Critical Evaluation of the Beach Center Family Quality of Life Scale (FQOL-Scale)

Alyssa Van Beurden M.Cl.Sc (SLP) Candidate FQoL. Articles that discussed the theoretical background for the concept of FQoL were included in the introduction.

Data Collection

This literature search resulted in 4 large-scale questionnaire design studies (Hoffman et al., 2006, Wang et al., 2006, Zuna et al., 2009 and Summers et al. 2007), 3 of which

Factor Analysis proced structure for average discrepancies between sample and model correlations, comparative fit indices and errors in fit. Researchers also employed the Mplus maximum likelihood organizing the domains and factors related to FQoL which was

completed by a neutral party in order to validate the statistical findings of the Beach Center on Disability research team. Finally, researchers should also consider investigating the implied relationship between individual QoL and FQoL and how reliably this relationship can be measured and defined.

Clinical Implications

The Beach Center FQOL Scale has the potential to be a relevant and useful tool for Speech-Language Pathologists and other health professionals working with families. In particular, current training and best practice standards argue that health professionals should strive to assist clients as well as their families in achieving good individual and family QoL. This measure can provide an objective tool for assessing this traditionally qualitative construct. Although, this tool does not provide an opportunity for clients to express their concerns, attitudes and feelings explicitly, it does assist the clinician in discovering topics that can be a focus for further discussion.

From a business and service perspective, this tool offers an indirect outcome measure of service satisfaction and overall FQoL. This is an important factor in maintaining and designing effective and efficient service for clients and their families.

For families with children with multiple disabilities, working with a variety of health professionals becomes part of the daily routine. By monitoring and addressing issues with FQoL, health professionals can help to make a

References

- Archibald, L. (2010). *Critical Appraisal 2* [Lecture notes]. London, Ontario: University of Western Ontario, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Beach Center on Disability (2010). Tools: Family quality of life scale. Retrieved December 15, 2010 from http://www.beachcenter.org/resource_library
- Brown, T.A. (2006). Confirmatory factor analysis for applied research. Guilford Press: New York, New York
- Greenhalgh, T. (2006). *The basics of evidence-based medicine*, *3rd ed*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

- Hoffman, L., Marquis, J., Poston, D., Summers, J.A. & Turnbull, A. (2006). Assessing family outcomes:
 Psychometric evaluation of beach center family quality of life scale. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 68, 1069-1083.
- Kaplan, D. (2009). Structural equation modeling: Foundations and extensions. [GoogleBooks version] SAGE Publications Inc.: United States of America.
- King, G., Tucker, M.A., Baldwin, P., Lowry, K., D., Sum3(,)-27(w)23ewr