I arrived to NMCC IBF in Tupelo in February and was properly oriented to the facility by my mentor and the fieldwork student coordinator. My mentor and I agreed upon a schedule that allowed me one day per week off-site dedicated to the project as all of my on-site time would be needed for treatment planning, implementation, and documentation. Over the first few weeks I collected and analyzed patient data from the BITS and hospital documentation system all while gradually building up my treatment caseload. After three weeks of data analysis, Hannah and I determined that the end result of this project while interesting and informative, would not best serve the current needs of the site. The idea for a student guide came to light as the need for fieldwork student education at the facility was uncovered through the Phase II Needs Assessment. After consulting with Dr. Giroux, the decision was made to instead create a guide that fieldwork students can reference for assessment and treatment of neurologically impaired patients through an NDT frame of reference. My mentor and I collaborated to determine the sections of the guide and what content should be included.

Over the remaining weeks of the Capstone Experience, I worked my way to a full caseload of patients and incorporated the knowledge gained through hands-on practice into the treatment plan I dedicated one-off-site day per week to project development. Hannah allowed me to utilize the resources from her NDT certification course to supplement my research.

The finalized project contains the following six sections:

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT and DISSEMINATION**

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

PHASE I: Completed June 30, 2020 in summer Capstone course 07671

Semi-structured Interview with Capstone Mentor Hannah Cranfield, OTR/L, C/NDT via phone call and follow-up email exchange

**SWOT Analysis:** Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats; Population Overview; Intervention Overview; Other General Needs

**Key Takeaways:** Primary patient population: Stroke (CVA); Need to incorporate more Evidence-Based Practice

**PROJECT GOALS / OBJECTIVES**

1. Student will demonstrate competence using selected and appropriate NDT skills by the end of 12 weeks.

2. Student will utilize therapy’s use and perform established NDT treatment techniques on appropriate patient populations to promote further learning within two weeks.

3. Student will create a resource binder for incoming students as a general guide to fieldwork and treatment of neurologically impaired patients by the end of 14 weeks.

4. Student will take the necessary steps to retain existing patient data while maintaining appropriate patient confidentiality within two weeks.

5. Student will utilize “off-site time” to research NDT assessment and intervention techniques as well as evidence-based and best practice articles one day per week.

**PROJECT EVALUATION PLAN**

- Create a Student Satisfaction Survey
- To be completed by fieldwork students at midterm and final points of PAE experience
- To evaluate the impact of the project on the students’ transition to independent treatment planning and implementation during their fieldwork experience
- Allows for suggestions to further improve the project, possibly by a future Capstone student
- Surveys will be administered and collected by the on-site clinical student coordinator

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The guide I created will benefit future fieldwork students during the orientation process and transition to independent evaluation, treatment planning, and documentation.

It will benefit the site by easing the orientation process for supervising therapist on the front end of fieldwork when students required the most assistance; and even serve as a resource for newly hired therapists.

Through both the Capstone Experience and Project, I deepened my knowledge of NDT treatment techniques and application in clinical practice. Additionally, I improved my interpersonal communications skills through collaboration with advisors and other member of the therapy staff.

I will reference this project in my own career and will potentially recommend to my own fieldwork students in the future.