



OREGON Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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www.otlb.state.or.us

Director: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us

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NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS:

Genevieve deRenne, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, Chair

Joyce Browne, OTA/L

Mitch Schreiber, Public Member

Alan King, OTR/L Vice-Chair

Robert Bond, Public Member

Staff: Director, Felicia Holgate and Gayle Shriver, Office Specialist (2 hours/day)

**Mission Statement: To protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice.
The Board is charged with assuring safe and ethical delivery of occupational therapy services.**

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Students and staff from the School of OT at Pacific, members of the OT Association of Oregon (OTAO) together with the Licensing Board met with legislators at the Oregon State Capitol Jan. 29, 2009 to talk to legislators and learn more about the legislative process. The OT Licensing Board and your state and national Associations track legislation which affects your life, and your profession in many ways on your behalf.

However, there is a difference in the missions of these organizations. Look at the mission for the OT Licensing Board: to protect the public. The mission of the Associations is to promote occupational therapy. Though our missions are not the same, we often collaborate. In 2007 when the Licensing Board suggested legislative changes to the definition of occupational therapy, legislators asked about the Association's position. Not having the Association's support can mean the defeat of a bill.

Why is active membership in OT Associations important ? (PTLB adoption of changes to PT definition)

OTOA Board members, Pacific University School of OT professors and the OT Licensing Board, worked hard this fall to persuade the PT Licensing Board to amend proposed changes to the legal definition of physical therapy. The Board and Association felt that the proposed changes might adversely affect occupational therapy. Though the PTs were at first unconvinced that they needed to amend their proposed change, after several meetings, they agreed to reword the amendment. Please [click to link here to see a letter outlining the importance of the state and national Associations work](#) .

The 2009 legislative session is overshadowed by the economic crisis. The OT Licensing Board's reduction of renewal fees in 2008 made Agency budget hearings easier as we can show that we are doing everything we can to ease the financial burden on OTs.

Some of the other legislative proposals being monitored this session include:

- Uniform Licensing Boards: appointments, public members, terms, hiring directors, per diem
- Additional oversight of the health licensing boards
- Impaired practitioner programs for health care practitioners
- Fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants and licensees
- Authority of boards to conduct competency exams in disciplinary cases
- A new Oregon State Hospital Advisory Board
- Mandatory collection of data for healthcare workforce assessments
- Final authority for disciplinary orders taken from board to an Administrative Hearings Office
- Make personal e-mails of licensees private
- Creating an Orthotic and Prosthetic Board (we will ask for exemption for OT and PT)
- A pilot project of an independent board to vet “scope of practice” changes
- Mandatory duty to report misconduct and crimes by other health professionals

All health related board directors meet with the Governor’s office and discuss concerns.

**The next meeting of the Licensing Board is Friday, April 3, 2009
at Pacific University in Hillsboro during Practitioner’s Day.
Contact Felicia Holgate, for an Agenda.**

The April Board meeting will be held at Pacific University, and will include a presentation during the lunch hour in conjunction with Practitioner’s Day. The topic will focus on supervision issues. There will also be a short presentation on discipline and legislation. [Click here for a brochure for Practitioner’s Day](#) or contact khering@pacificu.edu or call 503-352-7345.

The web site was updated and improved. We take **all** comments to improve services very seriously.

* **Keep the Board current on all your contact information (including e-mail)** *



PAIN MANAGEMENT

Send an e-mail to Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us when you have completed the one-time pain management requirement, giving the date and class(es) you took for the six hour requirement and the date when you completed the 1 hour online class **Deadline is April 30, 2010.**

The site is: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain/training.shtml>

Also check OTA0 & www.otlb.state.or.us for other pain classes.

There is a pain class set in Coos Bay on April 25, 2009.

Private Practice and OT Education Workloads

Two groups of Occupational Therapists met during the OTA0 conference. The first talked about emerging practice and discussed mutual concerns about working in private practice. Another group met to talk about managing workloads of OTs working in education. If you are interested in joining further discussion, please e-mail Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us and we will try to facilitate further discussions of these issues.