

## **VANESSA M. DAZIO, OTD, OTR/L**

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

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### **CAREER SYNOPSIS**

#### **A. PROVEN PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES/SKILLS**

- **Extensive Education:** Doctorate and Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy with emphasis on Aging; Geriatrics; Health promotion; Personnel management; Business development; Risk management; Medicare compliance; Additional extensive on-going professional continuing education. Certified Clinical and Medical Hypnotherapist; Certified Health Coach. Previous certification in disabilities analysis. **Competencies:** Ability to research, study and apply knowledge to achieve goals.
- **Proven Administrator:** Developed and administered successful, statewide contract rehabilitation business offering OT, PT, ST, Audiology services to nursing homes, assisted living, out-patient rehabilitation and an acute care psychiatric hospital, with Multi-million annual sales. **Competencies:** Rehabilitation management; contract development and management; Medicare and fraud and abuse compliance. **Skills:** Innovative, creative, focused; able to manage risk; identify future trends and current needs; assure profits and satisfied clients/employees.
- **Proven Supervisor and Leader:** Hired, managed OT, PT, ST therapists, assistants, technical, clerical and billing staff, perpetuating successful team building. (125+ employees annually) Supervised occupational therapy staff. **Competencies:** Employee and behavior management; clinical programmatic design, implementation, management, monitoring, reassessment and revision. **Skills:** Time management, conflict resolution; problem solving and ability to use variety of techniques to manage others.
- **Expert in Aging:** Proven extensive expertise in aging; with specialization in health promotion; injury prevention; home safety; home modifications; community mobility; physical rehabilitation; pain management, activity analysis. **Competencies:** Normal aging process; diseases and disease management; ability to develop useful solutions to promote health and function.
- **Significant Clinical Experience:** Health promotion including primary care; physical disabilities and rehabilitation; Home health, ergonomics; psychiatric OT including work with alcoholism, drug abuse, community re-integration programs and research. **Competencies:** Knowledge and practice of occupational therapy including human body, daily life functions and domains, systems and behavior; treatment implementation and interventions; identifying client factors, performance patterns and skills; evaluate needs and requirements to achieve and/or maintain optimal wellness state; use of multi-disciplinary approaches and strategies to promote health, wellness, independence and optimal health.
- **Proven communicator:** Provided extensive health promotional and educational programming to local, state, national and International business and service groups; employees, health professional groups and students. Was awarded two research grants; developed web content. **Competencies:** Public speaking, group dynamics, program development and implementation; analytical document review. **Skills:** Excellent written and verbal communication skills; knowledgeable in neurolinguistics programming.

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**Significant knowledge:** Mind-body connection; hypnosis, medical hypnotherapy, health coaching; mental health; curriculum development/ management; Injury prevention, activities analysis, ergonomics; health promotion; vision rehabilitation; risk management; HIPAA; OASIS; MDS, Medicare rules, regulations and compliance.

## **B. EDUCATION**

- **B.S.** – Bachelor of Science: Occupational Therapy – Boston University, Boston, MA
- **OTD** – Doctorate in Occupational Therapy- Rocky Mountain University of Allied Health Professionals, Provo, Utah.
- **CHC** – Certified Health Coach, Unites States Health Foundation, 2015
- **CCHT** – Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist- UP Hypnosis, Palm Harbor, Florida

## **C. ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND CAREER TRAINING HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- American Occupational Therapy Association; Florida Occupational Therapy Associations: Current.
- CAR FIT, National Train the Trainer Program, Orlando, FL., March, 2005.
- CEAS- Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist - Back School of Atlanta:
- CEAS II- Advanced Level Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist: Back School of Atlanta:
- Certificate: Michigan State University: Graduate School of Business: Simplified Strategic Planning:
- The CEO Division of American Management Association: Management Course for Presidents
- (D) ABDA: Diplomat of American Board of Disability Analysts
- Morton Plant Hospital: Orthopedic Management of the Wrist and Elbow
- New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute: Behavior Modification Training Program in Self-Control. (80 hours)
- New York University-Cornell Medical Center: Cognitive Perceptual Rehabilitation: Principles & Practices
- OSHA Certificate: 30-Hour Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry, 2000-2005
- OSHA Principles of Ergonomics Applied to Work-Related and Nerve Disorders
- Risk Management: Florida Risk Management Institute (120 hours)
- Roy Matheson: Ergonomic Evaluation Professional Residency Program.
- Wide variety of annual continuing education programs, 1976-present: with emphasis on geriatrics, physical disabilities, health promotion, injury prevention; vision; accessibility; home modifications; community mobility, mental health and wellness; hypnosis, medical hypnotherapy.
- Completed continuing education programs (Examples: 2012 to present)
  - ✓ Acute and Chronic Pain Management for the Elderly
  - ✓ Assessment of Postural Control in the Geriatric Population
  - ✓ Assistive Technology Solutions for Independent and Productive Aging
  - ✓ Balance and Mobility in the Older Trauma Patient
  - ✓ Best Practices in Evaluation and Assessment of Supervisees
  - ✓ CMS Documentation Guidelines: The Who, What and Why
  - ✓ Coaching: An Evidence Based Practice That Supports Participation and Efficacy
  - ✓ Cognitive and Behavioral Changes in Older Adults
  - ✓ Complementary/Alternative Medicine and Occupational Therapy
  - ✓ Dementia Management: Evaluation and Staging
  - ✓ Effective Screening Practices for the Long-Term Care Resident
  - ✓ Fall Management: Team Solutions for Assessment and Prevention-Evaluation of Risk
  - ✓ Health Care Coaching Certification for Healthcare Practitioners
  - ✓ Hiring for Success: Strategies for Hiring and Recruitment

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- ✓ How to Administer the Wolf Motor Function Test
- ✓ Improving Memory Using the Spaced Retrieval Technique
- ✓ Improving the Geriatric Hospital Experience: Quality and Patient Safety Initiatives
- ✓ Introduction to Safe Patient Handling: A Paradigm shift in the way therapists handle and move patients
- ✓ Management of Shoulder Subluxation after Stroke
- ✓ Meditation and Neural Mechanisms: Cognitive Applications in the Elderly
- ✓ New SNF Quality Measures: How OTs Can Boost Facility Performance (2017)
- ✓ Options for Improving Upper Extremity Function Following Cervical Spinal Cord Injury
- ✓ Palliative Care in the Older Adult
- ✓ Performing a Successful Seating and Mobility Evaluation
- ✓ Pressure Mapping: A Valuable Resource for Client Assessment and Education
- ✓ Prevention of Medical Errors; The Mandate for Change
- ✓ Prospective Payment System 2012: An Update
- ✓ Selecting the Ideal Wheelchair Seating System
- ✓ Series: A Primer for Therapists Entering the Home Care Setting
- ✓ Spanish for Occupational Therapists
- ✓ Stress Management as a Critical Life Skill
- ✓ Task Oriented Training at Home the Affordable Care Act: What it Means for Occupational Therapy Service and the People We Serve
- ✓ The Functional Test for the Hemiplegic Upper Extremity (FTHUE)
- ✓ The Importance of Self-Care: Caring for Yourself So You Can Care More
- ✓ The Occupational Therapist's Role in Cancer Rehabilitation
- ✓ Transition of Care: Ensuring Successful Clinical Outcomes
- ✓ Trauma and Aging: The Case for a Geriatric Fracture Service
- ✓ Yoga for Depression: One Breath at A Time
- ✓ Weaving Mindfulness and Visualization into Your Practice

## **D. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- **Staff Occupational Therapist, SERV Centers, Piscataway, New Jersey. Description:** Unique trail blazing community deinstitutionalization program that assisted mentally challenged to move from institutional life to community living. This program was the second of its kind in the United States. (2 years)
- **Staff Occupational Therapist, Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, Las Vegas, Nevada. Description:** Out-patient rehabilitation programming with emphasis on treating physical disabilities. Fabricated static and dynamic splints; did wheel chair assessments; Jobst pressure garment measurements and fittings. Majority of patients treated were due to trauma and neurological conditions with greatest emphasis on CVA, Hip fractures, Multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease; and burns. (2 years)
- **Staff Occupational Therapist, Brooklyn VA, New York. Description:** Worked in the psychiatric service program. Developed and implemented a unique occupational therapy treatment program for alcoholics/drug addicts, using group dynamics; behavior modification; stress management techniques to maximize health and wellness. Emphasized conflict resolution; maximizing problem solving abilities and coping mechanisms to enhance quality of life, health and wellness and successful community re-integration. (2 years)
- **Vanessa M. Dazio, PA; Owner, Administrator and Clinician: Occupational Therapy Contracting Services, Tampa Bay, Florida. Description:** Provided occupational therapy services primarily in-home health and nursing homes with a staff of occupational therapists, certified occupational therapy assistants; and occupational therapy aides. Administered program, developed policies and procedures, assured appropriate compliance with all corporate, professional, federal, state rules and regulations: provided on-going staff training and support, and managed and provided clinical treatment programming. (5 years)

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- CEO; Owner/Administrator: Functional Abilities, Inc. Tarpon Springs, Florida: Description: Rehabilitation Contract Service Provider. Professional staff of 125+ including OT's, COTA's, PT's, PTA's, ST's, CFY's, Audiologists; Social Workers; rehab aides; administrative and clerical staff that supported the provision of quality rehab services primarily to nursing homes, ALF's, and out-patient clinics in the State of Florida with \$6+ million annual rehabilitation billing services. (6 years)**

**Accomplishments:** Business growth and development: authored and implemented all company policies and procedures; all company programming; assured compliance in corporate, federal, state and local programming; contract compliance; and the provision of efficient and effective quality rehabilitation programs. Oversaw employee recruitment, retention and all staff development programs. Developed unique and effective orientation training program utilizing team approach; developed and implemented unique Total Quality Management (TQM) team programs; Medicare Fraud Compliance and oversight program; unique and effective Employee Team Performance Appraisal and Management Program; Employee Wealth Accumulation Program; developed and provided extensive on-going staff training programs. Implemented student training programs for OT, PT and ST. Designed state of the art 4,000 SF outdoor clinic called the "Mobility Garden", which had 16 different surface textures, and other built in environmental challenges (such as a bridge, a stream, uneven sidewalks, variety of surface textures and challenges) to provide realistic mobility challenges in a supervised outdoor environment. Designed and implemented 6,000 SF Administrative office with state of the art out-patient clinic; 3,000 SF administrative building (FACET: Functional Abilities Center for Education and Training, and 2 other out- patient offices re-designs.
- Owner: Ergonomic World, Inc., Tarpon Springs, Florida:** Provided ergonomic assessments to usinesses. (Part- time) (1 year)
- SAFE AGING: Owner/President: Port Richey, Florida: Description:** Provided home safety assessments; recommended home modifications; health promotion consultation to promote optimal health and wellness, maximize home safety and independence; aging and disability sensitivity training programs.
- Developed and wrote monthly Internet newsletter (<http://www.safeaging.com/newsletter/index.htm>)
- Developed a risk assessment instrument (**Safety Appraisal for Elders (SAFE)**) designed to enable healthy older adults to self identify and quantify potential risks for adverse health and safety outcomes.
- Developed "Discover the Aging Challenge: Sensitivity training workshop"
- Consultants in Health and Consultants in Health and Risk Management Services, Inc. (C.H.A.R.M.S.) Port Richey, Florida;** President; Co-developed non-profit for **Aging Research and Education**. Developed then was awarded two research grants from the *Retirement Research Foundation*; \$15,000 award for *Design of a Pilot Study*, Grant # 2003-333, October, 2003, and an \$85,990 grant follow up award to complete *The Psychometric Testing of the Safety Appraisal for Elders (SAFE) Grant # 2004-260*. Collaborated to completion with a team of researchers from USF and the Veterans Administration Patient Safety Center, Tampa, Florida; on test sample of 299 cohorts with excellent results. (3 years)
- Help from Within Hypnosis, Port Richey, Florida;** Provide hypnosis services for pain relief, smoking cessation; personal control and behavior management, empowerment; physical relaxation; stress management; motivation; and other health promotional activities.
- Claude Pepper CARES Senior Health Clinic:** New Port Richey, Florida: Provide occupational therapy primary care services to uninsured senior adults; Consultation services to CARES.
- Proactive Primary Care Services, Inc:** Established. 2018; Specialization in adult primary care; disability amd business consultation, aging and senior services.

## **E. HIGHLIGHTS OF PUBLICATIONS, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Developed and implemented “Fit for Life” program for well elders living in the community to promote health, well-being and to prevent injuries used within Functional Abilities, Inc.
- Collaborated on development program “Living Daily with Arthritis”, for local Arthritis Foundation, ultimately adopted by the State of Florida’s Arthritis Foundation.
- Dazio, VM. [www. Agelessdesign.com/nl2001-forthecaregiver.htm](http://www.Agelessdesign.com/nl2001-forthecaregiver.htm): Choosing and Installing Home Grab Bars, Vol. 123, Fall, 2000.
- Dazio, Vanessa M. “Opportunities in Risk Management for the Rehab Professional” FOTA FOCUS July/August 2002 newsletter.
- Dazio, Vanessa M. “25 Simple Ideas to Make Your Life Easier”, State of Florida Self-Determination conference, Orlando, Florida, January, 2002.
- Dazio, Vanessa M., “Risk Management: An Emerging Practice Opportunity for Rehabilitation Professionals”, AOTA National Conference, June, 2003.
- Dazio, VM. “No Pain is Your Gain” A Practical Workshop on Work Site Injury Prevention. (2003)
- Dazio, VM. Ekren, WK., “Preparing for OSHA, A Guide for Long Term Care Administration” workshop. (2003)
- Developer: Safety Appraisal for Elders (SAFE) a quantifiable risk self-appraisal instrument designed to identify health, safety and environmental risk factors that could impact independence or performance. (SAFE), 2003.
- Dazio, Vanessa M., Aging Sensitivity Training, USF: Gerontology Classes, May, 2003 – 2006.
- Dazio, V.M., Dreschnack, D.G., Ekren, W.K., “The SAFE Road to Better Aging at Home”, ASA/NCOA National Conference, April, 2004.
- Dazio, V.M., Dreschnack, D.G., Ekren, W.K., “Appraising the Potential Risks of the Elderly Living Independently Using a New Innovative Tool: The SAFE (Safety Appraisal for Elders), Florida Council on Aging Conference, August, 2004.
- Dazio, Vanessa M., Editor of SAFE AGING monthly Internet newsletter “SHARP” <http://www.safeaging.com/consumer/newsletter.htm> [www.safeaging.com](http://www.safeaging.com)
- Dazio, VM. “Trading Places: Aging and Disability Sensitivity Training” workshop, 2004.
- Dazio, VM., Dreschnack, DG., Ekren, WK., “The SAFE: A New Face in In-Home Primary Prevention”, ASA/NCOA, National Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March, 2005
- Dazio, VM., Older Driver Safety: Details, Red Flags and Resources, Tampa Bay Geriatric Care Managers, July, 2005
- Dazio, VM., Roberts, E., “An OT Avenue from Prevention to Intervention,” Steering Community Mobility Via Prevention presented by Dazio; AOTA Community Mobility Symposium, Invited speaker, December, 2005

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- Dazio, Vanessa M., “Sensitivity Training for a Harmonious Workplace”, International Employee Assistance Professional World Conference, Nashville, TN, October, 2006
- Dazio, VM., Brains, Bones, Bellies and More! Women’s Club, Palm Harbor, FL., February, 2006
- Dazio, VM., Discover the Aging Challenge Series: In progress, 2018
- Dazio, VM., 101 Tips to Live Life to the Fullest: in progress
- Dazio, VM., US News and World Report On Line: The Best Life Blog by Philip Moeller; *Tips to Help Parents Who Want to Age in Place*: Reader response: <http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/the-best-life/2009/07/13/tips-to-help-parents-who-want-to-age-in-place-/comments>

**F. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES / MEMBERSHIPS**

- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapists (NBCOT #307850)
- American Occupational Therapy Association, Registered Occupational Therapist # 307850
- Florida Licensed Occupational Therapist #1078

**G. LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS**

- Languages: English; Some Spanish; Some Neuro-Linguistic Programming
- Fair computer skills: Windows, Microsoft Word, Power Point

**H. REFERENCES**

Deborah Gavin-Dreschnack, Ph.d, Gerontologist	413-406-9007
Joyce Payne, CCC-SLP. Oak Hill Hospital, Spring Hill, FL	727-934 -0807
Brenda Martyniak, Hudson, Florida	727-858-9768
Jemith Rosa, CEO, CARES, Port Richey, Florida	727-378-6395
Gisela, Galnoky, RN, Director of Claude Pepper Senior Clinic New Port Richey, FL 34653	727-844-3077