Making the Case for Occupational Medicine



WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Focused activities pursued to:



Influence policy makers to design, adopt, implement or change policies and practices.



ADVOCACY is a longterm process and requires a multi-year commitment of time and resources.



STEPS TO GETTING ORGANIZED



Articulate Your Aims

2

Identify Your Objective 3

Determine Who and When

4

Identify Your Policy makers



Deliver the Message



GETTING ORGANIZED: IDENTIFY THE OBJECTIVE

Change in Policy

Change in Practice or Regulation

Recognizing the Time Frame for Change

GETTING ORGANIZED: TARGETS

1

Focus on decisionmakers. 2

Understand their authority and limits.

3

Link to what they already support; personalize when appropriate.

4

Construct the "win-win" scenario.



GETTING ORGANIZED: DELIVERING THE MESSAGE

Identify most meaningful spokesperson.

Compile evidence in a succinct format.

Engage your allies.

Present "workable" approaches.

Be prepared and passionate.

Follow up.



How To Communicate Effectively "To Do"

Clearly identify your subject;

Explain why you are concerned;

Explain why the issue affects patients, families, or community;

Keep it to one or two topics.

Personalize when possible.

Follow Up



How To Communicate Effectively "Do Not"

"Threaten" or present an ultimatum.

Overstate your influence.

Use jargon, trite phrases or clichés. Link financial contributions to support.



PLACEHOLDER; INTERACTIVE PORTION. "10 STEPS TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN."

- 1. What's the most important "thing" we want to change or try to influence?
- 2. What are our best case objectives, what would be reasonable "fall back" objectives?
- 3. Who do we need to influence to make that happen? Who has the authority to actually implement change?
- 4. Do we have the contacts, data/evidence, resources to make the case, convincingly? What exactly do we have, and how can we fill the "gaps."



PLACEHOLDER; INTERACTIVE PORTION. "DEVELOP YOUR OWN." CONTINUED (2)

- 5. What groups might oppose us, how do we match up?
- 6. Are there natural "allies" we can align with? How do we make those connections and develop consensus objectives?
- 7. Who will lead the initiative for us? How will we ensure continuity of leadership and effort?



PLACEHOLDER; INTERACTIVE PORTION. "DEVELOP YOUR OWN." CONTINUED (3)

- 8. How will we keep the membership informed and ensure continued grassroots support?
- 9. How will we track or progress and make needed adjustments in strategy or objectives?
- 10. How will we know when we've "won?"



THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE! BE OPTIMISTIC AND PERSISTENT.



No one "understands" the issues better than you do;



Issues are often complex and you have the chance to simplify;



Elected and agency officials need, and generally want, your input;



Be prepared for the "long haul."

