



Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

800 NE Oregon St. Suite 407, Portland, OR 97232

971-673-0198 or Fax 971-673-0226

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

NEWSLETTER

The OT Licensing Board's upcoming meeting is Friday, Feb. 1 in Portland. Call the board office or check www.otlb.state.or.us under About the Board for details. The primary focus will be discipline and the strategic planning for the next few years.

If you have input to give the Board, please send it to Felicia Holgate, Director. In the last few years the Board completed several major projects that it set for itself in 2003. Among these are: updating the OT scope of practice, rules on "use of aides", stable budget, reduction of fees, and online licensing for renewals. Some new areas the board might focus on: impaired practitioners, mentors for new therapists, reporting crimes, helping provide pain management CE classes.

WORK OF THE LICENSING BOARD

After the 2007 legislative session the Board is now working on two things. The first is the **pain management legislation** which will require all licensees by the year 2010 renewal to have completed 7 hours pain CE. The second is looking at rules regarding Occupational Therapists **working in Education**.

Keep sending us your **new e-mail and mailing address**. By having up to date information you save the Board staff time and money in trying to track you down during its busiest time – renewals. Remember, we can pass savings on to you if you help us: the renewal fees in 2008 for OTs will be down from \$200 to \$170 and for OT Assistants from \$140 to \$120.

In 2008 the OT Licensing Board will be replacing the second **Public Member of the Board**. If you know someone who understands Occupational Therapy and is willing to serve please contact the Director. The Board members are appointed by the Governor for a four year term.

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

At the OTAOC conference there were two classes on Pain Management provided for licensees. The new **one-time requirement of 7 hours of Pain Management CE will be due in 2010**. You can start satisfying the requirement anytime in 2006. The board is working with the Association to provide additional pain classes for all licensees in Oregon. You can find information on the board's web site at www.otlb.state.or.us There is also detailed information on how to access the one hour Pain Commission classes at www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain Be sure to have your license number to print up the certificate for the required one hour online class.





RESNA? What is it? Does it affect you?

Power Mobility Devices (certain wheelchairs):

Assistive Technology devices

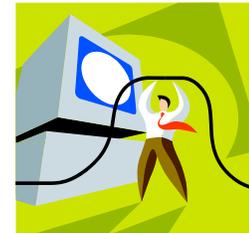
(not required for manual chairs or seating devices on manual chairs)

Patients receiving a Group 2 single power option or multiple power option PWC, or Group 3 or Group 4 PWC or a push rim activated power assist device for a manual wheelchair must be performed by a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Practitioner specializing in wheelchairs or a certified physician. The wheelchair must be provided by a supplier that employs a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Supplier. This applies for all claims with service dates **after April 1, 2008**. More information is found on the web site at www.otlb.state.or.us under Issues, Question and Topics, scroll down to Wheelchairs or RESNA.

HELP KEEP COSTS DOWN

Keep the board current on your address, telephone and e-mail.

We will save time and money during the renewal process in 2008.



SUPERVISION of OT ASSISTANTS

Many of you supervise OT Assistants. New 2008 Statements of Supervision forms will be needed with 2008 Renewal forms. Any OT Assistant who does not have a 2008 supervision form will not be licensed until it is received. We remind all Assistants and supervisors to review the AOTA guidelines on supervision. Information is at www.otlb.state.or.us on the left menu bar under Supervision. There are currently 260 licensed OT Assistants in Oregon. 27 Assistants do not have supervision forms filed, indicating they are not currently working in Oregon.

WORKING IN EDUCATION

The Board continues to work on rules regarding Occupational Therapists working in Education. Submit questions and comments about the rules and any concerns in this area to Felicia. There is a meeting set in **Eugene on Tuesday January 8th**. If there is interest, there will be another set in Portland.

Discipline Cases

I wish we could tell you that no Oregon Occupational Therapists received complaints about their conduct this year. Unfortunately, there continue to be serious complaints which must be considered by the board. In one case, the Board recommended mediation to a facility where there was concern with practice. It was clear that a **coding** issue had been corrected on another case, and it was dismissed. On a **sexual harassment** complaint, the Board determined the complaint was not in the jurisdiction of the board. The Board also considered cases dealing with **drug abuse** and **theft**. The Board is following up on allegations of breach of **patient confidentiality**, **improper patient care** and an **unlicensed** staff providing OT services.



PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC

As Director, I recently attended a Citizens' Advisory conference in Seattle reminding me of my responsibilities as the Board's Director. **The Board's mission is to protect the public.** My job, then, is to check credentials, check for prior complaints and the continuing education of applicants. But we also want occupational therapists providing more than "just competent" occupational therapy services to the citizens of Oregon.

You don't need a degree or education to know there are unethical behaviors that are just plain wrong. Yet they do occur, over and over. But health professionals need to deal with these issues. The public is more aware of their right to services that protect and improve their health. From the public's standpoint, patient safety is much more important than whether a marginally qualified therapist has a license to work in the state.



As the public gets more knowledgeable about their rights as patients, and with the availability of information on the internet, health care professionals are being held up to **more scrutiny and a high standard of care.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Oregonians deserve **excellent health care services.** We assume that Continuing Education helps Occupational Therapists improve their practice. We want occupational therapists to provide more than marginal care, or merely "competent" service. One way to improve practice is through education. It is the job the Board to review Continuing Education logs of therapists when they renew their license to practice. The Board takes this job very seriously. Do you?

As an Occupational Therapist **you must** take the responsibility to improve your practice. It is your job to be sure you obtain CE that is relevant and helps improve your work.

If classes do not help you improve your practice, then you should be taking different classes. If you know your practice is marginal, what are you doing to make it better? If you know your practice is excellent, how are you sharing that expertise with others?

You can consider mentoring others or providing fieldwork experience to students. Have you considered serving on the Board or Association? Too much is changing too fast to ignore the need for improved practice.

The CE requirement is not one to take lightly. Your responsibility as an Occupational Therapist is to determine what areas in your practice you can strengthen. When you take continuing education how do you use the information to improve your practice?

Thank you from the Board Director

I was honored to receive an Award of Appreciation from OT Association of Oregon at the state conference in October. I appreciate your support and your trust in my work. The plaque hangs proudly on the wall in the Board office ! I am very grateful for all the positive comments I have received on customer satisfaction survey. I am committed to giving excellent service – that is what you deserve, and what I am hired to do by your Board.

Your positive comments make me work all the harder to keep myself well informed, and to help you out when I can with quick and efficient services. I plan to continue to live up to your high expectations. THANK YOU, Felicia Holgate, Director

Happy Holidays and 2008 to you all !

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Occupational Therapy Licensing Board Members:

OTLB Staff:

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

Felicia M. Holgate, Director
Gayle Shriver, Office Assistant (2 hours/day)
Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us
Web site: www.otlb.state.or.us

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