Rollin’ Through Life: Pediatric Power Mobility

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Mission Statement:
“Our Family-Centered Service delivery philosophy and approach values your family’s and child’s role in collaboration to develop goals and a therapy plan. You and your family are involved in each step of evaluation and treatment, including parent training and home programs. Family-centered care directs therapy towards realistic family and child priorities and goals, and fosters wellness and participation across your child’s life span, including the transition to adulthood.”

Vision Statement:
“We are a community guided by and committed to our mission. We value collaboration with patients and colleagues. We communicate openly and honestly. We treat others as we would wish to be treated. We strive to be fair and non-judgmental toward all. We value diversity. We each safeguard professional integrity, pursuing the highest ethical standards. We are each accountable for carrying forth our mission.”

Needs of the Agency
According to RESNA (2017), there is currently no established training protocols or standardized tests being used when training children to operate power wheelchairs.

- Therapists in the seating and mobility clinic report difficulty determining if power mobility (PM) is appropriate for some children.
- Desire to improve process of assessing a child’s PM skills and providing opportunities for children to learn and practice their PM skills.
- Increase therapist understanding of PM to promote better client outcomes and quality of life.

Outcomes of Project
- Developed the following resources: introductory PM brochure, parent/caregiver PM guidebook, PM trial handout, maintenance/follow up instructions, therapist competency checklist, and wheelchair reference cards for the three demonstration power wheelchairs in the clinic.
- Co-led PM trials, utilizing the Power Mobility Training Tool (PMTT) to track outcomes and support device recommendation.
- Facilitated in-service education and competency training for 7 practicing occupational and physical therapists on best practice pediatric PM and device configuration.
- Completed the World Health Organization Basic Wheelchair Service Provider Certification training.
- Represented Belmont University at the 35th International Seating Symposium.
- Organized GoBabyGo! event that provided 11 children with mobility impairments modified ride-on toy cars.

Goals of Project
1. Discover techniques and develop best practice interventions to support pediatric PM based on current literature synthesized with stakeholder interviews.
2. Develop advanced knowledge on pediatric PM to create evidence-based, client-centered, and comprehensive resources for the pediatric PM training program.
3. Demonstrate advanced clinical skills during the implementation of the pediatric PM training program.
4. Gain advanced competency in program development during the creation of the pediatric PM training program.
5. Collaborate with other professionals on best practice in teaching pediatric PM and practice family-centered communication.

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References
List available upon request.