Title: The Occupational Performance History Interview in community mental health case management: Consumer and occupational therapist perspectives

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Major Finding: Occupational therapist participants expressed that use of the Occupational Performance History Interview supported an occupation focus in case management.

Participants:
- 4 occupational therapists working in a community mental health setting
  - All female, between the ages of 22 and 38
- 6 consumers with a psychiatric diagnosis receiving care from any one of the four occupational therapist participants in the community mental health setting
  - 4 female and 2 male, between the ages of 28 and 54

Method: Each occupational therapist administered an OPHI-II interview with one of the consumer participants as a part of ongoing therapy contact. The author then interviewed the consumers about their experiences with the OPHI-II interview. Two focus groups with the occupational therapist participants were conducted, as well as a consumer focus group.

Analysis: Interviews and focus groups were audiotaped and transcribed. Data were analyzed using a constant comparative method of thematic analysis.

Findings:
- The OPHI-II interview supported clients in discussing their broader life beyond the scope of the medical model, illness, disability, and risk.
- The OPHI-II helped therapists gain a better understanding of their client’s lived experience and priorities.
- Some OPHI-II guided questions were difficult to approach and made therapists uncomfortable.
- The OPHI-II facilitated a connection between the client and therapist that increased openness.

Conclusion: The Occupational Performance History Interview has the potential to support client-centered and occupation based practice in community mental health case management.

Implications for future research: Future studies may be needed to investigate the extent to which use of the OPHI-II as a tool, interview style, and a therapist’s general attitude toward clients each contributes to the helpfulness of the OPHI-II interviews.

Evidence-based practice implications:
- Use of the OPHI-II may help therapists connect with and value the occupation focus of their therapeutic practices.
- Occupational therapists may require education regarding the benefits of use of the OPHI-II interview as well as encouragement to overcome barriers to its use in practice.