Holistic Home Modification: Developing a Client-Centered Approach to Home Assessments and Quality of Life Measures

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**Agency: Tucker’s House**

**Mission:** To create safer more accessible homes and environments for children and young adults with disabilities

**Vision:** Inclusion for everyBODY

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**Literature Review**

- Accessibility of home environment directly affects the quality of life (QOL) of the individual with disabilities as well as the caregiver
- Proper body mechanics with transfers increase safety and reduce risk of injury to individual and caregiver
- A common burden of caregivers and individuals with disabilities includes the inability to age in place
- A common concern of individuals with disabilities and caregivers is the ability to improve the functional independence of the individual
- Low self-efficacy with use of durable medical equipment (DME) and assistive technology (AT) is directly related to decreased adherence to recommendations and usage of materials

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**Identified Needs**

- Need for standardized measurements of quality of life changes before/after for clients to complete.
- Need for an evaluation of current home assessment applications
- Need for an updated caregiver survey
- Need for self-efficacy scales for clients and/or caregivers
- Need for assistance in gathering impact statements from families
- Need for research on home modification community resources in areas outside of Tucker’s House’s domain
- Need for assistance with event planning
- Need for a literature review of home assessments and common elements among them
- Need for assistance with developing an information packet for Vanderbilt’s Muscular Dystrophy clinic
- Need for assistance with tagging DME and AT that Tucker’s House provided to clients

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**Assessment Areas**

**Areas covered in home assessment & QOL measure review:**

- Price
- Time to perform
- Support from research
- Understandability of instruction
- Inclusion of activities of daily living
- Age range
- Computerized version availability
- Self-report version availability
- Populations covered

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**Goals**

The goals of this experiential component were to:

- Capitalize on studies that identify the efficiency of specific home assessments and quality of life measures
- Develop a record of the benefits and drawbacks of home assessments and QOL measures and the similarities between them
- Research QOL measures and self-efficacy scales and integrate them into Tucker’s House’s client forms
- Develop a literature review of current home assessments and QOL measures
- Provide Tucker’s House with resources needed to improve productivity with their work
- Attend home assessments to understand what Tucker’s House offers and who they serve

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**Outcomes**

- Performed extensive research on QOL measures and provided Tucker’s House with options for pediatric and adult populations
- Updated caregiver survey in order to consider the impact the home modification would have on QOL
- Performed extensive research on home assessments and provided a concise list of pros and cons of each
- Performed extensive research on QOL measures and provided a concise list of pros and cons of each
- Updated caregiver survey to include caregiver and/or client self-efficacy with using DME and AT
- Created a post-project phone call spreadsheet to ease the process in gathering impact statements from family
- Constructed a community resource spreadsheet to provide to people outside of Tucker’s House’s area of service
- Provided agencies that serve areas outside of Tucker’s House’s domain with information about the services Tucker’s House provides
- Assisted with event planning by sharing information with potential donors and participants in Davidson and Williamson County
- Generated a literature review of current home assessments and quality of life measures relating to children and adults with disabilities
- Provided a fact sheet to be given to Vanderbilt of how Tucker’s House can help those with muscular dystrophy age in place
- Assisted peers in creating a spreadsheet of DME/AT that need to be tagged at client’s homes in the community

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*References upon request*