

The Occupational Therapy Student (OTS) conducted the Worker Role Interview (WRI) with IS before the Monday Night Social (MNS) group on 4/13/26. Monday Night Social is a 1.5-hour group therapy session held at Sacred Heart University's Center for Health Education, facilitated by Level 1 Fieldwork Occupational Therapy Students (OTS) and Speech-Language Pathology Students (SLPS) under supervision from OT and SLP faculty. The group focuses on promoting social interaction and engagement in leisure and life-skills activities among young adults with a range of neurodevelopmental abilities. The WRI was selected to explore the role of work in IS's life and how any challenges they experience may affect current and future employment. Because the interview is non-standardized, the OTS selected questions that primarily focused on IS's current employment to maintain relevance and a client-centered approach, while adapting the interview as needed in response to IS's responses. IS was attentive, engaged, and responded to all questions. At times, the OTS modified the assessment language to support IS's understanding. Occasional redirection was required when the conversation strayed from the interview's purpose. IS remained highly motivated throughout the session and demonstrated eagerness to participate, even expressing support for the OTS's development as a future Occupational Therapist.

The OTS noted several key findings from IS's responses during the interview. IS reported no preference for working independently or with others and described effective communication with both coworkers and supervisors. IS also demonstrated adaptability, noting that she adjusts easily to changes, such as a new manager. IS did express some challenges, including frustration about being furloughed from her first employer. However, finding a similar job soon after this event demonstrated strong executive functioning (the brain's ability to plan, organize, manage time, problem-solve, etc.), as OTs call it.

Overall, IS demonstrates strong motivation, adaptability, and effective communication skills in her role as an employee. She reports being comfortable working both independently and with others and appears largely independent in managing most aspects of her daily routine. However, her independence is limited by her reliance on her parents for transportation to work. Although she accepts support with financial management, she expressed a desire for greater independence, particularly in her ability to drive. To support this goal, IS may benefit from additional budgeting practice to enhance financial independence, as well as from exploring options such as a driving simulator to build confidence and driving skills.