



Completing an Assessment and Improvement Plan for Accreditation Compliance in a Rehabilitation Setting



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OVERVIEW OF CAPSTONE SITE

The University of Alabama’s Spain Rehab Center has been open since 1964 and has treated over 450,000 patients. UAB Spain Rehabilitation Center is located in downtown Birmingham, Alabama.

- Staff: professional medicine and rehabilitation program has been nationally recognized and provides an interdisciplinary approach to treatment, consisting of physiatrists, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, social workers, rehabilitation professionals, and more to assist in the patient reaching their goals (Rehabilitation Services, n.d).
- Mission: The UAB Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is dedicated to the provision of the highest quality medical care to the citizens of Alabama and the Southeast, and to the development of new knowledge through clinical and basic biomedical research.
- Vision: to serve as a leader and advocate for the physically and cognitively challenged individual and serve the individual who demonstrates rehabilitative potential.

LITERATURE SUMMARY

UAB's mission and vision align with CARF's focus as an accrediting body. UAB is currently accredited by the Joint Commission, but due to their emphasis on providing the highest quality medical care, they strive for excellence and plan to achieve that through CARF accreditation.

As the field of Occupational Therapy advances into the Doctorate Degree, this area of therapy is taking on more leadership and administrative roles. According to AOTA’s 2015 Salary and Workforce Survey, occupational therapy practitioners spend nearly a quarter of their time towards administrative tasks (Rogers, Killian, Hudgins, and Pollard, 2016; "Salary & Workforce Survey", 2016).

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



The Phase I Needs Assessment illustrated a need for working on SCI CARF Accreditation and implementing WellSky Scheduling.

Upon arrival to UAB Spain Rehab, Phase II Needs Assessment took place and it was no longer appropriate to work on SCI CARF and WellSky. The project was adapted to best meet UAB Spain Rehab's needs at the time, which were to assist with the General CARF Accreditation process as well as collaborate on ways to prepare Spain Rehab for the Joint Commission.

References available upon request

PROJECT GOALS / OBJECTIVES

Capstone goals were to assist with General CARF accreditation process and collaborate on ways to prepare Spain Rehabilitation Center for their upcoming Joint Commission visit.

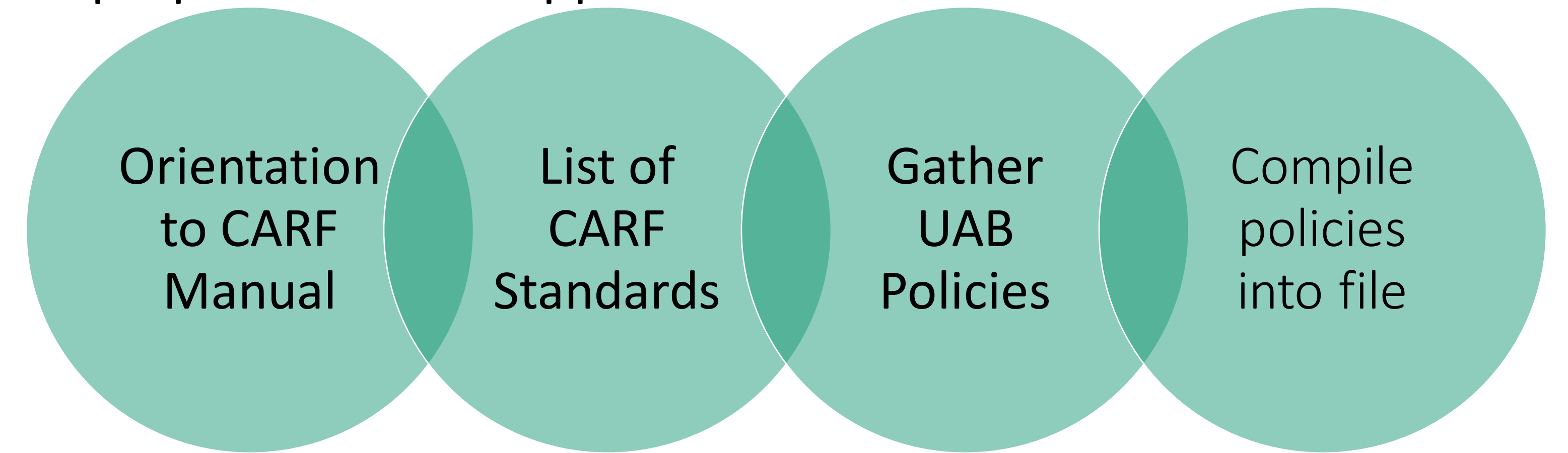
Objectives

- Compose a document of unmet standards
- Develop an action plan for CARF accreditation
- Support the use of the CARE tool as an outcomes measure
- Compose of document of areas to be formalized to prepare staff for JCAHO
- Develop a list of high/low tech items for new rehab facility tech lab

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

To gain a better understanding of what UAB has implemented as a rehab facility, I had multiple meetings with various stakeholders upon arrival to UAB. This gave me an opportunity to learn about the UAB system and their actions to progress in the constantly evolving world of healthcare.

About a month into the Capstone experience, I met with UAB's Education Coordinator to get oriented to the CARF manual and receive the list of CARF standards to search for within UAB's policies. I then began to gather UAB policies and compile policies into a file to analyze areas of risk at UAB Spain Rehab Center. I met with Denise on various occasions to discuss areas of risk and completed my project with an action plan for UAB to implement to prepare for CARF application in March 2022.



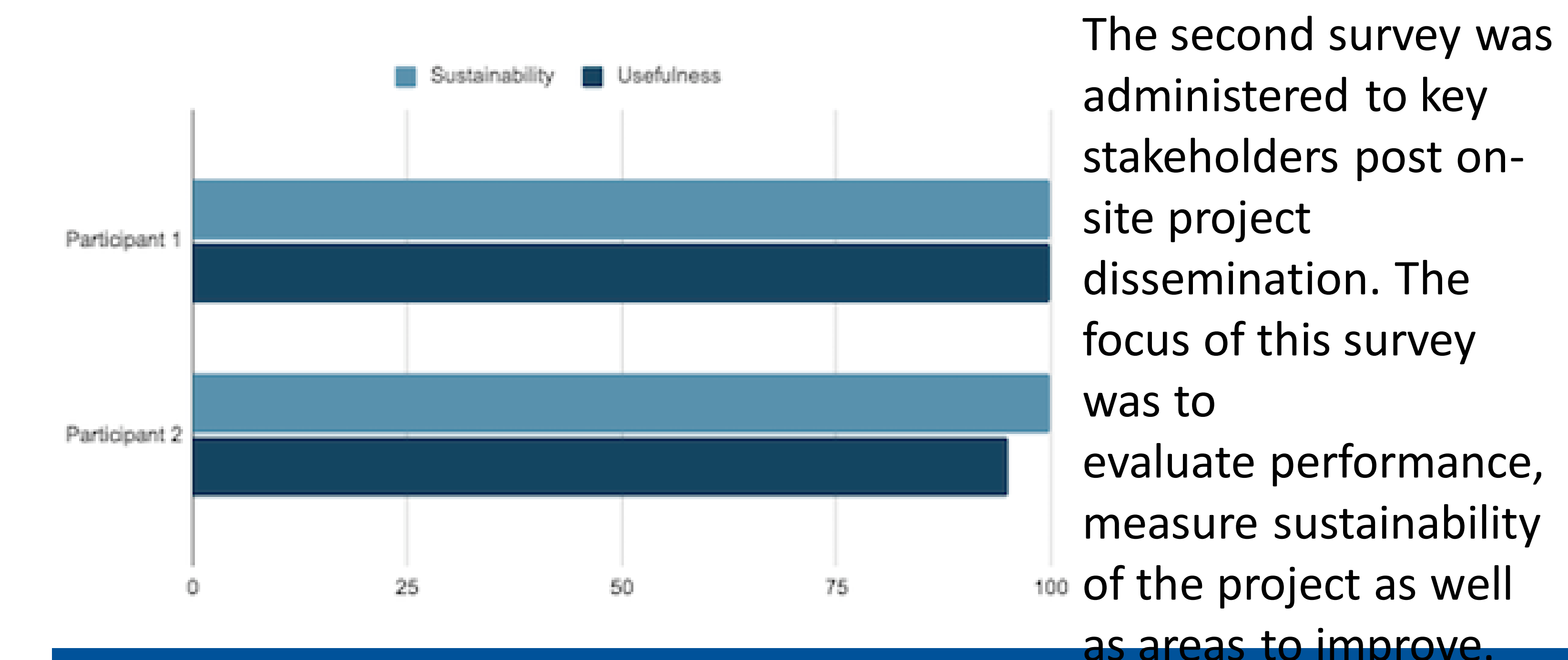
My CLO's were adjusted and Joint Commission preparation was added to my Capstone project. I then began collaborating with the Rehab Manager and UAB's rehab techs to assist in ways to make UAB's current processes more efficient for documentation of daily, weekly, and monthly gym maintenance.

I reformatted and updated various checklists utilized by the techs to make their process of documentation more efficient before the upcoming Joint Commission visit. I added a section for an action plan to illustrate the processes in place at UAB to show documentation until completion of various tasks. .

I was also asked to assist in preparing therapy staff for an upcoming Joint Commission visit by implementing some form of education. I chose to design a game with topics that Joint Commission may ask about in the upcoming visit to provide a more fun way of educating staff via competition.

PLAN FOR PROJECT EVALUATION

Two surveys were designed and implemented using Qualtrics in order to gather feedback and data from participants at UAB. The first survey was administered post-staff readiness to evaluate the effectiveness of knowledge translation for Joint Commission topics in a game format.



PROJECT SUMMARY AND FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION

I was able to analyze UAB's readiness for applying for General CARF accreditation and compose a document of risk areas for them to address by Spring 2022.

I gained a better understanding of both the Joint Commission accreditation as well as CARF accreditation. This has given me a unique outlook on requirements for rehabilitation facilities and what needs to be changed in order to be compliant with these accrediting bodies.

I also gained experience with how to prepare staff through educational opportunities for an upcoming Joint Commission visit.

Occupational Therapists have a lot to offer in collaborating and assessing for accreditation compliance in the Rehab setting. With more OT programs moving into Doctorate, we as OTDs may find ourselves in a leadership role early on in our career.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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