



Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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www.otlb.state.or.us Director: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us August, 2007

NEWSLETTER

The OT Licensing Board meets next Friday, **October 12, 2007** at **Portland State University** during the **OTAO** conference. Look at the web sites www.otlb.state.or.us or www.otao.com for details.

OT COMMENTS at the LEGISLATURE

Oregon legislator, Rep. Sara Gilser from Corvallis commented at the end of the hearing on SB 135:

“There are few opportunities we have to recognize and appreciate the work of Occupational Therapists. I believe Occupational Therapists are some of the great “unsung heroes” in the health occupations . . . If we think about encouraging independence in people, Occupational Therapists are an amazing occupation and I want to thank you for your work.”

Rep. Sara Gilser

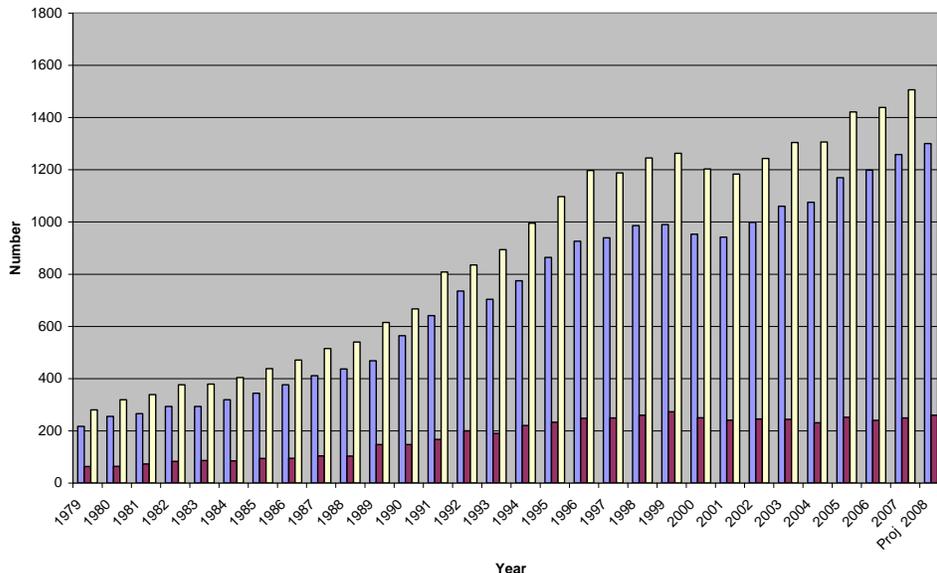
30th Anniversary of Occupational Therapy Licensing

Licensing of Occupational Therapists 30 years ago gave legitimacy to a profession that is become better understood in our society. A June U.S. News and World Report states: **“We take for granted our ability to button a shirt, use a computer, or drive a car. But many people - injured adults, children born with disabilities, elders beset by aging - cannot assume those skills. The occupational therapist helps such people live as fully and independently as possible.”**

In Oregon the need for occupational therapy continues to grow. So do our numbers. In 1979 there were 200 licensees, in 1990 there were 600, and in 2007 we already have 1500 licensees.

Chart of Occupational Therapy Licensees

History of OT Licensees



WORK OF THE LICENSING BOARD

The Agency budget bill and Senate Bill 135 were signed by the Governor. There is now a legal that all OT applicants in Oregon have the 30 points of CE before being licensed – the same as required for all OT license renewals. Anyone not licensed for more than three years must either retake the NBCOT examination or complete a Re-Entry program. We also have our new OT scope of practice.

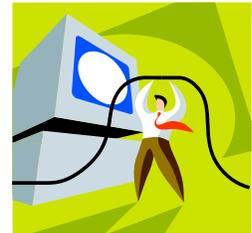
The board also adopted changes **reducing the renewal fees from \$100 to \$85** a year for OTs and from **\$70 to \$60 for OT Assistants**. We are passing Board savings on to you.

In 2008 the OT Licensing Board will be replacing the two Public Members of the Board. If you have the name of someone who understands what OTs do and may be willing to serve please contact the Director. The Board members are appointed by the Governor for a four year term.

HELP KEEP COSTS DOWN

Keep the board current on changes to your address, telephone and e-mail. During the busiest time of the year we will save time and money by not having information returned and trying to track Occupational Therapists down.

Consider getting an E-mail that you use only for your professional work.
E-mail is a great way for the Board to save money.



SUPERVISING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The OT licensing board's responsibility is to protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice and assuring safe and ethical delivery of occupational therapy services. How is this done? The primary ways are through updating continuing education of licensees, supervision, and investigating complaints and taking disciplinary actions when violations are found to occur.

The Oregon OT Licensing Board takes this responsibility seriously. All complaints are investigated. Although there are not many cases, some are serious and result in denial or revocation of licenses. Recently an OT lost their license due to a minor theft because it involved vulnerable patients. In another case the board revoked a license due to a relationship with a client. Another licensee works under probation with close supervision and has mandatory tests for drug use.

TASK Force for Speech and OT

The OT and Speech Associations appointed a Joint Task Force which met June 15, 2007 to talk about scope of practice issues between speech therapists and occupational therapists. The meeting stressed the need for **services to be available** to all Oregonians and the **competency of any therapist** practicing in the area of feeding and swallowing. The group will compare the AOTA guidelines for Feeding and Swallowing and that of the Speech requirements.

The change in the OT Scope of Practice states that Occupational Therapists work in the area of "Management of **feeding and eating to enable swallowing performance**". This differs from the AOTA model definition ("Management of **feeding, eating, and swallowing to enable eating and feeding performance**"). This compromise was reached during discussion of SB 135 by the two professions.

GOING INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE?

The board receives questions about therapists going into private practice. Do you have some words of advice? Send them to the board so they can be made available to other. We will put the information on the Board web site at www.otlb.state.or.us

SUPERVISION of OT ASSISTANTS

In early 2008 the Director will send new Supervision forms to all OT Assistants. The completed forms can be sent back any time in 2008, but must be in before your renewal is processed in May, 2008. **Thank you** to all who send in your timely Statement of Supervision documents. There are currently 251 licensed OT Assistants in Oregon. Only 34 Assistants do not have supervision forms filed with the Board, indicating they are not currently working in Oregon.

The board office sends e-mail reminders when we get a new supervision form asking that the Assistant review the AOTA supervision materials with the supervising OT. When we get a change in supervision we make the change in your data base. Thank you for keeping us current.

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

SB 879A passed into law adding Occupational Therapists to the list of health care professionals who are **required** to have Pain Management classes. The **Oregon Pain Commission** has not completed the final rules. **This is a one time requirement which you will need to complete by 2010.** Any CE you get sponsored by the Commission can be used.



The Board is working with OTAOC, Pacific and others involved in Pain Management to help subsidize the cost of this new requirement. You can take the free one-hour pain online class by going to the Pain Commission's site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain Be sure to have your license number and print up the certificate.

The board is working to provide more relevant classes specifically related to how OTs work with Pain. The board will work to make classes accessible to all licensees, perhaps as links on our web site. If you have any interest in working on this please contact Felicia Holgate, Director.



OTs WORKING IN EDUCATION

The Board plans time during the October board meeting to be held in Portland during the OTAOC conference, for Occupational Therapists working in education to share your concerns about Oregon rules dealing with children/students. We are working on draft changes to the current rules. We invite OTs working in schools to submit questions, comments and about their work and concerns in this area.

The OT Association of Oregon annual conference "Renew, Rethink, Rebuild" will be held at Portland State University in downtown Portland Oct. 12 – 14th. See www.otao.com

There is a special price for those who wish to attend only the Friday evening session which includes the reception, buffet dinner, awards ceremony and conference speaker, Karla Gray.

30th Anniversary of the OTLB, Friday evening, October 12, 2007

***The Board plans a reception during the OTA
Conference in October to celebrate the 30th Anniversary
of licensing and professionalism for Occupational
Therapists in Oregon.***

***We invite those involved in organizing OT in Oregon, former Board members
and staff. We also will invite legislators who worked on OT legislation.
If you have names of people you think should be invited
please contact the Board.***

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Occupational Therapy Licensing Board Members:

**Genevieve deRenne, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, Chair
Alan King, OTR/L
Joyce Browne, OTA/L
Jeffrey Roehm, Ph.D. Public Member, Vice-Chair
Tom Ruedy, Public Member**

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