

# OREGON Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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[www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) Director: [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) June, 2014

## NEWSLETTER

### OTLB BOARD MEMBERS:

**Robert Bond**, Public Member, Chair  
**Mashelle Painter**, COTA/L, Vice-Chair  
**Linda Smith**, OTR/L  
**Juanita Shepherd**, Public Member  
**Sybil Hedrick**, OTR/L, CHT

**Staff:** **Felicia Holgate**, Executive Director  
**Nancy Schuberg**, Office Specialist

### **In this issue:**

Renewals done: Thank you!  
Customer Satisfaction survey requested  
Rules: Telehealth, Mental Health, Cultural Competency  
New work groups on OTs in Education and Supervision

**Please update your contact information.**

**We send updates and let you know of important changes by email and on the web site.**

**The private email is kept confidential, and you can also provide a public e-mail.**

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

**The next Board meeting** will be held on **August 29, 2014 (note date change)** in Room 445, Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street. Contact the Director for the Agenda.

### **Work of the Board**

At the last Board meeting Paul Grace, President and CEO of **NBCOT** talked to the Board about national certification and continuing competency evaluations. See this video about their state conference and what they are doing: <http://vimeo.com/86524466> As a reminder you can **only** use the **"R"** in OTR and the **"C"** in COTA if you are currently certified by NBCOT. With changes in the Affordable Care Act more employers are now requiring national certification. Recently we had several therapists who had been licensed for many years who **assumed** they were certified for years but they had never recertified with NBCOT.

The Board is already preparing the 2015 – 2017 biennium Budget that must be approved at the 2015 legislative session. The Board will be requesting increase in FTE hours for the one part-time staff Nancy Schuberg and for additional funds for investigations. Ten years ago there were 1200 licensees and this year there were over 2167 before renewals. So many additional licensees mean more issues that come up, more CE to audit, questions to answer, more updates to make.

## Board Performance Measures

Another part of the budget process includes reports on four performance measures:

**Customer Satisfaction:** Percentage of customers rating satisfaction with agency's customer service as good or excellent in overall customer service and in timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise and availability of information.

The questionnaire is confidential (unless you put your name in the comments section) and short. The results are reviewed by the Board and by the legislature. **If you have not filled out a survey this year please go to this link:** <http://otlb.oregonsurveys.com>

**Board Best Practices:** Board members review the criteria for best practices every year. This includes requirements such as reviewing the Board finances, approving the budget before it goes to the legislature, doing a yearly evaluation of the Director, etc.

**Timely Issuing of licenses:** Over 98 % of license application are processed and issued within target of five days after receipt of all required documentation. Usually they are issued within 3 days.

**Timely review of complaints:** Since the Board has relatively few complaints, it investigates and considers ALL complaints within 120 days of receipt of complaint as required by law for health licensing boards.

## WORKGROUP for OTs in Education:

The Board is setting up a workgroup to look at issues with OT and OT Assistants working in school. There is a questionnaire put together by a graduate student at Pacific U school of OT that will help with deciding the direction for the workgroup. If you are, or have been in the past, an OT working in Oregon schools please fill out this **questionnaire** at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PTRNS99>

## Renewals are done

Before renewals we had 397 OTAs and 1770 OTAs for a total of 2017 licensees.

As of June 12 we have - 350 OTAs and 1650 OTs for a total of 1878 licensees.

Of the 196 OTs that **told us they were not renewing**, the reasons given were:

- 95 were not currently in Oregon
- 26 were retired  
(retirees born as early as 1943 to as late as 1956)
- 34 Did not give a reason.
- 3 were ill
- 2 put working on hold
- 1 stay at home mom

There were several OTs that could not renew because they did not have the required CE. There are many OTs that work for national companies and did not currently have positions in Oregon so did not renew. Many therapists have more than one license. If they are currently working in another state, they give up their Oregon license, and might come back to be reinstated at a later time.

- 1 payment came back with NSF. They had to send in a second payment with the \$50 late fee
- There were 81 licensees that paid the \$50 late fee renewing between May 2 and – May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Renewal reviews by the staff take a lot of time. It is not just a simple process of issuing licenses.

- The CE audits are reviewed to ensure that the log form is correct and all certificates are attached. Then they are scanned and sent to OT Board members Audit approval.
- All OT Assistant files are reviewed to be sure they have current Supervision documents filed with the Board. Nancy Schuberg also confirmed that what the OT Assistants had was the same as what the OTs wrote in the Supervision box online. This took a tremendous amount of time and there were many discrepancies.
- The Board also reviewed all the “Yes” to History questions. Some were for citations, arrests and convictions, giving up licenses in other states, illness resulting in the therapist not being able to work, and pending disciplinary cases.
- **140** March 1 notification letters were returned due to licensees not having their address currently with the Board.
- **171** licensees told us that told us they were not renewing.
- **126** licensees did not let us know they were not renewing and were sent a Notice of Expired License letter.

### **CE Requirements**

As you know you will need 30 points of **CE** in the last two years, for the next 2016 renewal, unless you are a new graduate. If you already renewed and had **additional CE** over the required 30 for 2014 that you took in **March, April, May** of 2014, that you did not count in 2014, you CAN count these CEs toward the next 2016 renewal.

### **OTAO state conference set for October 17 – 18 Wilsonville**

Consider teaching a class at the **OTAO conference**.

Benefits include:

1. Teaching a CE class you get double the CE points
2. You get evidence based research of your current practice
3. Advertisement of your program throughout Oregon
4. Recognition and appreciation of your peers
5. Impressive addition to professional resume



Contact OTAO at [otaoconference@gmail.com](mailto:otaoconference@gmail.com) Go to [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com)

## Supervision workgroup

Many OTA's were not current with their supervision documentation during renewals. This is the only way the Board knows you are working as required by law. For each supervision form that is received, the Board sends a confirmation to both the OTA and the supervising OT with documents about this collaborative relationship and responsibilities that go along with supervision. There continues to be questions and problems, especially when an OTA is working at several facilities.

The Board is setting up a Supervision workgroup about supervision. If you wish to be part of this group please contact Nancy Schuberg at [Nancy.Schuberg@state.or.us](mailto:Nancy.Schuberg@state.or.us)

### **CHECK THE WEB SITE [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) FIRST FOR INFORMATION**

For an **address** and/or **name change** there is a link on the web site at [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb). You can also send an e-mail to [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us). Be sure to FAX or scan and e-mail a copy of the legal document to 971-673-0226. Make sure it shows exactly how the name reads and changes to address, e-mail, and telephone

If you need a **license verification** sent to another state please send an e-mail to [Nancy.Schuberg@state.or.us](mailto:Nancy.Schuberg@state.or.us) or [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) and give the exact address where it needs to be sent. There is No charge. We do not need their form - we use our own form printed off your data base file. It confirms whether there has been discipline, is signed and has a seal. We will e-mail you back when it is done.

Please check the **web site** at [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) for answers to your questions. There is a section on **Information Requests and Issues, Questions and Topics**.

### **Hearing on proposed new rules on Telehealth, Mental Health, Cultural Competency**



The proposed rules have been published with the Secretary of State and can be found on the web site home page at [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb). If you have comments please send them to the Board. We will review them with the committees and present them to the Board for final approval at their next Board meeting. You can attend a hearing on August 1, 2014 at the Board office, or just send comments. At the Board meeting they will be finalized and then published. Thank you. [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us)

*Occupational Therapy: Living life to Its Fullest*