Evaluation of Rehabilitation Services for Pediatric Outpatients with Developmental Disabilities in Cap Haitien, Haiti

Ellen Dugan¹, Lindley Kent², Lilly Webster³

¹Rollins School of Public Health; ²Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing; ³Division of Physical Therapy, Emory University School of Medicine/Rollins School of Public Health

Project Background

- An estimated 15% of the world’s population currently lives with disability.¹
- Prior to the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake, an estimated 800,000 people lived with a disability in Haiti, and an estimated 300,000 additional people were injured in the earthquake.² ³
- As of 2010, every day 112 obstetric and newborn complications occur in Haiti, resulting in a large number of birth injuries, such as cerebral palsy.⁴
- The Haiti Hospital Appeal (HHA) is a British NGO that partners with the Baptist Convention of Haiti and the Haitian Ministry of Health to bring a variety of healthcare services to Northern Haiti.

Project Timeline

- January – May 2012: Project startup activities – define objectives, finalize proposal, & prepare for in-country immersion
- June 2012: Arrive in-country, perform initial assessment of rehab services
- July – August 2012: Complete data collection & create and implement quality improvement tools
- August - September 2012: Data analysis, reflection and debriefing, creation of posture presentation

Project Goal

- Generate a convenience sample (n=20) of pediatric patients ages 1-16 years who are currently receiving rehabilitation services at Haiti Hospital Appeal
- Evaluate rehabilitation services provided to pediatric patients at Haiti Hospital Appeal
- Partner with rehabilitation providers at HHA to create quality improvement tools (documentation and educational handouts)

Expected Outcomes

- Create documentation records of outpatient pediatric rehabilitation services based on the SOAP model and utilizing the Gross Motor Function Classification Scale
- Create education handouts for Community-Based Rehabilitation services
- Provide data source to seek future funding for continuing pediatric rehabilitation services

Populations/Communities Served

- Children ages 1-16 years with developmental disabilities receiving inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services at HHA

Progress to Date

- Implemented progress documentation forms for outpatient and inpatient pediatric rehabilitation services
- Held 2 community education sessions to teach home exercises and techniques for caring for children with disabilities in local communities surrounding Cap Haitien
- Provided Community-Based Rehab workers with educational materials for further community education
- Developed presentation and dispersed documents to key in-country stakeholders

Next Steps

- Create recommendations for future interdisciplinary team projects at Haiti Hospital Appeal
- Follow up on utility of progress documentation forms and educational handouts

Project Partners

- Hope Bussenius, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC
- Eternal Hope in Haiti: Twilla Haynes, MN-ANP, BC
- Haiti Hospital Appeal: Reninca & Carwyn Hill
- Rehabilitation staff at Haiti Hospital Appeal
- Emory Global Health Institute

References