

# MARIA P. GERTOS, M.S., OTR/L

## FORMAL EDUCATION

- 1998            Master of Science, Occupational Therapy  
Rush University Graduate School of Health Sciences, Chicago, Illinois  
Thesis: Selected Areas of Difference Between Masters and Baccalaureate Level Occupational  
Therapy Students
- 1996            Bachelor of Arts, Psychology  
Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, Illinois

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 to date    **Expert Occupational Therapist**  
*Turning Point Life Care Planning, Headquarters in Los Angeles, California*  
Utilize clinical expertise working with adults to develop and/or rebut life care plans following a published standard methodology. This methodology includes reviewing medical documentation, conducting comprehensive assessments, consulting with other professionals, analyzing data, and researching standard practice guidelines to opine on the current and future health needs of individuals who have experienced catastrophic injury or have a chronic illness.
- 2012 to date    **Regional Manager**  
*Select Rehabilitation LLC, Glenview, Illinois*  
Multi-site and state clinical operations management. Achieved departmental goals by direction and management of rehab management team and rehab staff instituting new processes and standards for transitional care units, skilled nursing facilities, CCRCs, and direct bill outpatient facilities. Managed hiring process for contractual therapists for hospital contract. Recruited and hired numerous new therapy staff. Responsible for clinical instruction to rehab teams throughout the regional area. Implementation of clinical programming for optimal patient outcomes. Conducted regular site visits at 24 sites, over multiple states to ensure optimal clinical and operational management. Maintained high levels of partner satisfaction through communication.
- Provide leadership for 21 skilled nursing programs with sole responsibility for operations and clinical programming.
  - Provide leadership for 3 direct bill outpatient site programs for clinical and operation programming with sole P&L responsibility.
  - Implemented psychiatry programming, systems and communication with portfolio and psychiatry contract.
  - Responsible for hiring and orienting Therapy Directors for optimal clinical programming.
  - Responsible for clinical training and implementing site specific programming.
- 2012 to 2012    **Area Director/Clinical Specialist/Customer Relations Director**  
*Genesis Rehab Services, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania*  
Multi-site and clinical operations management. Conducted regular visits at 12 regional sites to teach and train onsite Program Managers about the daily, clinical and operational functions of a rehab department. Provided clinical and educational guidance to all therapy staff, 275 full time staff.
- Implemented clinical programs for optimal long term care patients in coordination with the facility for CMI positive outcomes.
  - Streamlined IDT meetings for Medicare/UR review, monthly triple check and Program

Manager participation.

- Customer relations director liaison with the portfolio executive team, attended monthly QI meetings, attended monthly P & L meetings
- Attended weekly meetings with CFO, CEO, VP of Clinical Reimbursement at Portfolio Corporate Office

1995 to 2012 **Senior Director, Rehabilitation Services**

*HCR – Manorcare, Midwest Region*

Led a team of 40 employees providing rehabilitation services in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy for a 200 bed SNF. Trained and mentored Directors of Rehabilitation and therapy staff in PPS management, policies and procedures, new programming. Established systems for therapy departments with incorporation of training for all interdisciplinary teams for optimal patient care. Established facility specific training specialty based on patient demographics. Marketing visits with hospitals and physician practices in outlying areas. Drove quality improvement programs that resulted in positive outcomes and annually improved the benchmark scores expected by the organization by coaching and directing associates throughout the year. Program development, training and implementation for total knee replacement programming improving facility census by 20%.

- Collaborated with therapy staff to improve productivity and efficiency to lead the region for the last 2 years.
- Implemented the Psychiatrist Program and hired 1 full time psychiatrist.
- Assisted in the implementation of facility-based student programming with 50% increase of student fieldwork participants.
- CEU presenter for Allen Cognitive Levels, Group Therapy, Medicare Entitlement, Spaced Retrieval techniques and NDT. Rehabilitation orientation presenter for Midwest Region 1 specific to therapy.
- Developed CEU: "Rehab's Role in the State Survey Process."
- Completed OT evaluations with follow up treatment following plan of care.

2003 to 2005 **Senior Therapist**

*Macneal Hospital – Home Health Division, Berwyn, Illinois*

Supervision of staff, evaluations, treatment, discharge planning, home safety evaluation, patient/family education, chart auditing, QA, developed O.T. protocol manual.

2003 to 2005 **PRN Staff Therapist, Sub-Acute Care**

*Quality Therapy Consultants, Inc., Orland Park, Illinois*

Staff Occupational Therapist-completed evaluations and treatment.

2001 to 2002 **PRN Staff Therapist, Acute Care**

*St. Francis Hospital, Chicago, Illinois*

Staff Occupational Therapist-completed evaluations and treatment.

1994 to 1995 **Consultant Program Development/Home Health Care Therapist**

*In Home Health Care, Oak Brook, Illinois*

Home care program development. Completed occupational therapy evaluations and treatment.

- 1993 to 1993 **Staff Therapist, Home Care**  
*National Therapeutic Systems, Inc., Westchester, Illinois*  
Staff Occupational Therapist-completed evaluations and treatment.
- 1992 to 1992 **Staff Therapist, Hand Therapy**  
*Southwest Hand and Occupational Therapy, LTD., Palos Heights, Illinois*  
Staff Occupational Therapist in an outpatient hand clinic. Provided evaluations and treatment.
- 1988 to 1992 **Senior Staff Therapist, Acute Inpatient, Acute Rehab Inpatient**  
*Rush St. Luke's Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, Illinois*
- Revised/implemented hip protocol program.
  - Senior Occupational Therapist staff-completed evaluations and treatment.

#### **PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**

##### **Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation**

#056002107 3/18/1989 - 12/31/2025

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP)

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Advisory Board Member – Governors State University MOT Program 2021 – Present

Guest Lecturer – Governors State University MOT Program 2020 – Present

Co-Author, Co-Presenter for ILOTA, *CEU-Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, 2021*

Committee Member for Professional Development Lectures, 1991

IOTA Board Member – Student Liaison, 1990

Research Committee Representative - Graduate Occupational Therapy Program, Rush University

Graduate School of Health Sciences, 1988

#### **RELEVANT CONTINUING EDUCATION**

##### **2023- 2024 Institute of Rehabilitation and Training (IRET)**

**LCP 5:** Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Life Care Planning for Multiple Disabilities

**LCP 4:** Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Life Care Planning for Amputations

**LCP 3:** Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Life Care Planning for TBI

**LCP 2:** Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Life Care Planning with SCI

**LCP 1:** Professional Orientation to Life Care Planning