

Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (OBCE)

Public Notice & E-Newsletter Update

November 6, 2014

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President's Report



I just returned from a WFC (World Federation of Chiropractic) educational conference where the main subject of conversation was the worldwide trend transforming medical education toward evidence-based processes.

Educators from four continents shared the current changes in their respective programs, the Europeans are particularly advancing rapidly into inter-professional education and practices. After lagging behind in recognition, the European Chiropractors are quickly leaving us in the dust as far as public delivery and health care system access.

It was very interesting to hear of the upcoming changes in the Chiropractic programs and the opportunities this may bring to future graduates and all of us “older Chiropractors.” I would encourage all to at least read up on the evidence-based research and perhaps take some C.E. hours on the subject. The landscape of health care is moving fast and it would be devastating for Chiropractic to be left behind.

Here at the OBCE, we are moving along. I am pleased to say that the amount of complaints received is somewhat on the decline and this is allowing us to review our rules and policies and update them. Our new E.D. is settling into her new role with great enthusiasm and excellent work. Also, you will see below that we are welcoming two new Board Members, one public member and one D.C. I want to welcome them and thank them both for their dedication to the public protection of Oregonians.

I hope you will all have heart-warming holidays,

Daniel M. Côté, D.C.
President, OBCE

Executive Director's Report



“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” – Theodore Roosevelt

For over 18 years, Dave McTeague – a statesman, a gentleman, and a river man – worked hard at “work worth doing” as the OBCE’s Executive Director. Coming into this position upon Dave’s retirement, I am grateful for the strong foundation he formed with our staff, with the Legislature, and with you, our licensees. It is this foundation that our work is built upon.

In the last few months, I have had the privilege of meeting quite a few of our doctors from around the state. While you may vary in many ways, you share one common intrinsic and admirable quality: the great passion to help people. To help them get back to work, to help get them physically active, and to help ease their pain. You are rightfully proud of the good work you do and appreciate your ability to do it. It is with this same passion and conscientiousness that you ask thoughtful questions of our Board, of me, and of our staff. I am honored to come to work every day to participate in your “work worth doing.”

Every day you practice, you work hard to build and maintain the reputation of Chiropractic care within Oregon. Our Board works hard at protecting that reputation by ensuring ethical and safe practices that our public can trust and rely on. Our mutual success relies on active involvement, respect, and clarity of purpose. As Executive Director, the Board has tasked me with a purpose that is three-fold: 1) To act as steward of the public interest; 2) To provide fiscal responsibility and accountability; and 3) To promote respect for and adherence to due process, fairness, and transparent governance. It is from this clarity of purpose that change becomes necessary, if not altogether welcome.

In order for us to invest in building and maintaining the public’s trust and reliance upon safe and ethical practices, it is necessary to increase fees for the 2015-17 biennium. This increase will offset the continued trend of rising legal/litigation costs and resources spent on complex contested cases. Unfortunately, this is not a trend seen just by the OBCE but one that is affecting many health regulatory boards across the state. We have proposed the following fee increases, to become effective July 1, 2015 if approved by the Legislature:

DC Fee Type	Nov. 1, 2013 – Present	Effective July 1, 2015 (if approved)
Application	\$150	\$250
Initial License	\$100	\$150
Regular Active Renewal	\$350	\$425
Senior License	\$262.50	\$318.80
Inactive Renewal	\$175	\$225
Late Renewal	\$100	\$125

Such increases would provide approximately \$323,164 in Other Funds revenue.

I am aware that this is no small ask. I understand that your livelihood is affected not only by these fees but also by the possible time and money spent if you are investigated by the Board. That your livelihood depends on the careful and accurate review of your case and on an efficient and fair resolution. I am committed to seeing that cases are handled professionally, respectfully, efficiently, and with absolute due process. As an attorney, it is my duty. As Executive Director, it is my purpose. We are analyzing our rules, policies, and procedures – both for licensees and for the internal workings of the agency – in order to fulfill this commitment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. 503-373-1620, cass.skinner@oregon.gov.

I look forward to continuing our “work worth doing.”

Cassandra C. Skinner, J.D.
Executive Director, OBCE

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Amber Reed graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 2014 and practices in Coquille, Oregon. During law school, Amber worked as the Chief Law Clerk for the Financial Fraud and Consumer Protection Section of Oregon’s Department of Justice. Amber obtained her undergraduate degree from Willamette University in 2007, with a B.A. in Politics and History. Amber's background in consumer protection law brings her to OBCE. She is very excited to learn about Chiropractic medicine and meet doctors practicing in Oregon.



Dr. Romanick is a 1976 graduate of the University of Washington where he earned a B.A. in History with an emphasis in education. He is a 1983 graduate of Western States Chiropractic College. Prior to attending WSCC, Dr. Romanick taught high school social studies, and math north of Seattle for 2 years. Presently, in addition to seeing patients, Dr. Romanick teaches anatomy/physiology, medical terminology, and health careers to high school students for college credit. A long-time athlete, coach, and team doctor, he attended junior college on a basketball/baseball scholarship and earned his varsity letter. While attending the University of Washington, he was member of the baseball team. In 2001, Dr. Romanick was named a 1st

Team All-American by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) while competing at that year's 45 year old National Championship Tournament. Dr. Romanick is a Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician (CCSP) and served as team doctor to amateur and professional athletes and teams. He has assisted the OBCE and the NBCE with part IV of the licensing exams for approximately 20 years and served the OBCE in many various ways during that time. Dr. Romanick has practiced in Klamath Falls, Salem/Monmouth, and Western Washington County over the past 30 years.

OBCE November 20, 2014 Board Meeting and Meet & Greet - Corvallis

The Board's November 20, 2014 meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express On the River in Corvallis, Oregon. The OBCE will meet with area chiropractic physicians and the public from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

The Public meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. The OBCE public agenda will be posted on the OBCE web page prior to the meeting. www.oregon.gov/obce

The Board's Executive Session is scheduled to begin at 10:30a.m. to review health professional license investigations (ORS 192.660(2)(j)), contested cases, personnel matters, and receive legal advice (ORS 192.660(2)(h)). The Board will vote in Public Session on "In the Matters Of."

Peer Review Committee

The OBCE Peer Review Committee will meet in executive session on November 13, 2014, at the Board offices in Salem.

OBCE meeting minutes

Minutes of OBCE meetings are available on the OBCE's Web page; go to www.oregon.gov/obce under Public Meeting Minutes.

Public Protection Update

Our latest Public Protection Update (April 15-Oct. 22, 2014) is now posted to our website: http://www.oregon.gov/OBCE/pdfs/Public_Protection_Update_April_15_to_Oct_22_2014.pdf

Our goal is to get this updated after every board meeting so the most recent Board Actions are made available as soon as possible.

Administrative Rule and Law

REMINDERS

Effective October 29, 2014, the Board amended **OAR 811-035-0015 Unprofessional Conduct**. The change creates a violation when any person attempts to make an agreement to "prohibit,

restrict, discourage or otherwise affect a person's ability to file a complaint with the Board, to truthfully and fully answer questions...regarding a board proceeding." See link: http://www.oregon.gov/OBCE/Rules/ADOPTED_Rule_Language_Confidential_Agreements.pdf

Practice Tip

As the Health Care Investigator for the OBCE, I review a lot of records - some great, some okay, and some not so okay. One thing that I encounter often is a lack of informed consent for treatment. As practicing chiropractic physicians, you must obtain at least a verbal informed consent to treat and you must document in the chart note that you have received verbal informed consent from the patient.

Informed consent is obtained following the P.A.R.Q. (Procedures, Alternatives, Risks, Questions). A lot of records do have a signed informed consent in the file but when the patient is asked or interviewed, they often state "that was just a part of the paperwork I filled out when I was a new patient at the office."

I would recommend that after you have examined the patient, have formulated a treatment plan, and are ready to give your Report of Findings, initiate your P.A.R.Q. Immediately following, have the patient sign your informed consent to treat, also note in your chart notes that you did so. Remember: documentation is everything.

It is a good idea to check with your malpractice insurance carrier on what they recommend. A couple of years prior to my retiring, I called my malpractice carrier and asked how often I should obtain an informed consent for those patients on maintenance or supportive care. My carrier provided me great input.

Frank Prideaux, D.C.
Health Care Investigator, OBCE

For more information contact the OBCE at (503) 378-5816, email oregon.obce@oregon.gov, fax (503) 362-1260. The OBCE website is: <http://www.oregon.gov/OBCE/>