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Interviewing Carey Busch, Ph.D., C.R.C.:

A counselor in Office of Disability Service, OU

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Interview report with Carey Busch, Ph.D., C.R.C.

I visited the Office of Disability Service (ODS) in Ohio University and I met Carey Busch, Ph.D. in her office. She has been working in Ohio University for 5 years. This office is an office that facilitates students with disabilities to obtain equal access and service in university environment. Many students with disabilities cannot access certain campus because of architectural design makes them difficult to enter and go to class or to obtain other services. In general, this office advocates students for their equality rights for education services in Ohio University.

In this paper, I would like to report the result of my interview with her during her office hour. A lot of information that I have collected and I would like to organize this report by discussing at glance of the institution where she is working, her career story and recommendation for people who are getting work in this field, and my response regarding to what I have gained from this interview.

At glance of Office of Disability Service (ODS) in Ohio University

This institution's mission is to provide equitable access to programs, services and facilities for students with disabilities at Ohio University by providing accommodation and eliminating of architectural facilities that hinder access of people with disabilities. To achieve the mission, there are three main objectives of this institution. First, this organization aims to provide students with disability services especially to obtain equality access to building or other services like instructor and administrator services, and academic success during their study in this university. Second, this organization provides services to help students with disabilities be capable to use information and technology devices in campus. Third, they also receive service that helps them in related to academic activities like writing paper or other assignments.

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There are four people who are working in this office. Two of them hold managerial position such as Carey Bush, M.Ed., C.R.C., and Abigail Webb, M.Ed. Both of them serve as Disability Services Advisors with Carey provides services for students with last names beginning with A-M and Webb with students' last name N-Z. This office is supported financially by Ohio University and also receives out resources such as grant that usually from projects or programs that are doing by this office. There are also students who become volunteers. They are involved in these activities based on each expertise. To cover more programs and facilities, this office actually needs larger rooms but Ohio University does not have enough space for it

Students with disabilities in Ohio University are eligible to obtain service from this institution. In general college students with disability are under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990) and they are eligible for accommodations. A student must meet one of three criteria that outlined in the ADA definition of disability, they are:

1. Any person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
2. Students who are having a record of such an impairment, or
3. Students who are regarded as having such an impairment.

Eligible students will need to include their names in the list of member in this institution and should follow registration process. They have to register themselves in the Office of Disability Service. There are some steps that should be followed:

1. Submit the appropriate documents to the office
2. Wait for a letter sent by U.S. mail from a disability services advisor regarding eligibility, and
3. Contact the office to schedule appointment with advisor

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Carey's career development

After graduation school from Community Counseling program in Ohio University and becoming a volunteer to help people with disabilities in Athens, she applied for a position helping people with psychiatric disabilities find and maintain work in Ohio University. It was so challenging for her to do her job in the first day. She felt not really sure that she could do her tasks in that time. However, she felt enjoy about her job at the end of the first day that she worried about previously.

She was a counselor in the center and now has become the director of disability services and regional campus accessibility coordinator since January 2012-present (almost one year). She previously became Assistant Director of Disability services from July 2008 – July 2012, Assistant Director, Career Services from April 2007 – June 2008, and Career Developer in the Center of Vocational Alternatives since December 2002 - March 2007. Based on her records, her career seems smoothly developed since her activities in voluntary programs for people with disabilities and middle school students with severe disabilities after Master's graduation

In her job, she earns about \$33,000 annually and she also earns more income from her projects and position as a director. When I ask about her income, I was really reluctant since this topic is considered privacy in my country so that I was not really comfortable to ask deeper about her salary.

At this time, she has a peak position in that institution and still has no plan to change her job since she loves her job very much and still has more plans to be realized in Ohio University. To be a director in the institution is challenging for her. In addition, to coordinate her staffs and arranging the plan for service programs she also actively involved in students organizations especially during new student orientation.

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Concerning her job, she things that her job is the best of the both worlds: working with excellent students who have disabilities and also in the university setting to help students. This work is interesting for her and even challenging to implement her idealism in helping students with disabilities in campus environment. However, she together her staffs work hard to realize the vision of the Office for Disability Service as a part Ohio University.

At this time, she is still struggling with challenges to provide the ideal facilities and equal treatment for students with disabilities. She is now working on developing facilities in campus that accessible for students with disabilities. Many places in Ohio University campus that is not accessible for students with disabilities so that they cannot enter every campus easily. To realize her job, she needs to make networking with other institutions that allow her to obtain some grant or donations. To build facilities that friendly for students with disabilities needs more money than that of ordinary facilities. Ohio University needs spend more money to build accessible paths and other properties but Ohio University does not have enough money to make it real.

In addition, she wants to help the office to do the best to use the strengths of individual staff and any resources to meet the needs of students in Ohio University. In the long term target, she wants to work closer with the deans and department chairs to develop and maintain good relationship with academic departments.

Of her activities and spirit, it can be defined that she is a dedicated person in providing service for people with disabilities. Her focus on this field has been started since her Master's degree in Counseling Field. She earned her degrees from Ohio University. Even though her bachelor was Science, Forensic Chemistry (1993-1997), she continued her Master degree in Community Counseling in 1997-2000 and Doctorate degree of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision in 2008-2011.

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Since she is not only working as a counselor but also as a director, her works are mostly involved with organizational tasks. In some years, her jobs were involved with Bobcat Student Orientation in capturing new students. She and her staffs have been doing training in different departments and also with Diversity Affairs Commission to campaign awareness of the image of disabilities.

Based on her experience in this field, she can be a reference to share recommendation for people who are considering to work in rehabilitation field. To sharpen skills and widen experience, a student of Clinical Mental Health or Rehabilitation counseling can start their career by joining related voluntary programs. To volunteer is beneficial especially to gather experience to help people with disabilities and at the same time, our skills are getting sharper by practice. Through voluntary works, students can also develop networking so that they can have more choices to access job vacancy after graduation. She explained that this step is systematic and applicable for whoever wants to work in helping people with disabilities. To develop more skills and expertise, they can take certified courses after they know exactly what they need in their works.

Personal reaction of this interview experience

Having finished the interview and searched some more data in the website, I have three important points for me as a first year student in Clinical Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling. The points encompass my response toward her as a dedicated and her career development, the importance of the institution, and the effect for me as a student in Counselor Education program.

I totally agree that learning by doing is one of the best methods of studying. Carey's time spending for voluntary activities during her early career is useful for her maturity in providing

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service for people with disabilities. In addition, she began to work at Ohio University as a counselor has enriched her many experience day by day until she achieved position as a director of Disability Services and Regional Campus Accessibility Coordinator. I believe that without hard working and loyalty to abdicate herself in this great field, she would never gain this strategic position right now.

The Office of Disability service has a great responsibility to help students with disabilities who usually have limitation to do something in academic environment. Many demands from the faculty and accessible environment sometimes make them need more help to meet their obligation as students. I believe that this institution has important role to facilitate students with disabilities and to develop and gain benefits as much as possible as university students, successful in their study, and have more choices in the future in work fields.

These two points then brought me to awareness of how important the institution is so that counselor can provide service for students with disabilities in campus through this institution. I gained a broader knowledge of helping students with disabilities profession and am now having clearer plan to start my journey and to start my career through Clinical Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling field. I am thinking of developing networking with mental health center and rehabilitation institution to take voluntary work or involve in workshop and conference more. Through this way, I believe that I can develop my skills and networking with people in the same concern. After I go home to my country, I would like to continue my work as a faculty In Guidance and Counseling department. Through this department, I would like to involve myself in developing campus facilities which are accessible for students with disabilities. From this time, I would like to start to learn deeper theoretically and to do counseling practice intensively so that I can gain sharper skills and experience.