



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

APRIL 2006

NEWSLETTER

Your 2006 – 2008 license renewal is due May 1st. Renewals postmarked after May 1 are subject to a late fine. **If your name has changed** since your last license was issued send in a copy of the legal document showing the name change along with any changes to address, phone, or e-mail **in writing** to the Director.

During the renewal period the board receives many questions about continuing education. It's good to see that many licensees have more than the required 30 points. The board can allow waivers or extensions to CE requirements for "physical disability or illness, or undue hardship." You are required by rule to keep your CE information for four years. For information on CE categories and points check the web site at www.otlb.state.or.us or call 971-673-0198. The Other Links menu bar has some links to CE online classes.

If you have over the required 30 points in this licensing period and take more CE in April or May, 2006 you can use these points for the next renewal period for 2006 – 2008.

NEXT BOARD MEETING IN MAY

The next meeting of the OT Licensing Board is **Friday, May 3, 2006** at the State Office Building in Portland. Call for the agenda and details or check the web site.

As required by state law, a customer satisfaction questionnaire was recently sent to a random sample of licensees. Most respondents said they were happy with Board services. We are always looking for ways to better service the public and licensees.



BUDGET: How do we spend your money? Where does it go?

A few licensees expressed concerns about the cost of the renewal fee. Two-year OT licenses are \$200 and OT Assistant \$140. Though the Board tries always to spend your money wisely, asking where it goes is a legitimate question.

The Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board is one of the smallest State Agencies. Almost half of the Board's budget is for the salaries and benefits of its director and its one part-time (two hours per day) office specialist.

The Board rents a small office in the Portland State Office Building, near the Lloyd Center, with a computer, data base and filing system to keep required records. We share office space, computer services, copier and fax with other health licensing boards to keep costs down. To further save money we are exploring how to issue licenses and renewals online.



The agency prepares budget reports and reports on its policies, such as affirmative action, and performance measures decreed by the Governor's Department of Administrative Services, and Office of the Progress Board. We follow state rules for purchasing, budgeting, personnel and contracting. This year we started cashing in-house, which further saves money for you and the Board. As a state agency, the Board is accountable to the legislature.

The Board director prepares testimony and appears with Board members before the Ways and Means committee in order to get the budget passed. The OTLB budget, though small and funded by its own license fees, is scrutinized closely.

Please visit the website at www.otlb.state.or.us which the director updates regularly. The Board and director also monitor Continuing Education and audit a random sample of licensees on their CE points. The Board answers many questions from the public, health professional, agencies and occupational therapists on questions such as license requirements, scope of practice, CE requirements, background checks and other issues.

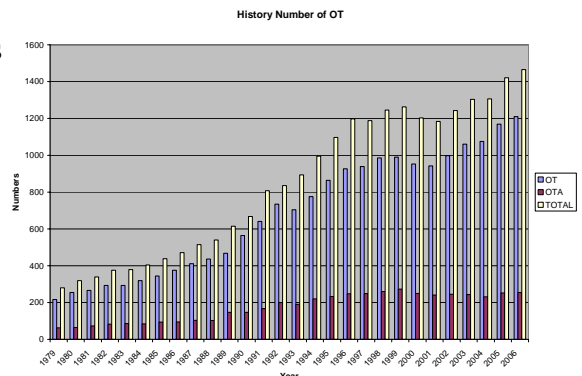
The Board's mandate is "protecting the public by supervising occupational therapy practice and ensuring safe and ethical delivery of occupational therapy services." In meeting this mandate, the Board investigates complaints and determines whether violations of Oregon law and administrative rules have occurred.

Such complaints take an increasing amount of Board time and budget. The Director works with the Board, an investigator and an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Board to monitor, investigate, and decide outcomes of the cases at board meetings. Investigations can cost several thousand dollars. The Board also pays for legal advice to ensure the legality of its decisions.

We also work on issues such as business continuity planning, security of data, and health licensing board consolidation.

The Board monitors how many OT and OT Assistants are being licensed in Oregon. As of April 1, 2006 there were **1503 total licensees**; of which 1244 are OTs and 259 are OT Assistants. This number will fall by June with those that do not renew their licenses.

In 2005 there were a total of **1421** licensees.
In 2004 there were a total of **1306** licensees.



On all these issues, we try to serve your interests while protecting the public and spend your money wisely.

What are the current OT Licensing Board issues ?

A request to change the legal Occupational Therapy definition has been made and after Governor approval, the bill will be considered by the legislature. The Board and director will follow that process closely during the 2007 legislative session. The board also presents the agency budget for OT and monitors other legislation that might affect occupational therapists.



The board is working to educate both OT assistants and OTs who supervise them and facilities where they work about the responsibilities of supervision. Information we sent to all Occupational Therapy assistants is also on the web site at www.otlb.state.or.us When OTAs renew their license we check for a current Statement of Supervision.

The Re-Entry program is now established for applicants who are not been licensed anywhere for more than three years through an education and fieldwork requirement through Pacific University. The first two Re-Entry graduates have now been licensed. There are currently another dozen asking about or formally in the program.

There are two committees working on reviewing the rules. The first is an advisory committee reviewing all rule changes to determine the fiscal impact of any proposed rule. The second committee is reviewing the current rule on "Use of Aides". After a meeting April 3, 2006 the committee members proposed the following rule changes:

Proposed draft of OAR 339-010-0055 Use of Occupational Therapy Aides

An "aide" is a person who provides support services to an occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant, but is not licensed by the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board. Any aide who is working with or supporting patients, and is performing activities covered under the occupational therapy plan of treatment, is considered an occupational therapy aide. The occupational therapy practitioner is responsible for the overall use and actions of the aide, and must ensure the competency of the aide performing the assigned tasks.

An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant may supervise the aide. When the aide is performing treatment related tasks, the supervising occupational therapy practitioner must be within sight or earshot of the aide, and must be immediately available at all times to provide in-person direction, assistance, advice, or instruction to the aide.

Treatment related tasks that the aide may assist with under the direct supervision of the occupational therapy practitioner include:

- 1. Routine transfers**
- 2. Routine care of patient's personal needs during the course of treatment.**
- 3. Execution of a well-established routine activity and/or exercise**
- 4. Assisting the occupational therapy practitioner as directed during the course of treatment**

Non-treatment related tasks that may be performed by the occupational therapy aide include:

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| <u>1. Clerical</u> | <u>2. Secretarial</u> |
| <u>3. Housekeeping</u> | <u>4. Supply ordering</u> |
| <u>5. Equipment maintenance</u> | <u>6. Fabrication of generic strapping material for splints</u> |
| <u>7. Transporting patients</u> | <u>8. Preparation of the work area or equipment</u> |

An aide does not provide skilled occupational therapy services in any practice setting.

Elder Abuse

Occupational Therapists in the state should have receiving a brochure from the Department of Human Services talking about the responsibility of occupational therapists to report elder abuse. Occupational Therapists have been added to the list of **mandatory reporters**. The brochure is found on the web site home page under Current Topics at www.otlb.state.or.us



Do you want to make a difference?

“Rehab without Borders”, an organization modeled after Doctors without Borders is being created to provide interdisciplinary rehab therapy: PT/OT/SLP. The organization will serve communities in war areas or experiencing natural disasters. Rehab without Borders will be part of the immediate interdisciplinary health care teams that will be deployed to assist these populations.

This program is not endorsed by the OT Licensing Board in any way but we did want to give you this information. Interested in being part of creating Rehab without Borders? Contact Tammam El-Khodor OTR at 503-236-6394 or via e-mail at tkhodor@msn.com .

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

OTLB Staff:

Felicia M. Holgate, Director
Rod Lemeni, Office Assistant
(2 hours/day)

Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us
Web site: www.otlb.state.or.us

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