Families and Caregivers Across the Lifespan
Table 1

Recommended Action:	**GATHER DATA**	
Goal	**Objective**	**Corresponding Strategic Plan Goal**
GOAL 1: Recognize Families and Caregivers Across the Lifespan as an essential and increasingly significant domain of occupational therapy practice.	• Develop a roster of experienced and well-informed OT professionals who can provide expert consultation and leadership for this practice area. • Survey clinicians to identify strategies used to address this topic in practice. • Survey educators to identify teaching strategies used to address this topic in professional training programs. • Conduct a literature search to gather information about the nature and diversity of practice perspectives related to working with families and caregivers. • Provide opportunities for and encourage dialogue on this topic at conferences, program directors meetings, and via list-serves. • Identify researchers, educators, and practitioners to collaborate with AOTA to provide support for the development of this practice area.	**AOTA -GOAL III:** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY, INTEGRATION, APPLICATION, AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH **C.** Promote high professional standards and continuing competence, and foster success in existing and emerging practice settings. **D**. Foster collaborative relationship among research, education, practice and key Stakeholders and partner organizations.
GOAL 2: Support research to explore the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of OT intervention with families and caregivers at each life-cycle stage.	• Partner with universities and other associations to obtain grants to fund research. • Support evidence-based literature review on the efficacy of OT intervention with families and caregivers, including recidivism and treatment dropouts. • Develop tools for practitioners to use in assessing the needs of families and caregivers. • Collaborate with other professional entities to explore potential uses of technology for providing services and disseminating data.	**AOTA -GOAL III** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY, INTEGRATION, APPLICATION, AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH **A.** Advocate for federal and foundation training and research funds and/or opportunities to support the development of scientists and scientific knowledge to advance the profession.

Recommended Action:	**PACKAGE MATERIALS**	
Goal	**Objective**	**Corresponding Strategic Plan Goal**
GOAL 1: Develop a *Family and Caregiver Toolkit* * that emphasizes occupational therapy's role with families and caregivers. Materials must reflect cultural sensitivity. *http://www.aota.org/olderdriver/toolkit.html	• Develop fact sheets about the role of occupational therapy in supporting family and caregivers of people with disabilities and chronic illness, across the lifespan. • Develop materials for legislators to explain the unmet needs of caregivers and families and the potential cost benefit of **supporting** them in their roles at different life-cycle stages. • Develop informational material for payers pertaining to the potential cost benefit of 'covering' occupational therapy for families and caregivers in addition to the identified client. • Collaborate with organizations who have a similar mission to create materials that describe OT's contributions for their constituents.	**AOTA -GOAL III:** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY, INTEGRATION, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH **E.** Disseminate occupational therapy knowledge to a wide variety of audiences
GOAL 2: Develop a public relations campaign and ensure that all materials reflect cultural sensitivity and are relevant to the culture/s for whom they are intended which may require adapted versions for different target populations.		**AOTA- GOAL II:** TO REPRESENT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS, THE PROFESSION, AND THE NEEDS OF THOSE THE PROFESSION SERVES. **G.** Publicize the profession's positions on regulations and policies that affect participation of all members of society

Recommended Action:	**DISSEMINATE DATA**	
Goal	**Objective**	**Corresponding Strategic Plan Goal**
GOAL 1: Develop continuing education opportunities, which incorporate the evidence, gathered and emphasize occupational therapy's role with families and caregivers.	• Offer conference sessions, printed materials with CEU's attached, and the opportunity to engage in a moderated but informal dialogue about the issues and opportunities in this area to occupational therapy practitioners. • Provide training for practitioners to use the tool kit effectively.	**AOTA -GOAL III:** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY INTEGRATION, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH **C.** Promote high professional standards and continuing competence, and foster success in existing and emerging practice settings.
GOAL 2: Develop targeted marketing/ advertising campaign to include advocacy.	• Distribute printed materials at conferences/ meetings that focus on disabilities and/or chronic illness and provide presenters. • Advocate for early intervention for children and families and coordination of services. • Target all AOTA publications for dissemination of research findings, practice strategies, teaching materials, community programs, etc. that support this domain of practice.	**AOTA- GOAL II:** TO REPRESENT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS, THE PROFESSION, AND THE NEEDS OF THOSE THE PROFESSION SERVES.
GOAL 3: Advocate for legislation/policies that support the provision of occupational therapy services to families and caregivers of persons with disabilities and chronic illness across the lifespan, and actively oppose legislation/policies that deny them the opportunity to receive these services.		**AOTA -GOAL III:** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY INTEGRATION, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Recommended Action:	**EVALUATE OUTCOMES**	
Goal	**Objective**	**Corresponding Strategic Plan Goal**
GOAL 1: Provide fiscal and editorial resources to conduct an analysis of the published outcomes of funded research on the efficacy of occupational therapy practice with families and caregivers of persons with disabilities and chronic illness, across the lifespan.	• Disseminate evaluation outcomes to all stakeholders (e.g. AOTA members; policy makers, advocacy organizations, educators). • Provide workshops and special forums for practitioners, educators, families, and caregivers to share and examine the most/least promising approaches and benefits of occupational therapy intervention for the target population.	**AOTA -GOAL III:** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY, INTEGRATION, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH **A.** Advocate for federal and foundation training and research funds and/or Opportunities to support the development of scientists and scientific knowledge to Advance the profession
GOAL 2: Assess the effects, over time, of efforts to establish Families and Caregivers as a significant domain of OT practice.	• Conduct a focus group among the OT professionals who provided the expert consultation and leadership for establishing this practice area to elicit their perceptions of the process and outcomes. • Conduct a survey among clinicians to identify the strategies they are currently using to address this topic in practice. • Conduct a survey among the educational institutions to identify the current teaching strategies that are used to address this topic in professional training programs. • Conduct a literature search to gather information on the nature and diversity of current practice perspectives related to working with families and caregivers. • Monitor the frequency with which this practice area is included or highlighted at conferences, workshops, and program directors meetings. • Identify the number and nature of collaborative relationships among researchers, educators, and practitioners that have been established to support development of this practice area. • Monitor the amount of and source of funding awarded to support research in this practice area over a five-ten year period. • Produce and disseminate a final report on the overall effect of this effort.	**AOTA -GOAL III:** TO FOSTER THE DISCOVERY, INTEGRATION, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE PRACTICE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH