

OREGON Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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www.oregon.gov/otlb Director: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us September, 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, Licensing Specialist

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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 **Nov. 7, 2014** at the
Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street. Contact the Director for the Agenda.

Work of the Board

The primary focus of the Board is applications and complaints that come before the Board needing **disciplinary action**. The Board has a legal duty to investigate all complaints filed. There used to be only one or two cases the Board dealt with ten years ago. Now there are over a dozen. The Secretary of State audit noted that the OTLB was one of the only health boards that did not do additional background checks on licensees, who often work with vulnerable patients.

What cases has the Board had in the last year? They include issues with unlawful drugs and DUIs, being on court probation for crimes, not reporting discipline or legal issues on applications, conflict of interest, fraudulent billing, and working without a license.

The Board now does regular LEDDS (Law Enforcement Data System) checks before renewals. The Board is asking the legislature for funding approval to do additional national background checks, though at this point not fingerprinting. Licensees are following the new law requiring therapists to notify the Board of arrest/conviction for crimes.

OTAO state conference set for October 17 – 18 Wilsonville

Consider teaching a class at a future **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. Advertise your program throughout Oregon
4. Recognition and appreciation of your peers
5. Impressive addition to professional resume

Contact OTAO at otaoconference@gmail.com Go to www.otao.com

Military therapists, spouses and partners

After a new law in 2014 session, the Board developed a policy to expedite any applications for licensure of Occupational Therapist who **work in the military, and their spouses or partners**. The Board will take into consideration any military experience that can help applicants get licensed in Oregon and will expedite their applications.

- Applicants can provide documentation that they have substantially equivalent military training or experience that is evidence of compliance with requirements for supervised fieldwork or other academic requirements
- This documentation must comply with national requirements for taking and passing the national exam given by the National Certification Board of OT.
- The army has an OT military school that complies with application requirements.

The Board will also consider on a case by case basis whether to grant a request from **active duty** military personnel occupational therapists to:

- (1) Exempt them from the license fee; and/or
- (2) Give an extension or waive the Continuing Education requirement.



Please let us know if you are in the military, or are a spouse or partner of someone in the military so we can help out and expedite your application. There is an October reporting date for the Director to advise the legislature about the number of therapists and spouses or partners of military personnel in the profession and our steps in complying with the new law.

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 gathering information about workload data and 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>

Customer Satisfaction results

The Board and staff, Felicia Holgate, Director and Nancy Schuberg, Licensing Specialist are proud of the high customer satisfaction results we obtain. The Board reviews all comments and the legislature considers customer satisfaction results when they approve the Board's budget which must be approved in the 2015 legislative session. We want to do a good job and always welcome constructive criticism to help us doing an even better job for you.

Pacific Award for Felicia Holgate

John White at Pacific University, School of OT awarded the Executive Director, **Felicia Holgate** with the *Sue Nelson Award* honoring her for many years of service to OT in her capacity as Executive Director and her commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students and practitioners. Felicia appreciates this honor. "Knowing I can help with educating future Occupational Therapists and making the licensure process easier gives me great satisfaction".

CE Requirements

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, and that you did not count in 2014, you **CAN** count these CEs toward the next 2016 renewal. The Board is also looking at a rule change to accept NBCOT certification as proof that CE is completed. We found that 75% of licensees are currently NBCOT certified. The Board considers certification an important part of professionalism.



ServOR: volunteer during floods, hurricanes, terrorist attacks

Oregon health professionals can volunteer for disaster preparedness and response. You can register in advance to be ready to lend a hand in the next public health emergency. After an application is approved, registered volunteers have access to free online and face-to-face training. Courses cover Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support, disaster burn training, triage, personal and family preparedness, and the Incident Command System. There is no cost for registered volunteers and they receive an identification badge to assist with recognition during emergency response operations. For information: <https://serv-or.org/> or email SERV.OR@state.or.us or call 1 – 877-343-5767.

New Rules

Telehealth rule adoption postponed: The Board held a hearing at their board meeting on the proposed Telehealth rules and postponed adopting them. [Click here for a link to the proposed rule](#). There were several issues they wanted the committee to continue to discuss. The Director is on an NBCOT panel on Telehealth and Portability and will bring back information. The Director is also meeting with the Oregon Health Authority September 11, 2014 about payments by Medicaid for therapy doing "Telepractice" in public education settings.

Issues included concerns about language being too restrictive and setting a different standard for Telehealth practice. The language reconsidered will be on sections (3) informed consent; (5) obligation for an onsite therapy visit; (5) determination standards whether an onsite visit is required; and (8) requiring an adequately trained person to be available on site. **Please let the Board know if you use Telehealth in your practice.**

Adopted OAR 339-020-0025 Continuing Education in cultural Competency

Continuing Education in cultural competency is considered relevant for the current practice of all licensees and may be used toward satisfying the required Continuing Education hours.

Adopted 339-010-0007 Occupational Therapy in mental health and behavioral health practice

Pursuant to ORS 675.210 defining the practice of Occupational Therapy, occupational therapists, and occupational therapy assistants use analysis and purposeful activity with individuals across their lifespan who are limited by psycho-social dysfunctions or mental or behavioral disabilities.

- (1) Occupational therapists address barriers to optimal functioning at the all levels with:
 - (a) Individuals (body functions, cognitive functions, values, beliefs, spirituality, motor skills, cognitive skills, and social skills);
 - (b) Groups (collective individuals, e.g. families, workers, students, or community); and
 - (c) Populations (collective groups of individuals living in a similar locale, e.g., city, state, or country residents, people sharing same or like concerns).
- (2) Occupational Therapists perform evaluations and interventions that focus on enhancing existing skills, creating opportunities, promoting wellness, remediating or restoring skills, modifying or adapting the environment or activity, and preventing relapse.
- (3) Occupational therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants use a recovery model to increase the ability of individuals, groups, and populations to be engaged with daily life activities that are meaningful; lead to productive daily roles, habits, and routines; and promote living as independently as possible.
- (4) Services for individuals with mental illness are client centered and may be provided to individuals in the community, hospitals, correctional institutions, homes, schools or other educational programs, workplace, or any other setting.
- (5) Occupational therapists may provide behavioral and mental health preliminary “diagnosis” using standard terminology and taxonomy such as DSM or ICD, through observation of symptoms and mental health assessment, confirmed by prescribing physician and health care team.

CHECK THE WEB SITE 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. You can also send an e-mail to 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 or 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.

Occupational Therapy: Living life to Its Fullest