

Wajeeha Chatoo

Director-at-Large

City/Town: Richmond Hill, Ontario



PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am running for the position of Board Director because I would like to give back to the OT community and advance the OT profession using innovative means. I bring forward thirteen years of clinical and leadership experiences, and there is still so much to learn as an OT, particularly now that we are in a pandemic model of care. I am an "outside the box thinker" and genuinely believe that as OTs, we are capable of so much more than we think and know. To name a few examples, we would be valuable consultants and policy-makers in the areas of: COVID-19 model of care, OT coverage in insurance policies, hallway medicine, return to work barriers, and gaps in inpatient mental health, cognitive and bariatric rehabilitation. If I were elected as Board Director, I would bring the following set of leadership qualities to the table:

- Innovative methods to engage and empower OT peers/colleagues to lead
- Vision of what OT would look like in post-COVID-19 phase of rehabilitation
- A combination of both inpatient and outpatient clinical experiences to guide gaps analyses and drive forward action plans
- Eagerness to become involved in health policies and reform
- Knowledge translation and change management

Education

- Masters of Science (Occupational Therapy) - November 2008, McMaster University, Hamilton
- Piloted the Occupational Therapy Examination Practice and Preparation Program (OTepp), led by Sue Baptiste, OSOT honorary life member
- OSOT's Leadership for Occupational Therapists - Are you ready? - June 2019, Mississauga
- Honours Bachelor of Science (Cell and Molecular Biology) - June 2005, University of Toronto, Toronto
- Received the Distinction and Golden Key Honours Society Award upon graduation

Professional Experience

- Occupational Therapy Team Lead - December 2018 to date, Mackenzie Health Hospital

- Assisted with development and implementation of policies and procedures related to pandemic planning
- Assisted with planning and preparation for the opening of Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital
- Facilitate and create bulletins for monthly discipline-specific meetings
- Provide and facilitate orientation, education and mentorship of staff
- Conduct audits and skills gap analyses of rehabilitation staff, and implement action plans with practice leads and management
- Participate in hospital-wide projects and quality initiatives alongside management and practice leads
- Coordinate working groups for the promotion of student placements and preceptorship
- Disseminate information and QA processes from regulatory bodies to the staff
- Full-time clinician on acute medicine, cardiology and surgical floors
- Clinic Care Coordinator - January 2016 to September 2017, CBI Health Centre
- Developed relationships with referral sources to facilitate navigation of service and achieve desired client outcomes
- Ensured timely and effective intake process for referral source, client and clinic team
- Managed inquiries regarding clinical services to the Disability Marketplace
- Managed weekly team meetings for all disability files to establish goals and address barriers to recovery
- Established and shared data entry responsibility with appropriate designate to track outcomes
- Ensured clinic team was meeting or exceeding process management and operational efficiencies

Volunteer Experience

- Organized and led a Falls Prevention Program for the seniors in my community in Richmond Hill. Education topics covered were: importance of mobilizing, energy conservation, falls prevention strategies, gentle stretches and exercises, and cognitive activities (2018)
- Assisted with setting up career fairs in my community in Richmond Hill. Set up booths and answered youth's questions regarding different areas of study in the Life and Health Sciences fields (intermittent)
- Volunteered to organize and participate in an educational exercise video for the community seniors, through Mackenzie Health's social media platform (2020)
- Volunteered to calligraphize and personalize Nursing Week cards as part of a recognition initiative during the pandemic (2020)
- Coordinate and organize fun and innovative contests and activities for OT Month Celebration on an annual basis at my workplace (ongoing)
- Initiated and implemented a gentle stretching program for nursing staff on the medicine unit, which was conducted on a weekly basis, alongside mobility and transfer training during safety huddles (2018)
- Volunteer as Chair for monthly staff association meetings at my workplace, which account for department-related concerns and inquiries - responsible for the timely distribution of meeting minutes (ongoing)

