethical leadership

AOTA's Advisory Opinions (members only)

- State licensure, professionalism, and the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics
- Ethical considerations for productivity, billing and reimbursement
- Promoting ethically sound practices in Occupational Therapy fieldwork education
- Ethical considerations relevant to emerging technology-based interventions
- Telehealth
- Ethical considerations in private practice
- OT/OTA partnerships: Achieving high ethical standards in a challenging health care environment
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Ethics and online social networking
- The role of an expert witness
- Professional boundaries: Where to draw the line
- Cultural competency and ethical practice
- Social justice and meeting the needs of clients

AOTA's Advisory Opinions (members only)

- Outdated and obsolete tests and assessments instruments
- Balancing patient rights and practitioner values
- Ethical considerations for professional education of students with disabilities
- On organizational ethics
- On ethical considerations when occupational therapists engage in business transactions with clients
- Ethical issues concerning payment for services
- On ethics in governance
- On patient abandonment
- Ethical management of disrespectful, disruptive, uncivil, and unethical colleagues: Consequences to patient safety, health care team wellness and morale, and workplace retention
- Ethical considerations for Occupational Therapy Assistants in management roles
- Role of occupational therapy ethics rounds in practice

Resources

- OTAC's Practice, Ethics, and Reimbursement Committee
- <http://otaonline.org/community/committees/practice-ethics-reimbursement>
- Co-Chairs: Katie Jordan, OTD, OTR/L and Phuong Nguyen, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, Neuro-IFRAH certified, practicechr1@otaonline.org
- California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT)
- File complaint: <http://www.bot.ca.gov/consumers/complaints.shtml>
- AOTA's Ethics Commission
- Current chair: Ann McDonald, PhD, OTR/L (at West Coast University, Los Angeles)
- File complaint: <https://www.aota.org/Practice/Ethics/Complaint.aspx>
- ethics@aota.org

References

American Occupational Therapy Association (2015). Occupational therapy code of ethics (2015). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69, (Suppl. 3) <http://dx.doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2015.696S03>

Doherty, R.F., & Peterson, E.W. (2016). Responsible participation in a profession: Fostering professionalism and leading for moral action. In B. Braveman, *Leading & managing occupational therapy services: An evidence-based approach* (pp. 467-494). Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company.

Ethical Standards of Practice, 16 Cal Code of Regs 39, § 4170

Morris, J.F. (2003, February 24). Is it possible to be ethical? *OT Practice*, 18-23. (Note: Also in Slater, D.Y. (2016) (pp. 83-89; see below)

Scott, J.B. (2017). Solving ethical dilemmas. In J.B. Scott & S.M. Reitz (Eds.), *Practical applications for the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics (2015)* (pp. 39-49). Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

Slater, D.Y. (2016). *Reference Guide to the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics (2015 Ed)*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
