

OREGON Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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

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www.oregon.gov/otlb Director: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us Summer 2011

NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan King, OTR/L, Chair

Robert Bond, Public Member, Vice Chair

Mitch Schreiber, Public Member

Mashelle Painter, BS, COTA

Linda Harthun Smith, OTR/L

Staff: Director, **Felicia Holgate**

Office Specialist, **Gayle Shriver** (2 hours/day)

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

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Your e-mail is kept confidential. You can provide a public email address if you wish.

WORK OF THE BOARD

The OT Licensing Board's next meeting is Friday, Aug. 19, 2011

Contact the Director at Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us for the Agenda

Congratulations to **Linda Harthun Smith** appointed to the Board by the Governor. Linda has a BS in OT from the U. of Wisconsin-Madison and started practicing in 1975 working in a hospital, and then starting a public school therapy program. She worked for a non-profit neurodevelopment center in Seattle and Portland and at a private practice clinic. She now works at the VA serving veterans with basic hand diagnoses, geriatrics, palliative/hospice care, and skilled rehabilitation. She appreciates mentoring OT students and has been a Fieldwork supervisor since the 1980's.

Her experience across the age span and in many practice settings gives her a broad understanding of the field. There are many challenges facing the OT profession and Linda feels the OTLB is crucial to regulating and preserving ethical delivery of OT services and protecting the consumer. This is her time to contribute to the profession and she is honored to join these impressive Board members and the Director. Linda is married with two grown sons. She and her husband love to entertain, garden, travel, read and cook. They also train for and walk 1/2 marathons. Yoga and Pilates keep her moving after those long walks and photography is a new passion.

Genevieve deRenne completed 8 years on the Licensing Board. Her hard work and passion for the profession is much appreciated! Her experience, sage advice, compassion are evident in all she does. With her broad experience in health care and with OT issues she was an outstanding Board member. She knows how to get to the heart of the matter at hand and is always willing to make decisions that need to be made. With much gratitude we thank her for her sensitivity and hard work. We wish her the best on future projects.

The Board held a strategic planning session in May and is working on:

- Discipline: process; investigator/board training; strategy for civil penalties, developing a discipline matrix; background checks, fingerprinting, LEDS (law enforcement data system) and other processes.
- Review laws, rules, regulations to clearly reflect current practice & efficient operation
- Protect licensing and profession: (super board, consolidation); work on pro/con of Semi Independence. Look at statistics & demographics; health reform, educate legislators, support OTA/O; Look at temporary therapists coming to Oregon to work
- Legislation: Continue to promote profession, monitor legislation, educate legislators, and support OT Day at Legislature (with OT and OTA students and Association).
- NBCOT: Consider whether to mandate current NBCOT certification for licensees.
- Diversity & cultural Competency: Encourage more in profession and on Board
- EBP: Encourage evidence based practice
- Management skills: Encourage management skills; maintain level of professionalism
- Telehealth: The Board will study this important new area of practice.
- Ethics and Law exam: develop mandatory online exam for applicants as regards the relevant statutes and rules Perhaps later mandate it to others providing CE for it.
- Supervision: continuing issue and follow up for OT Assistants being current on supervision and filing Supervision form.
- Data system: Board data base changing; continue to collect state mandated workforce data. Develop more flexibility in using data, & preparing other management reports.
- New Web site system and training: The Director will learn new state system in fall.
- OTAO, Pacific, Linn Benton OTA school: Continue to work with OTAO, Pacific and Linn Benton on mutual concerns (legislation, Re-Entry, state conference) etc.

LEGISLATION

The Session is almost over ! The Board tracked about 20 bills in collaboration with OTA0 and its legislative committee and lobbyist. OTA0, the state association represents YOU at the legislature. When bills affect OTs, the Board can provide information but it is your state Association that represents you. This is an important reason for you to join your state Association. Some bills followed are:

- The Board's bill was signed by the Governor allowing the Board to (1) issue a subpoena without requiring the Board chair's signature; (2) impose civil penalties without a first warning; (3) discipline for any violation of law or rule.
- There will be further study about the OT licensing Board becoming semi independent and the pros and cons.
- The OT Licensing Board budget for 2011-2013 was approved, including fingerprinting costs; continued unpaid mandatory furlough days.

The bill to require continuing education in "cultural competency" did not pass but we expect it back next session. There are other bills affecting health regulatory boards on administrative hearings, confidentiality of records, and public records. There were also bills on autism and many on changes to the Oregon health care system.

Background checks and FINGERPRINTING

One of the current costs of being a health care provider is closer scrutiny and public accountability. The Board may start fingerprint applicants after funds are approved by the legislature and rules and procedures are adopted. The applicant would pay for the cost of getting fingerprinted and the State Police processing fee. The Board may also do Oregon Law Enforcement Data Search (LEDS) searches for current licensees renewing.

The Board can require a criminal background check for someone under investigation. There are guidelines for the Board to consider:

- the nature of the crime;
- facts that support conviction or indictment or indicate making a false statement;
- relevancy of crime or false statement to the requirements of the applicant's license;
- Relevant mitigating circumstances such as passage of time, age, subsequent crime etc.

Please feel free to comment on any of these items the Board is working on. Contact Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us or call Felicia at 9712-673-0198.