

## **WFOT Interim Executive Meeting Report**

### **Interim Executive Management Meeting**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 28<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Trinidad and Tobago

#### **Organising Committee**



Camilla Cox

WFOT Delegate

Event Co-ordinator

Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA) Secretary



Lesley Garcia, President of TTOTA

Past President of Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists



Rosemary Green

Past President of TTOTA

Past manager of OT service Tobago

## 1. Executive Summary

The WFOT executive members arrived in Trinidad from the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2011, Sharon Brintnell was the first to arrive and with a couple of hick ups all were in the country by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. For the duration of the IEMM, the WFOT executive participated in a busy schedule comprising the WFOT business meetings, and meetings with TTOTA to gain information on occupational therapy and current issues in the Caribbean, and meetings with key stakeholders to support the work of TTOTA to promote and develop occupational therapy.

The visit by the WFOT Executive Management Team provided great support to TTOTA in its work towards raising the profile of occupational therapy and promoting the need for an occupational therapy education programme in Trinidad and Tobago. The outcomes of the visit have been very positive for the profession in this area.

## 2. Visit Agenda

DATE	EVENT AND TIME	AFTERNOON EVENT	EVENING EVENT
<b>TRINIDAD</b>			
<b>20th May 2011</b> Friday	WFOT members arriving		
<b>21st May 2011</b> Saturday	WFOT members arriving		
<b>22nd May 2011</b> Sunday	Sightseeing & Orientation to Port of Spain 11:00am – 1:00pm	Briefing presentation Preparation/schedule review 2:00 – 4:00pm	WFOT members arriving
<b>23rd May 2011</b> Monday	WFOT Meeting 9:00am – 5:00pm		
<b>24th May 2011</b> Tuesday	WFOT Meeting 9:00am – 12:00pm	WFOT Meeting with significant persons 1:00 – 4:00pm Social Event 4:00 – 6:00pm	Free time
<b>25th May 2011</b> Wednesday	USC/WFOT meeting 9:00am – 12:00pm	WFOT Meeting 1:00 – 5:00pm	WFOT/TTOTA 6:30 pick-up 7:00 – 10:00pm <i>Veni Mange restaurant</i>
<b>26th May 2011</b> Thursday	WFOT Meeting 9:00am – 5:00pm <i>Media: 10:00am radio (Camilla and Sharon)</i>		
<b>TOBAGO</b>			

<b>27th May 2011</b> Friday	WFOT Meeting with significant persons 10:00am – 12:00pm	WFOT meeting 1:00 – 5:00pm	Team Hope Tri Pasta Party at <i>Plantations</i> 5:00 – 8:00pm
<b>28th May 2011</b> Saturday	WFOT meeting 9:00am – 5:00pm <i>Rainbow Cup Tri 9:00 – 11:00am two delegates to join as spectators and later for prize giving</i>		

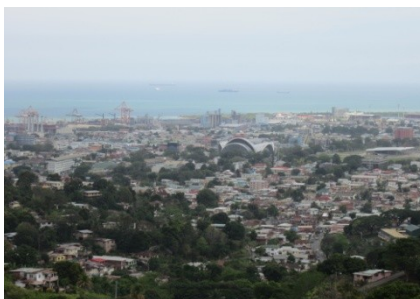
### 3. Events in which WFOT EMT supported TTOTA and occupational therapy in Trinidad and Tobago.

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

View from Lady Young Mountain

Fresh coconuts

Ferries between the sister isles



#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011–

Site visits:

**Hibiscus place** - Samantha Shann visited Lesley Garcia's soon to be opened, adult day centre



**Caribbean Kids and Family Therapy Organisation (CKFTO)** – Alfred Rambukumba visited the pediatric clinic with Rosemary Green, Camilla Cox and Sara Stephens who is a founding member of the organisation and at the time the clinical director.



**Re new** – Nils Erik Ness and Sharon Brintnell visited the private physical dysfunction clinic where Priya Gomes works.

## **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

‘A New Frontier In Caribbean Occupational Therapy’ World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Caribbean Occupational Therapists Stakeholders meeting.

Approximately 40 attendees

Guests/attendee’s were from a number of areas including government ministries, education (tertiary), health (public and private) and NGO’s.

WFOT executive attended

Two hours of presentations by Rosemary Green, Lesley Garcia, Camilla Cox, Priya Gomes, Prof. Sharon Brintnell and Dr Natalie Dick.

Rosemary Green and head table

Lesley Garcia

Dr Natalie Dick



Round table discussions, facilitated by a business coach Georgina Terry, followed the presentations, and addressed two questions,

1. ‘How would occupational therapy bring value to your area of responsibility?’

2. 'Given the known barriers what are some of the actions you could take to support recruitment, retention, and development of skilled occupational therapists?



- A social event followed where TTOTA and Team Hope information was on display, refreshments and **hors d'oeuvres** were served. This was well attended.

### 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Meeting at the University of the Southern Caribbean, St Joseph, Maracus

In attendance:

TTOTA members: Lesley Garcia, Rosemary Green, Camilla Cox

University Staff: Dr Trevor Gardener (president), Dr Ralph Peterson, Dr Gardener (Dean) Dr Carlon Drepaul (director of administration)

Other stakeholders: Dr D Tsoi-a-fatt Angles (advisor to the minister of health and social development, Tobago), Ms Sheliza Ali (administrator representing Ministry of Health) Ms Bertrand (Council of Professions Related to Medicine, board member, physiotherapy)

WFOT executive: Prof. Sharon Brintnell, Dr A Carswell, Mr. Alfred Rambukumba, Mr. Nils Erik Ness, Mrs. Samantha Shann

Presentations by:

Dr Trevor Gardener: presented the current status of the University, other programs, status of the university in T&T, future plans with regards a entry level masters program in Occupational Therapy;

Lesley Garcia: presented on the current need for the masters program. The need for the course to consider local needs and what some of these needs are, how fieldwork can be managed in the current climate and expected outcomes of having a local course;

Dr A. Carswell and Mr A. Rambukumba: WFOT minimum standards, the accreditation process, the support system of the WFOT.





### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Radio 95.5fm, Port of Spain, Trinidad – broadcasts across the Caribbean

Professor Sharon Brintnell and Caribbean Delegate Camilla Cox talked on the role of occupational therapy, current services in T&T/Region, how we hope to see services develop and the events of the week.

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Meeting with Significant Persons, Tobago

TTOTA members: Camilla Cox, Lesley Garcia, Cynthia Cummings, Amandine Floureck

WFOT Executive members : All

Attendees approximately 15 including:

Mr Pilgrim (Secretary for Health and Social Development, Tobago), Mr Bell (CEO Tobago Regional Health Authority) Dr D. Tsoi-a-fatt Angles (Advisor to the Secretary for Health and Social Development, Tobago)

Other Health care providers, significant stakeholders

Presentations by:

Camilla Cox, Lesley Garcia, Cynthia Cummings, Prof. Sharon Brintnell, Mr Pilgrim

A discussion followed with some lively accounts of the need for cultural awareness of health care professionals, and the growing need for occupational therapy in all areas of health and education. It was also made clear there is a need for current services and therapists to be supported by the health authority to develop the service and maintain practice standards. Due to there being three occupational therapists in Tobago most of the practitioners there were very clear on the value of having OT as part of the MDT and this was highlighted in the discussion with higher management.



#### **4. Budget**

see separate budget sheet

#### **5. Communication to delegates**

Three communications were circulated to the EMT executive prior to the IEMM to inform them about the visit, the culture and occupational therapy in Trinidad and Tobago

#### **6. Venues**

The executive management team stayed at the same hotel at which their meetings were held:

The Normandie Hotel – Trinidad, Port of Spain

The Kariwak Village Hotel – Tobago – Crown Point

#### **7. Public Relations/promotion**

Since returning from Chile last year with the successful bid to host the IEMM, members of TTOTA had been including information about the pending visit and the role of the WFOT where possible in their practice and service development work. At a Stakeholders Luncheon hosted by the TTOTA in January 2011 Camilla Cox gave an introductory speech on the WFOT and the IEMM. Many of the guests or representatives from their department who attended that Stakeholders Luncheon attended the meetings during the IEMM visit. Presentations in house and within places of work were also utilized to inform stakeholders and colleagues of the WFOT and the IEMM events.

##### **Team Hope**

In November last year Lesley Garcia with the help of a number of volunteers for the second time (done the 1<sup>st</sup> time for CKFTO in 2008/2009) got Team Hope off the ground. Team Hope got together 50 people who trained under professional guidance to become triathlete's and take part in the 2011 Rainbow Cup Triathlon Tobago. The objectives were to raise awareness of occupational therapy and funds for TTOTA. During the 7 months running up to the event Hopees carried out a number of fundraising events, TV presentations, Radio broadcasts and newspaper articles. Team Hope had its own facebook page and information was regularly updated on the TTOTA facebook page and website. The event tied in beautifully with the IEMM as it happened

on the last weekend of the visit. Therefore, radio and TV presentations by Priya Gomes (TTOTA PR) in the run up to the visit included information on the WFOT and their pending visit.

Camilla Cox and Amandine Floureck completed an article about the two events which was uploaded on the TTOTA and ACOT website.

Promotional Medium included: Radio, TV, TTOTA and ACOT website, TTOTA and Team Hope Face book, word of mouth, in house presentations

## **8. Social program**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011**– Sight Seeing and lunch at the Hyatt Hotel (see above)

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011** – Veni Mange Restaurant – TTOTA members (Lesley, Camilla, Sara, Marissa) and WFOT exec



### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011- Rainbow Cup Triathlon Pasta Party**

Included a Team Hope presentation, thank you to Lesley Garcia for organising Team Hope and Prof. Sharon Brintnell presented a gift to Jason Gooding – race director and Team Hope bike and run coach.



## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – Rainbow Cup Triathlon – Team Hope

TTOTA members with honored team  
and Anne

Priya, Camilla, Lesley, Sara, Samantha Team Hope – hopees and  
mates  
mates – yeah!



## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011- Fish Pot Restaurant TTOTA members (Lesley, Camilla, Sara, Amandine and friends) WFOT exec

Sharon Brintnell and Lesley Garcia

Sharon Brintnell and Camilla Cox



### 9. Expected outcomes

It is the belief of TTOTA that the WFOT visit has in many ways influenced the drive to improve healthcare and education services with regards to occupational therapy. Specifically, the meetings challenged people in their respective area to consider supporting the movement; to need to increase the number of OT's in the country, raise awareness of the need to review current posts, starting a tertiary education course and raise public

awareness of health care expectations. There was however an overall agreement for the need for full government support.

From discussions following the presentations the main recognized outcome was that people knew what occupational therapy was, that more were needed in the country and that we have now arrived at the next stage of people asking: How should this be achieved?

The University of the Southern Caribbean's President Dr Trevor Gardener, made it clear at the end of his presentation that the university was committed to starting the masters level course in occupational therapy. He also mentioned that to achieve this they would be working closely with their parent university Loma Linda, TTOTA Chairperson Lesley Garcia and the WFOT. Follow-up letters have thanked the USC for hosting this meeting. To date no further discussions have taken place.

The value of the visit, and the surrounding events, in particular Team Hope, are yet to unfold. There is no doubt that the weeks' events will have lasting, positive influence on the development of occupational therapy in the region. The relationship that the WFOT now has with ACOT and TTOTA both in their early stages of development, provides a support mechanism that greater connects the region with the global community and offers encouragement during these initial years of growth.

The event provided a leverage from which the associations can draw on in future events to promote the profession. The ripple effect of such events is immeasurable, TTOTA is in no doubt that it will be great and far reaching positively influencing a large spectrum of the challenges that are faced within the Caribbean.

#### TTOTA learning from event

- Knowledge about the government structure in relation to health and education
- Knowledge of how to co-ordinate such an event including: marketing, organisational skills, procedures,
- Greater understanding of how to address key stakeholders to effectively put across the point of the association in a solution focused manner.
- Learning about the WFOT and how it supports smaller associations,
- Knowledge shared by the WFOT of tried and tested strategies in other developing nations

#### TTOTA future plans

- To support the USC in starting the masters entry level course
- To support the university and practice areas to organize student placements, when needed
- To further promote and develop the profession within the region through conference, professional evenings media presentations etc etc.
- To maintain links and continue to build relationships with stakeholders and relevant departments
- To submit TTOTA's constitution at 2012 council meeting to become an associate member
- To maintain close links with the WFOT by attending the 2014 council meeting and conference in Japan



WFOT President Sharon Brintnell



Lesley Garcia, Camilla Cox, Sharon Brintnell

Thank you WFOT executive management team for coming to T&T and sharing your time, expertise and enthusiasm in our move to develop OT services in the Caribbean region. It was an honour, a joy and a huge success having you here.

Report completed by

Camilla Cox

Caribbean Delegate for the WFOT

IEMM coordinator

12 July 2011