Inside the Capitol Visitor Center

- Both the north and south entrances of the Capitol Visitor Center are located on the upper level.
- The Auditorium is on the lower level.
- When you clear security the stairs to the auditorium will be behind you. Do not take the main stairs in front of you.
- CVC Staff will be located throughout the Center to help you should you need any directions.

Place to Eat on Capitol Hill

**House Side**
- **Cannon Carryout:** Located in the Basement of Cannon.
- **Longworth Cafeteria:** Located on the basement floor of Longworth.
- **Coffee Shop:** Located on the basement floor of Longworth.
- **Rayburn Cafeteria:** Located on the basement floor of Rayburn.

**Senate Side**
- **Senate Chef:** Located between the Hart and Dirksen buildings on the ground floor.
- **Dirksen Eateries:** There are three different options for food on the basement level of Dirksen.
- **Russell Carryout:** Located on the basement level of Russell.
Homework

Develop your “elevator speech” on “what is occupational therapy”.

Think through concrete stories or examples for your discussion of the different issues.

On the AOTA Hill Day Page, review the one pagers and other resources that will be included in the Congressional “leave behind” packets.

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Homework!

- Visit the websites of Members you are going to visit to learn important information and background on the Member
  - Find out what Committees he/she sits on – are they on the list of “committees of jurisdiction” - those that are important to OT?
    - If so, make sure to mention that in the meeting!
  - See if they highlight issues that can be related back to occupational therapy or to establish common ground.
  - Go to AOTA’s Legislative Action Center and find out if they are sponsoring our legislation
    - You need to know if you are asking them to support us or if they already have!
How to use the Legislative Action Center (LAC)

1. Go to the LAC at: www.aota.org/takeaction
2. Click on the tab that says, “Elected Officials”
3. Enter the zip code where you are registered to vote.
4. Click the “info” link for the Member you want to research.
5. Click on the “committees” tab to see what committees they serve.
   ➢ Refer to the “Key Committees” list under Resources to understand more about this committee.
6. Click on the “bio” or “contact” tab to find a link to their Congressional website. Look through their website to see if they have priorities related to occupational therapy.
7. Click on the “bills” tab to see if they have cosponsored any of our legislation.

Homework

Role play a meeting from start to finish:

- Introductions
- “What is OT”
- Legislative talking points with practice examples
- Can you support?
- How to follow up
- Thank you
OT in Mental Health – Key Take Aways

• OT fills a niche in the treatment of serious and pervasive mental illness not covered by other professions.
• This bill will help expand the number of OTs practicing in mental health by:
  • encouraging more new therapists to enter the field and to practice in shortage areas; and
  • providing a guideline for states and other federal programs to include occupational therapy when defining qualified mental health professionals.
• This bill is budget neutral.
• Please support mental health reform and the expansion of the occupational therapy mental health workforce.

Rehabilitation Research – Key Take Aways

• S.800/H.R.1631 would enhance rehabilitation science at NIH without increasing spending and without diverting support away from other important NIH priorities.
• Investing in rehab research is essential to promoting independence at home and in the community, reducing acute readmissions, and preventing more costly health episodes.
• The bill is designed to:
  • Improve coordination of rehabilitation research within NIH and with other agencies;
  • Enhance and streamline rehabilitation research;
  • Establish an annual report describing the Center’s activities in relation to the Research Plan;
  • Define medical rehabilitation research – consistent with the World Health Organization.