

# AOTA Older Driver Initiative

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# A Plan Identified by Experts



# The Older Driver Consensus Conference

- December 10 and 11, 2002
- Sponsored by a grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).




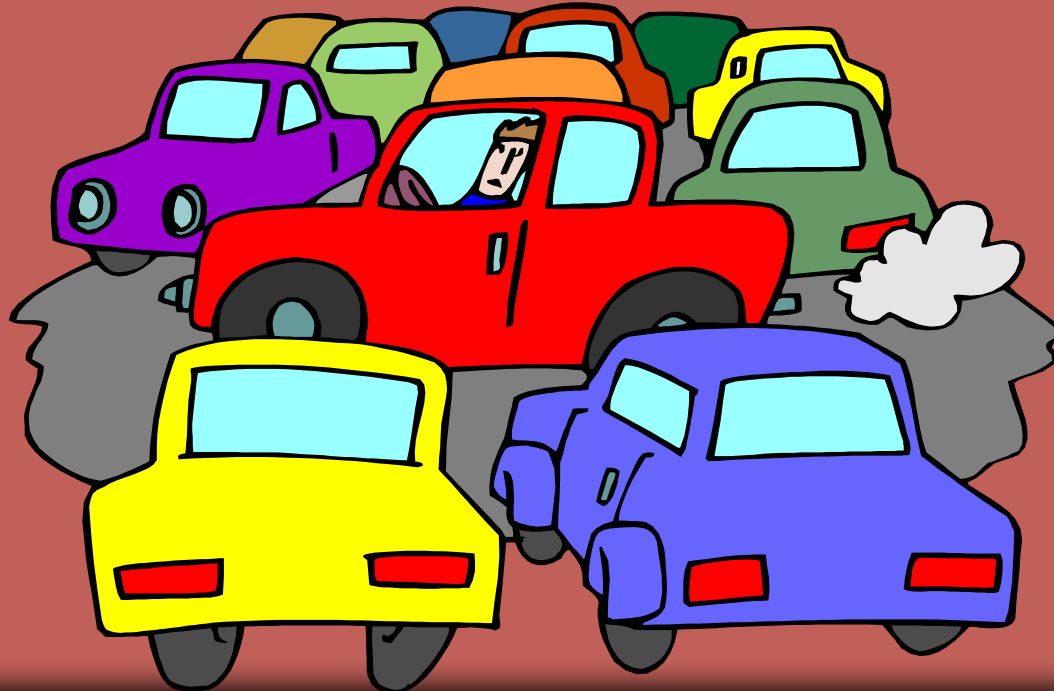
# Purpose

- Create an action blueprint for AOTA.
- Build capacity in occupational therapy to serve the evaluation, remediation, and transition needs of the growing older driver population.



# NHTSA Sponsored AOTA Consensus Conference

 Build the capacity among occupational therapists and other health professionals to meet the growing demands of older drivers



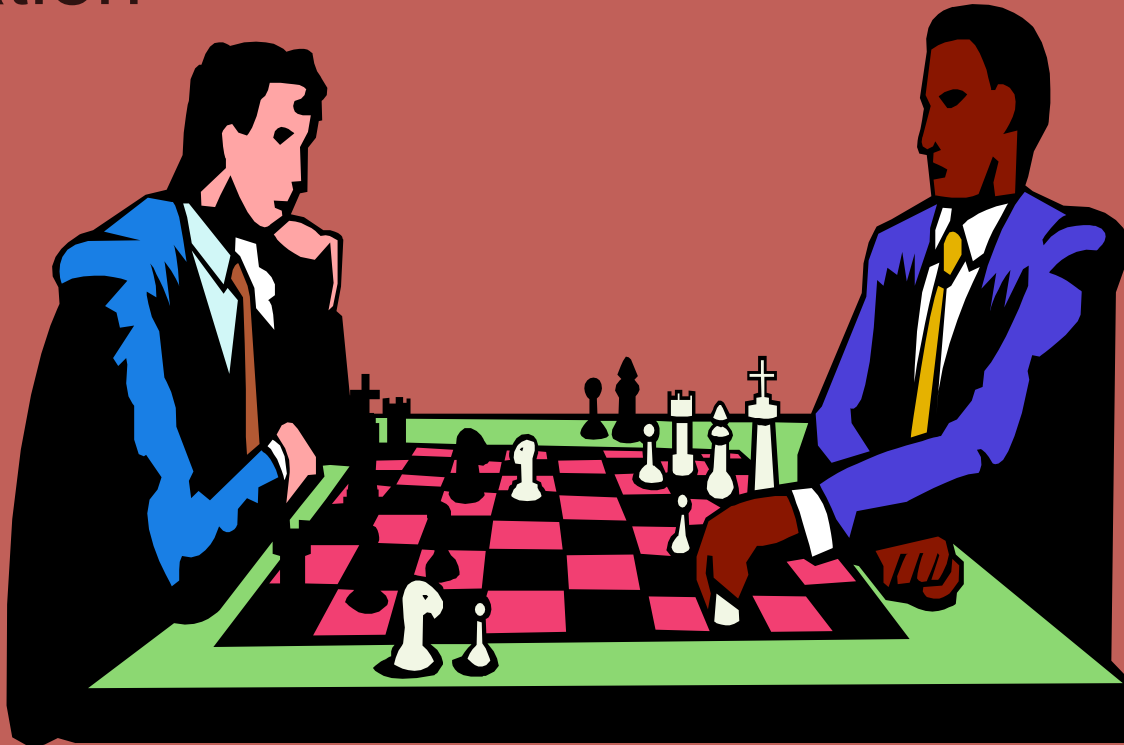
# Consensus Conference

- Bring together experts to discuss anticipated needs and identify current gaps



# Consensus Conference

■ Identify strategies to close the gap between the current and ideal situation



# Why Occupational Therapy?

- Occupational therapy enables *participation*
  - Work, family, community, leisure
- Occupational therapists work with clients to assist them in the ability to engage in meaningful “*occupations*”
  - Everyday activities that give meaning to a person’s life





# Why Occupational Therapy?

- Occupational therapists possess the appropriate entry level skills and knowledge to address basic assessment issues
- Occupational therapists may receive advanced practice training to enable them to provide specialized assessment and interventions



# Why Occupational Therapy?

- Driving is an instrumental activity of daily living – *IADL* – tied closely with both the perception and the reality of independence
- Occupational therapy works towards independence or identifying alternative solutions/adaptations



# Why Occupational Therapy?

- Occupational therapists are concerned about societal issues
- Occupational therapists are concerned with quality of life issues for seniors



# Recommendations



# Develop a Marketing Campaign Directed to Occupational Therapy Practitioners



# Campaign To Current OTs

- Promote awareness of driving as within the scope of general practice skills
- Increase awareness of the needs of older drivers
- Promote working with older drivers as a viable practice area



# Involve Occupational Therapy Education Program Directors



# Steps Necessary

- Infuse schools of occupational therapy with information from the top down
- Engage and involve Program Directors in the emerging need for practitioners with skills that meet older driver needs
- Identify gaps in current curricula





# Develop Fieldwork Opportunities



# Benefits of Fieldwork

- Fieldwork is designed to help entry-level therapists understand the practical application of occupational therapy
- Expose new therapists to driving as a viable and desired practice area



# Develop Continuing Education Materials



# Funding Support of Government Agencies

- NHTSA recognized the need to educate Occupational Therapists in the area of Older Driver Rehabilitation and increase capacity
- CDC recognized the need to develop and disseminate materials and resources to practitioners



# COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NHTSA:

- Develop, disseminate & evaluate education materials (students & practicing therapists)
- Investigate current programs and practices.
- Develop Good Practices Guide



# CDC GRANT TO UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AOTA SUBCONTRACT

- Establishment of an expert panel of occupational therapists.
- Development of awareness and educational resources
- Produce an Older Driver Evidence-based Literature Review and a Clinical Practice Guideline



# CDC GRANT TO UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AOTA SUBCONTRACT

- Identify existing occupational therapy driving programs that may serve as models for further program development
- Identify appropriate practitioner and consumer resources for the AOTA web page on older driver safety.



# 10 Projects are Underway

- Each project will meets a specific need
- AOTA established an Older Driver Advisory Panel to provide ongoing consultation and direction
- Each project will be completed by June 2004





# SURVEY



# Identify What Is Currently Available

- Develop and Distribute a SURVEY To Investigate Current Driving Programs And Practices

- Over 400 Survey's Have Been Mailed Or Sent Via E-mail



- Goals:

- To Identify Current Programs And Services
  - To Identify 4 Model Programs that Reflect Good Practice
  - Produce a written Good Practices Guide

# Distance Learning



# Development Of On-Line Course Community Mobility And The Elderly

- Available 24/7
- AOTA CEU'S awarded
- Between 5-7 hours of instruction  
(TBD)



# Distance Learning Materials

- Designed as a starting point for occupational therapists (Driving is an IADL)
- Core occupational therapy skills can be refocused and enhanced to specifically address issues the elderly face related to accessing local community and services



# Distance Learning Materials

- Explore the role of occupational therapy in addressing older driver evaluation and intervention as a part of community mobility.
- **COMMUNITY MOBILITY:** the Occupation of driving is only one aspect



# Distance Learning Materials

- Address multiple levels of expertise in the area of driving and the specialized training needed to address each level.
- Available by June 3, 2004



# Academic Education Modules On Older Drivers









# Education Modules On Older Drivers

- Module materials will include:
  - PowerPoint presentation with instructor notes
  - Video vignettes
  - Learning activities/lab exercises
  - Workbook with handouts
- Lecture and lab based components



# Education Modules On Older Drivers

## Topic areas covered:

-  Driving as an IADL
-  Driving related to independence and occupation
-  General facts and statistics about older drivers
-  Understanding the available transportation options for independence

# Education Modules On Older Drivers

- Role of vision, cognition, and mobility
  - Aging-related changes
- Recommendations on how to integrate driving into multiple practice settings
- Options for development of specialization

# Education Modules On Older Drivers

- Research on driver rehabilitation
- Examples of driver rehabilitation programs
- Two education modules will be developed
  - Occupational Therapy students
  - Occupational Therapy Assistant students

# EVIDENCE-BASED LITERATURE REVIEW: OLDER DRIVING



# GOALS OF EBLR ON OLDER DRIVING

- Examine the universe of peer reviewed and other related literature on older driving and community mobility
- Answer a set of topic specific and focused questions on older driving and community mobility



# RESULTS OF THE EBLR

- Develop a PRACTICE GUIDELINE ON OLDER DRIVING
- Develop evidence-based suggestions for education programs to meet needs of Occupational Therapists working with older drivers





# DRAFT QUESTIONS





# Person/Family

 What is the evidence for the effect of interventions to address cognitive function, visual function, motor function, and family involvement on the driving ability, performance and safety of the older adult?

 Intervention approaches include adaptation, remediation, prevention, and maintenance.



# Community Mobility

- What is the evidence for the effect of community mobility programs
    - **alternative transportation**
    - **walkable communities**
    - **education**
    - **pedestrian programs**
- On the participation of the older adult?**



# Automobile

- What is the evidence for the effect of automobile-related modifications on the driving ability, performance and safety of the older adult?
- **Changes by the industry that enhance or hinder the driving ability, performance and safety of the older adult.**



# Infrastructure

■ What is the evidence for the effect of modifications of the infrastructure of the physical environment

■ **Roadways**

■ **Signage**

■ **Lighting**

**on the driving ability, performance and safety of the older adult?**



# FACT SHEET






# TOOL KIT



# Tool Kit of Resources

## Web based materials

-  Easy to download
-  Easy to modify or individualize
-  Links to a vast amount of web based resources

 Exposure during OT Week April 2004



# AOTA MICROSITE





# MICROSITE of Older Driver Resources

- Linked to AOTA website by June 2004

- Target audience:

  - Therapists

  - Consumers

  - Referral sources

- Currently compiling links via input from Expert Panel, conferences, community programs and services