BOOK REVIEWS

Quality of Life and Mental Health Services


This text examines the concept of "quality of life" for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. The first section, concepts and theory, reviews the literature defining and measuring quality of life, describes the development of the Lancashire Quality of Life Profile (LQOLP) and its psychometric properties, and discusses measuring quality of life in a mental health service context. The second section describes use of the LQOLP in both program (e.g., residential homes, case management services, community-based support programs) and individual service (e.g., case studies). The final section is a frank discussion of the lessons learned while trying to measure "quality of life" in mental health services.

While many people agree that trying to improve "quality of life" for people with severe mental illness is admirable, this text details efforts to turn this ideal into concrete action. Although the LQOLP has been used primarily in the United Kingdom, the concepts addressed in the profile and types of service programs described translate well to this country. This text demonstrates that "quality of life" can be measurably improved for persons with severe mental illness and details the critical measurement issues involved. It will be useful to clinicians, researchers, and policy makers as the rhetoric heats up about the use of "quality of life" to measure outcomes.

Peggy L. Denton, PhD, OTR

Psychosocial Approaches to Deeply Disturbed Persons


This book reviews current theory and research regarding the use of a psychosocial approach to treat persons with severe mental illness. The series of articles chosen by the editors challenges mental health professionals to approach severe mental illness from a psychosocial approach rather than a medical approach. They provide diverse views of severe mental illness and social and psychological approaches in the treatment of persons with these disorders.

Although the articles chosen by the editors are not specific to occupational therapy, I believe that occupational therapy practitioners practicing in mental health will find the text worth reading and a useful reference tool. Of particular interest are the articles written by Janet Foner, Louis Birner, Julian Leff and Ruth Berkowitz, and Robert F. Morgan. Each of these authors provide case histories to illustrate a social or psychological treatment approach.

Catherine R. Acre, EdD, OTR/L

Task Analysis: An Occupational Performance Approach

Diane E. Watson, MBA, OTR/L, BCP (1997) American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., 4720 Montgomery Lane, PO Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220 454 pp., $25.00, ISBN 1-56900-065-4

Task Analysis: An Occupational Performance Approach is designed to provide a framework for the development of task analysis skills among occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students. Ms. Watson begins by defining and differentiating between the concept of activity analysis and task analysis. Task analysis is viewed as going beyond activity analysis to examine the "dynamic and interdependent relationships between people and their chosen occupations and performance contexts."