



D.C. Board of Occupational Therapy



Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



Spring 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Verification of Licensure	2
Apply to Serve on the Board	2
Licensure Renewal	2
OT Town Hall Meeting: CENTENNIAL VISION	3
OT Town Hall Meeting: CODE OF ETHICS	6
OT Town Hall Meeting: SCOPE OF PRACTICE	9
Board Terms That OTs Should Know	10
Board Welcomes OT Graduate Students	11
Expedite Your License	11
Filing a Complaint	11
Board Members, Board Staff and Contact Information	12

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

Board of Occupational Therapy
Processing Department
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Letter from the Chair

Greetings. Welcome to the 3rd edition of the District of Columbia Board of Occupational Therapy Newsletter. This newsletter continues to be our primary means of communication with all D.C. licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

I would like to start off by thanking two previous members of the Board - Vice-Chairperson, Gwendolyn McCauley, MA, OTR/L and Lauren Rosenberg, OTR/L. Both served on the Board for a number of years. Each has left the area for new adventures. I thank them both for their long term service and for their many contributions. They are missed!

Hopefully, within the next several months we will fill both of these openings with 2 other licensed occupational therapists. We have two interested candidates - and you will meet them in the next newsletter.

The Board continues to meet at least four times a year. The months we meet are January, April, July, and September. We generally meet the third Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the 10th floor board room at 717 - 14th Street, NW.

Anyone is invited to attend the meetings. We will meet at other times, if the need arises. In addition, the Board members do go into the office on a regular basis to review any pending applications. Rest assured that we do not do this just once every 3 months!

The Board continues to host two Town Hall meetings each year. We schedule one in the Spring and the other in the Fall. We schedule speakers who can speak on relevant topics of interest to practitioners. The recent topics have included: AOTA President speaking on the 2017 Centennial Vision, Ethics, and most recently Scope of Practice issues. We have been very pleased with the turnout and look forward to hosting more of these Town Hall meetings. If you have any suggestions for future topics please call me or e-mail me. [Contact information at end of letter.]

The Board's primary responsibility is to protect the public. To that end, there have been several investigations since the last newsletter. The cases are still pending. The Board



Board Chair Frank Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA, with AOTA President Penelope A. Moyers, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA

takes very seriously all complaints and a thorough investigation is conducted by the HPLA investigators. If you have a complaint against an OT or OTA licensee, please do not hesitate in contacting Gabrielle Schultz, the OT Board's health licensing specialist. She will provide you with the necessary information to file a formal complaint. Her contact information is gabrielle.schultz@dc.gov or (202) 724-8739.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Board Meetings

2009 BOARD MEETING DATES TBA.

Contact Gabrielle Schultz at (202) 724-8739 or gabrielle.schultz@dc.gov.

Location: 717 14th St., NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20005
Open Session is at 3:30 pm.

Verification of Licensure

Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the licenses you currently hold or have held in the past. These letters of verification are sometimes called "letters of good standing," even though your DC license may have expired.

If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent gave you a form, simply forward the form, with a check or money order payable to "DC Treasurer" in the amount of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) to:

DC Board of Occupational Therapy
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Be sure to include your name and the address where the form is to be sent on the form.

If the jurisdiction or institution did not give you a form, send the payment referenced above and a short note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include your name, and the name and address of where you want the letter of verification sent.

SERVE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OT BOARD

OTs: By serving as a Board Member, you could promote quality care in the community, and preserve the high standards of the our profession.

CONSUMERS: A dedicated and mindful member of the general public is needed to serve on the board.

To begin the application process, indicate your interest via email. Send your name and contact information to OT Board Chair Frank Gainer at: fgainer@aota.org.

Applicants must be residents of the District of Columbia.

2009 LICENSURE RENEWAL

- All OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST and OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT Licenses expire September 30th of 2009.
- Renewal notices and renewal information will be sent out to all licenses approximately 90 days prior this expiration date of their license.
- At the time of licensure renewal Occupational Therapists must have completed 24 Continuing Education Hours between the dates of October 1st, 2007 and September 30th, 2009.
- At the time of licensure renewal Occupational Therapist Assistants must have completed 12 Continuing Education Hours between the dates of October 1st, 2007 and September 30th, 2009.
- 60 calendar days after the expiration date of all licenses, the Board will run an audit of 20% of all renewed licensees. If the licensee is audited, they will receive a certified letter in the mail requesting copies of all certificates of completions.

Letter from the Chair (continued from page 1)

An important reminder, if you are a **new graduate** and have taken the national certification examination and failed, you must stop practicing immediately. There is a \$2,000 fine for practicing without a license.

The Board is awaiting final approval of the revisions to the Health Occupations Revisions Act (HORA) by the DC Council. Once the Council approves, the Mayor signs off on the legislation, and the Congress has its 30 day review—the proposed changes to the HORA will be implemented. In

addition to updating the definition of occupational therapy practice, the Board will officially assume responsibility for the registration and practice of dance therapists and recreation therapists in the District of Columbia. Councilmember Catania has charged the Board to improve the quality of recreation services in the DC Parks system. The Board will be searching for a registered recreation therapist to serve on the Board.

When it comes time for you to renew your license,

by September 2009, you will be able to continue to renew online. Remember to make sure you have earned enough continuing education for the renewal period (24 contact hours for OTs and 12 contact hours for OTAs). The continuing education should have occurred between October 2007 and September 2009.

If you have any concerns or feedback, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me at fgainer@aota.org or (202) 210-5461.

Thank you.

Frank E. Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chairperson, Board of Occupational Therapy

“CENTENNIAL VISION”: OT BOARD HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETING FEATURING AOTA PRESIDENT



Chairperson of the DC OT Board Frank Gainer set the stage for an inspiring program about leadership.



Chairperson of the Howard University Department of OT, Felecia Banks offered a warm welcome.



Joy Willis, President of District of Columbia Occupational Therapy Association (DCOTA) offered free membership to OTs in attendance.

Our “Centennial Vision” is to ensure that OT is:

- Powerful
- Widely recognized
- Science driven
- Evidence based
- Globally connected
- Diverse

Stay informed: Visit the AOTA website at www.aota.org!

The OT Board has held two town hall Meetings for licensees in 2008. The first, entitled “Centennial Vision for OTs,” was held in February and featured Penelope A. Moyers, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA, the president of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

The second town hall, entitled “Ten Easy Ways to Lose Your License or violate the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics” featured Staff Liaison to the Ethics Commission of the American

Occupational Therapy Association Deborah Yarett Slater, MS, OT/L, FAOTA. (See page 6.)

Advance the Profession: Be a Leader

At the first town hall of 2008, AOTA President Penelope Moyers urged OTs to think about what it means to lead and to “craft a personal leadership story.” Leaders are needed within the profession of occupational therapy, Ms. Moyers told attendees. Currently, OTs

are working in a health care system that “doesn’t know what we know we can do,” she said.

Ms. Moyers said that OTs need more time with clients, and to have more visits with those clients: “We need to go to their real environment where they live... We need to decide [that] we don’t like the way our systems tell us to do OT. We will do something about that.”

Leadership is like a 4-eyed fish (anablep)—one that can look in 4 directions at once.

Making a Breakthrough

“As an OT, you enable the participation of everyone in daily life. There is power in having a meaningful occupation—without you, your clients might not be able to return what they want to do,” Dr. Moyer said.

An OT in the audience spoke about her work with a woman who had a post-pardum stroke when the baby was 6 weeks old: “It was very powerful to me to help her get back to being a mother.”

Another OT shared her

AOTA President Penelope A. Moyers



POINTERS FROM PENELOPE MOYERS:

“We need leadership—many states are crying out for new leaders to take charge of what will happen to our practice in 2017 and beyond.”

“We need to articulate to society what our values are.”

“I [have been able to] do things people told me I couldn’t do.”

“Knock on the big doors and knock loudly.”

HOWARD UNIVERSITY OT DEPARTMENT RECEPTION FOR AOTA PRESIDENT



At right, OT Board Chair Frank Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA, with Dr. Felecia Banks, Associate Professor of OT, who is also Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Division of Allied Health Sciences



AOTA President Penelope A. Moyers, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA (center), with students in the Howard University Occupational Therapy program.



L. to r.: Dr. Anne Morris, Assistant Professor; DC OT Board Executive Director Bonnie Rampersaud, and Maureen Freda Peterson, AOTA.



L. to r.: OT Department Associate Professor Dr. Sherry B. Scott, and Sylvia Anderson, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.



Dr. Moyers with gifts from OT Department.



L. to r.: Howard University Dean Alan Johnson with Ms. Jacobson, a great friend of the Howard University OT Department.



OT students share a smile with AOTA Board Member Saburi Imara.

“CENTENNIAL VISION”: OT BOARD TOWN HALL MEETING (CONTINUED)

experience helping another patient who'd had a stroke: "Her [the patient's] goal was to return to do her artwork. She made cards and sold them. She was able to gain full use of her arm."

Another participant told attendees of her success in getting a patient to leave his room: "He finally got out of his dark room. His eyes lit up when he got out of his room. It really gave me hope that he could make it in the future. It was a breakthrough."

"You made the breakthrough," Ms. Moyers said. "It takes a lot of courage and high integrity to go into Occupational Therapy. Our level of integrity is high, as is our resilience."

Imagination * Courage * Integrity * Resilience

"OTs are known for mindfulness, but we can't just *think* about our challenges. To achieve our Centennial Vision, we must take extraordinary action. We must each decide the level of leadership we can offer. We must advocate for our clients and the profession. We must advance the profession to meet societal needs. We must mentor others into leadership and excellence. We must build our knowledge base and register to vote."

OTs were encouraged to contribute to the AOTPAC Political Action Committee and to actively participate in professional organization. Lobby on Capitol Hill; meet your Congressional representatives.

Protecting the Scope of Practice

One audience participant expressed concern about "other professions encroaching on the OT scope of practice." Ms. Moyers reiterated that this is why Occupational Therapy must become a powerful profession, on the local and national levels—a profession that is evidence-based, with quality outcomes.

The OT Board's attorney, Van Brathwaite, spoke about DC law, and the overlap that sometimes occurs between professions.

Staying Abreast on Best Practices

Staying up to date with best practices is paramount, she said. The ability to learn for continued competency is now—and continues to be—important: "What you learn in second year is out of date by the time you get to fieldwork," Ms. Moyers said. Technology is constantly changing, she said.

"How many cellphones have you had in the last 3 years?"

Leadership for Change

Challenge the process in which we work. Make our national organizations relevant, she said. In the health care industry, change is constant and minor changes can have huge impact.

OT will be a significant part of caring for our returning veterans, she noted. OTs must educate lawmakers about OT's strengths in getting our veterans back to community reentry.

"We must be willing to take what we value and get our message across in ways people understand." However, sometimes gaining power "boils down to who has the best lobbying," she said.

"As OTs, we sow seeds that benefit others."

This town hall meeting was sponsored by the DC Board of Occupational Therapy, the Howard University Department of Occupational Therapy, and the District of Columbia Occupational Therapy Association (DCOTA)



BE A LEADER

- Does the organization you work for help you grow?
- What kind of training or mentoring is available at your workplace?
- Are there leadership opportunities?
- Are employees given the chance to try out new ideas?
- Are you building trust so senior managers are willing to take risks?
- In the workplace, do you bring forth problems or possible solutions?
- Have you cultivated relationships?
- Are you networking?
- Do you engage in lifelong learning?
- Promote OT as a career. Explain to parents and kids what OT provides to society.
- Encourage diversity so OT can effectively work with clients from different ethnic cultures
- Join AOTA
- Join DCOTA



“TEN EASY WAYS TO LOSE YOUR LICENSE” Board Hosts Town Hall Meeting on OT Code of Ethics

Not Just for Philosophers

“People think ethics is hypothetical and for philosophers, but it is very applicable in your professional life,” speaker Deborah Yarett Slater, MS, OT/L, FAOTA, told attendees at the OT Board’s November town hall meeting at Howard University Hospital’s Towers Auditorium entitled “Ten Easy Ways to Lose Your License or Violate the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics”.

Ms. Slater has been in practice 35 years and is the staff liaison to the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Ethics Commission.

“Doesn’t Smell Right”

You may not be able to pinpoint the unethical violation right away, but you are experiencing a situation

at your workplace that, as Ms. Slater says, “doesn’t smell right.”

You are uncomfortable with something a coworker is doing or something that you have been asked to do by a supervisor. Perhaps your facility routinely places patients in a higher RUGs [Resource Utilization Groups] category than they should. Maybe, as a new OT, the facility asks you to “fill in the documentation” so they can bill for treatments not given, or for patients treated before you arrived. Maybe you have observed an OT colleague billing for OT services, when the treatment they are providing for a particular patient is actually yoga, massage, or tai chi. These are some of the dilemmas Ms. Slater discussed with attendees.

A physician writes an order

that’s not appropriate for a patient. An administrator pressures you to treat patients that don’t need occupational therapy.

Don’t Struggle Alone

Hesitant to report a situation? Want to speak out, but feel torn? Hope it will just fade into the past? It probably won’t. Ms. Slater told participants that if you stay silent the situation will not change: “If you don’t report [the incident], I guarantee you it is going to continue.”

Have you or a colleague felt this way: “I would never treat a patient that way, but I’m a single parent. I need this job.” Worried by the situation? Can’t sleep at night? This is called Ethical Distress.

You may think your only option is to quit or to “live

TRENDS: CURRENT ETHICAL PROBLEMS

sexual misconduct

billing fraud

impaired provider
(alcohol and drug use
and/or theft)

multiple complaints
against same person

with” the situation. There is an alternative to quitting. Reach out to others when you feel Ethical Distress.

Not sure? Get Advice.

You may be unsure as to whether the potential violation warrants disciplinary action. You are unsure what the consequences will be.

Does your facility have an

(continued on page 7)



OT Board Chair Frank Gainer.

TIPS FROM OT BOARD CHAIR:

BE LICENSED: If you are practicing in the District, you must have a DC license. “If you say you are licensed, you must be licensed in DC. Virginia doesn’t count.”

DOCUMENTATION: Mr. Gainer told attendees about a complaint that had been made against an OT, but the complaint was dismissed because, in part, the OT had “excellent documentation.”

CONTINUING ED: The OT Board does random audits, so be sure that you obtain your CE hours: “failure to obtain the proper continuing education can result in a fine.”

OTAs: Follow the rules and regs regarding OTAs. Have questions? Call the OT board staff at (202) 724-8739.

ANONYMITY: “When you submit a complaint to the Board, we need to have your name and contact information because (1) the board will have to follow-up and investigate the complaint, (2) the accused has the legal right to know the identity of his or her accuser.

...featuring AOTA ethics commission liaison Deborah Yarett Slater, MS, OT/L, FAOTA

EXPERIENCING ETHICAL DISTRESS?

- Have an uneasy feeling about a situation at your workplace?
- Need clarification on an issue?
- Not sure if you should take action?
- Have you said to yourself: "I need this job, but I can't sleep at night."

Contact the AOTA Ethics Commission Liaison D. Slater at dslater@aota.org. (When you first contact the Ethics Commission to discuss an ethical concern, **please do not provide the name or identifying information** of the person who you believe is acting unethically.)

WHERE TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

You can relay your complaint to **one, two or three** of the following OT entities:

- AOTA Ethics Commission
- NBCOT
- DC Board of Occupational Therapy (there are 48 state boards). You should definitely report incident to a state or the DC board if patients are in danger.

ethics board? That is one place to begin. If you don't want to take that route, you can contact the AOTA Ethics Commission for guidance or insight. (Ms. Slater asks that persons who contact the Commission to make a complaint, or to gain advice on a situation, please do not use the name or identifying information of the person who is the wrongdoer.) *See end of this article for AOTA contact information.*

You could also contact the DC OT Board.

A Sampling of Ethical Violations

"How many years do I have to wait?" is a common question Ms. Slater has heard from OTs who are interested in **dating** a patient or colleague they have met while practicing OT. Violating professional boundaries is just one of the potential ethical problems.

The most frequent problem, Ms. Slater says, is **impaired** practitioners who are substance abusers and/or who are stealing medications.

There is also the problem of **billing fraud and up-coding**, and of OTs being asked by supervisors to offer treatment to clients as a group, but then to bill each as though they were seen individually.

OTs also may be asked to falsify documentation or to write documentation for patients they've never seen.



AOTA Ethics Commission Liaison Deborah Yarett Slater.

Misuse of taxpayer money through Medicaid fraud is a serious offense.

Other Ethics violators are unlicensed practitioners (OTs must hold a current license in order to obtain Medicare funds in the state where they practice.)

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) can find themselves in deep trouble if they are presenting themselves to patients or facilities as if they are an Occupational Therapist. OTs can be sanctioned for the **improper use of OTAs**.

It is also incumbent upon an OT to be sure that he or she has obtained the training needed if they are practicing in a specialized area. Ensure your **competency** by gaining the additional education and training you need. As a professional, this is your responsibility.

(continued on page 8)



“TEN EASY WAYS TO LOSE YOUR LICENSE” Town Hall Meeting on OT Code of Ethics (continued)

(continued from page 7)

Are you directing patients to buy products from a company that you own? If so, you must **disclose your financial interest** to the patient.

Role of the Commission

AOTA's Ethics Commission provides education and enforcement functions. They write advisory opinions on issues, and have CE material available on CD. The Commission is composed of OT educators, OT practitioners, and some professionals from other professions.

The AOTA Code of Ethics is revised every 5 years (at most). The Guidelines publication is much more specific in language; The Core Values publication is more broad. “Our code is aspirational and regulatory,” she said. Its principles are what OTs should aspire to do. It is regulatory because “the Code would not be effective without being regulatory, being something that can issue disciplinary action.”

Great Start

Being an ethical OT begins with licensure. “Be licensed,” Ms. Slater said. “This is a serious professional obligation. It is an ethical obligation.” She also urged attendees to read the District's OT practice act.”

If you need assistance with clarifying issues involved in possible unethical practice, email Ms. Slater at dslater@aota.org or call her at (301) 652-6611, ext 2206.

Ethics Glossary from AOTA

Autonomy—The right of an individual to self-determination. The ability to independently act on one's decisions for their own well-being (*Beauchamp & Childress, 2001*)

Beneficence—Doing good for others or bringing about good for them. The duty to confer benefits to others.

Confidentiality—Not disclosing data or information that should be kept private to prevent harm and to abide by policies, regulations, and laws

Dilemma—A situation in which one moral conviction or right action conflicts with another. It exists because there is no one, clear-cut, right answer

Duty—Actions required of professionals by society or actions that are self-imposed

Ethics—A systematic study of morality (i.e., rules of conduct that are grounded in philosophical principles and theory)

Fidelity—Faithfully fulfilling vows and promises, agreements, and discharging fiduciary responsibilities (*Beauchamp & Childress, 2001*)

Compensatory—Making reparation for wrongs that have been done

Distributive justice—The act of distributing goods and burdens among members of society

Procedural justice—Assuring that processes are organized in a fair manner and policies or laws are followed

Morality—Personal beliefs regarding values, rules, and principles of what is right or wrong. Morality may be culture-based or culture-driven

Nonmaleficence—Not harming or causing harm to be done to oneself or others the duty to ensure that no harm is done

Veracity—A duty to tell the truth; avoid deception

CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDIT

The Board of Occupational Therapy periodically conducts a twenty-percent audit of licensees for compliance with the Continuing Education requirements. Selected licensees are asked to submit proof of CEU hours.

To obtain a copy of the OT requirements for Occupational Therapists practicing in the District, go online at:

www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

Click Professional Licensing Boards/Registrations, then click Occupational Therapy, and click DC Municipal Regulations.

“CHALLENGES TO THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCOPE OF PRACTICE”

(Town Hall Meeting featuring Chuck Willmarth, AOTA Director of State and Regulatory Affairs)



“AOTA urges states to achieve licensure for OTs and to update their OT practice act. The profession has changed since the 1970s and 1980s”—Chuck Willmarth.

- In Indiana, in 2008, an early childhood education specialist advertised that she could provide occupational therapy services—and this was not a violation of that state’s laws.
- In New Jersey, athletic trainers have a bill pending that would establish that they could provide services that, historically, have been provided by occupational therapists.
- In Vermont, athletic trainers can get insurance reimbursement from a patient’s Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy/Speech Language Pathology benefit.

The examples at left are just a few of the instances cited, by AOTA’s Chuck Willmarth, of laws and bills being created across the nation which threaten the scope of practice for Occupational Therapists.

During the OT Board’s March 2009 continuing education program at Howard University Hospital, licensees were informed about the threats to the OT scope of practice on the state and federal level. Other less-established professions are seeking to gain reimbursement for services from funds set aside for “Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy or Speech-Language Pathology.” New professions are trying to define their scope of practice as practice areas historically defined as OT.

AOTA constantly monitors laws and proposed-laws nationwide, and the organization sponsors a “Fly-In” so OTs can meet with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. What can you do to help? Contact AOTA today (see contact information below).

Slide from Chuck Willmarth’s PowerPoint Presentation:

NEW HAMPSHIRE RECREATIONAL THERAPY LAW

“Recreational therapy” means “a treatment service designed to restore, remediate, and rehabilitate a person’s level of functioning and independence in life activities, to promote health and wellness as well as reduce or eliminate the activity limitations and restrictions to participation in life situations caused by an illness or disabling condition.”

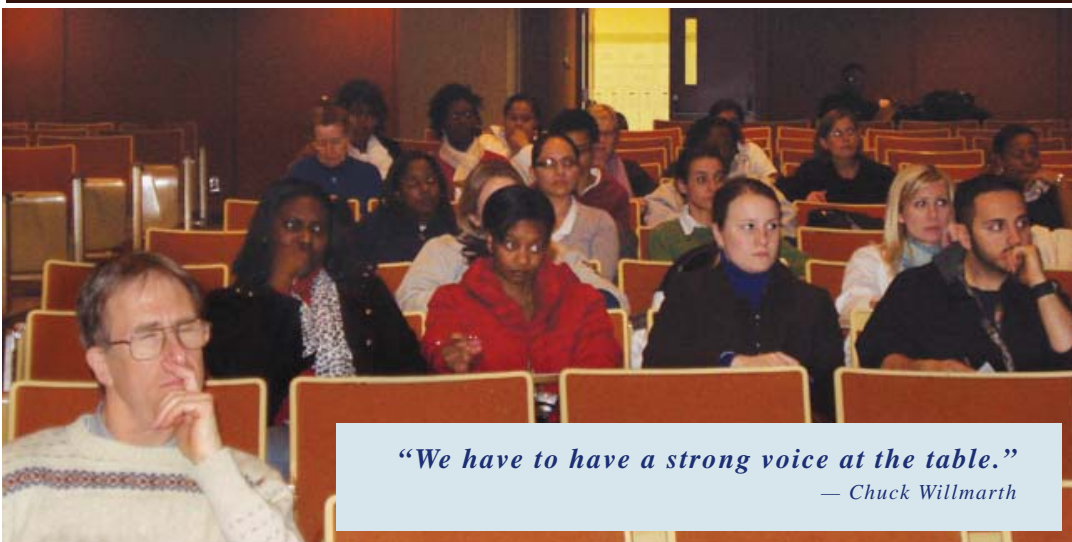
AOTA STATE AFFAIRS GROUP

Chuck Willmarth - Director, State Affairs
and Reimbursement & Regulatory Policy
301-652-6611 ext 2019
cwillmarth@aota.org

Steve Fowler - Administrative Assistant
301-652-6611 ext 2836
sfowler@aota.org

AOTA’S MESSAGE TO OTs IS “WE CAN ALL BE ADVOCATES”

- Stay informed
- Be a member of AOTA and your state association
- Educate others about OT
- Advocate – agency, legislators, governor’s office, workplace
- Respond when called to action – write letters, contact legislator



“We have to have a strong voice at the table.”

— Chuck Willmarth



BOARD-RELATED TERMS THAT OTs SHOULD KNOW

CONSENT ORDER: A voluntary agreement entered into by a board and a respondent (person disciplined) in lieu of hearing for violation of the HORA. A Consent Order may or may not be reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCIPLINE (OR DENY): A document requested by a board and prepared by the Office of the Attorney General which places a licensee on notice that he or she is being charged with violating one or more of the health profession laws as outlined in Title 3 Chapter 12 of the D.C. Code. It may also indicate violation of District regulations as found in Title 17 of the District Register, and/or federal law. It will give a summary of the facts which serve as the basis for the violations. The document also contains information about how to request a hearing. The disciplinary action (if any) from a "Notice" is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

SUMMARY SUSPENSION: A document requested by the Administrator of the Health Regulations Licensing Administration (not a Board) that is prepared by the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the document is to immediately terminate the right of a person to practice a health profession because the Administrator believes that the person poses an imminent danger, because of his or her misconduct, to the health and safety of the residents of the District of Columbia or its visitors and guests. The "Suspension" informs the person that he or she must request a hearing within 72 hours and is entitled to a hearing within 72 hours – provided that the beginning and ending period for the 72 hours does not fall on a weekend or holiday, in which case it is carried over to the next business day. Failure to request a hearing within the 72 hours results in the suspension remaining in place until it is lifted by the board having jurisdiction over the licensee. A Summary Suspension is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER: A Cease and Desist order is a document requested by the Administrator and prepared by the Office of the Attorney General. It is served on a person whom the Administrator believes may cause immediate and irreparable harm. Unlike a Summary Suspension, it is usually served on persons who are engaging in a health profession while not being licensed, registered, or certified. The person receiving the Cease and Desist must request a hearing within 10 days and is entitled to a hearing within 10 days. If the hearing isn't requested, the Cease and Desist remains in effect. If the person continues to be engaged in the activity after being served a Cease and Desist, the Administrator may ask the Office of the Attorney General to seek a criminal prosecution to enjoin the activity.

THE NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK: A database mandated by federal law and maintained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of warehousing disciplinary actions taken by states against health professionals. Each licensing board is required to report to the Data Bank each and every formal disciplinary action taken against a licensee, registrant, or holder of a certification.

WHEN YOU MOVE (OR CHANGE YOUR NAME)

Licensees sometimes forget to inform the Board of Occupational Therapy when they move or change names. If we do not have your current address, you may not receive your renewal mailing because we may send it to your former address. **All name and address changes must be submitted in writing to our office within 30 days of the change.** Please include your name, address, Social Security number, and license number, if you know it. If you have a name change, you must also enclose a copy of your certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change.

Fax your request to (202) 727-8471, or mail your name and/or address change to:

DC Board of Occupational Therapy
Processing Department
Address/Name Change
717 14th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

BOARD WELCOMES HOWARD UNIVERSITY OT GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Board recently welcomed students from the Howard University OT graduate program (*below and at right*). The students came to learn more about OT licensure, Board procedures and current topics of concern to OTs in the District.



TIPS FOR EXPEDITING YOUR LICENSE

- Make sure to have your entire application filled out and signed.
- Provide official court documents of final case dispositions for any felonies or misdemeanors that you incurred (i.e., a defendant, in any state or country)
- Malpractice case dispositions should include a case number, jurisdiction, year, all the defendant names, all plaintiff names, a brief summary of the case, and final disposition, such as judgment dollar amount, dismissed with or without prejudice, or settlement dollar amount—this information must be sent with your application.

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

To file a complaint against a licensed Occupational Therapist, simply write a letter that describes your complaint. The letter must be signed, and you should attach copies of any pertinent documents that you may have. The letter must also include your address, so we may contact you as necessary and notify you of any findings. You may fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 724-8677, or mail it to one of the addresses below.

You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Occupational Therapy
Suite 600
717 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity:

Supervisory Investigator
Suite 1000
717 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

PLEASE NOTE: You can print a complaint form from our website at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov.

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If you have a fee dispute with a health professional, you can seek redress through the civil courts.

D.C. BOARD OF
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005



Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



OT BOARD ORDERS

**There were no
Board Actions
against OTs
or OTAs for the
year of 2008.**

*Many thanks to
outgoing Board Members:
OT Vice-Chairperson,
Gwendolyn McCauley, MA,
OTR/L, and Board Member
Lauren Rosenberg, OTR/L
for their many years of
service on the OT Board!*

Current Members of The District of Columbia Board of Occupational Therapy

Frank E. Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA,
Chairperson

Contact Information

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