



The Viewpoint

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Spring 2009

Message from the President

"Human beings just don't put their hearts into something they don't believe in."

I would like to speak to your heart...your fire, your soul, your energy, your passion. So please give me a few brief moments where you can sit, read with an open mind, and really, truly reflect for just a minute. We are in an interesting time right now. I know that wasn't some profound statement that blew your socks off; I know...but think about the interesting times we are in and how does that effect Occupational Therapy in Oregon?

Many employers have either slowed or stopped hiring. We are finding friends, spouses and a few of our own out of jobs. We are encountering more people without health insurance, without the means to pay co-pays or the resources to pay for the therapy they know they need.

Where does that put Occupational Therapy in Oregon?

It puts some of us into straight up paranoia. It puts some of us down in the dumps...yet it makes some of us even more inspired and even more charged up to fight for what we believe in. I want that passion to spread like wildfire to the other friends in our profession who are either struggling literally, or are struggling mentally and emotionally during the stressful times.

Where can we put Occupational Therapy in Oregon?

We can claim our position of importance for our clients in these times. We can prove our value to the sick and vulnerable.

We can prove our strength as a profession that seeks and brings meaning to people. Meaning, purpose and occupation that makes each individual find inner balance and happiness.

What can OTAO do for Occupational Therapy in Oregon?

Man what a question. I wish OTAO could do a lot more that we have the resources to do...create jobs, create affordable health care...but that's not our role. We can protect jobs. We did that last November with the work done with the PT licensing board and we are doing that right now during the legislative session.

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Subscription Rates: Subscription is a benefit of OTAO members and is included in yearly membership rates.

Change of Address: Should be provided to OTAO via mail or E-mail as provided above, or done online by the Member. Newsletters are mailed 3rd class and will not be forwarded by the post office. Yearly membership is renewed in July; applications must be received by November 1 for members to be included in the annual membership directory.

Advertising: All ads should be submitted to: Desiree Keplinger, OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, or via email at: otao@otao.com, by the 15th of the month preceding the desired month of publication. OTAO is not responsible for statements made by its advertisers; unless so stated, publication of advertisements does not reflect an official endorsement of the OTAO. Prepayment must be received prior to inclusion of advertisement. Advertising rates can be viewed at: www.otao.com/Advertising

Message from the President (continued from Page 1)

We can empower our OT community. Empower with knowledge and opportunities. We are working on multiple continuing education events around the state, and we are trying our hardest to keep those costs way down for our members. We can share our passion and encourage the heart. OTAO is working to get an event in April (which is OT month, in case you forgot J) to do something with Rebuilding Together to help those less fortunate.

OTAO is striving to develop, adapt and modify with the changing environment to still meet the needs of our members. That doesn't mean we are perfect, by any means, but it does mean that we will fight, we will grow, we will thrive and we will continue to support the community of Occupational Therapy in Oregon...no matter what.

Ok, you can go back to what you were doing and thank you for the few moments of reflection and for reading my rah, rah OT spiel. In other words, 2009 is going to be a good year, full of events, battles and hopefully less expensive opportunities for our loyal members.

And as always, you can email me, sybilfisher@mac.com if you want to share ideas, gripes, or really good recipes.

~Sybil

Lobbyist's Update by John McCulley

Legislature faces major budget challenges

As expected financial issues dominated the first part of the 2009 Legislative session. On February 20, lawmakers learned that the current biennial revenues could fall as much as \$855 million short of meeting the state's budgeted spending. And in addition, the 2009–11 budget could have a hole as large as \$3 billion.

On the positive side, the newly approved federal stimulus bill will provide much needed relief, but is acknowledged by many as a short term fix. A significant group of legislators wonders what will happen when the federal largesse ends and state spending is based on non-sustainable amounts. But for the moment decision makers are concentrating on the here and now.

OTAO-specific legislation has taken various forms thus far this session. First are the bills related to state licensing boards.

HB 2058: standardizes the operations of state licensing boards, giving the Governor the authority to appoint executive directors and the authority to remove board members. There does not appear to be significant opposition to this bill.

HB 2059: requires licensees to report prohibited conduct and has raised many questions about its effects and actual implementation.

HB 2345: requires licensing boards to develop a process for dealing with impaired professionals.

HB 2118: is the Governor's approach to health regulatory reform, includes an impaired professionals section and is meeting with wider favor than the legislative proposals.

Issues that more directly impact OTAO members include **SB 290**, establishing a Prosthetics and Orthotics licensing board and **HB 2610** that would expand the category of professionals who may use the term doctor. **SB 290** will not be considered this session and we have talked with the bill's proponents about having a specific exemption from licensure for OT's the next time they introduce the bill.

Of course health care reform is a major focus of the session. **HB 2009** is the reform bill that would establish a health authority board. The bill outlines how the board would operate and how the benefits would be funded. The funding is a key issue of contention where the hospitals and insurance providers claim they would face significant, non-reimbursed costs. There is much opposition to an omnibus provider tax,

HB 2076, but some legislators continue to support such a broad assessment.

Here are some other bills of interest:

HB 2117: Creates Healthy Kids Plan, which includes private health option to provide affordable, accessible health care to children. In Committee.

HB 2128: Eliminates sunset of Oregon Health Fund Board. In Committee.

HB 2346: Limits authority of health professional regulatory boards to conduct mental, physical or competence examinations, assessments or evaluations to cases in which board determines there is objectively reasonable basis for believing licensee or applicant poses danger to patient health or physical or competency examination, assessment or evaluation. In Committee.

HB 2347: Prohibits health professional regulatory board, DHS, Oregon Health Licensing Agency or board, advisory council or program overseen by Oregon Health Licensing Agency from assessing costs or attorney fees for disciplinary proceedings. In Committee.

HB 2608: Allows insurers to exclude certain benefits including mental health parity. In Committee.

SB 11: Requires specified health professional regulatory boards to collect information from licensees and report information to DHS for creation of healthcare workforce database. In Committee.

SB 25: Establishes Oregon State Hospital Advisory Board. Approved by Health Care Committee; referred to Ways and Means Committee.

SB 156: Requires Dept of Human Services to ensure that mental health, addiction and physical health services are provided in integrated manner. In Committee.

SB 368: Establishes Office of Consumer Affairs in Department of Human services to promote consumer directed mental health services. In Committee.

SB 455: Requires Health Resources Commission to conduct comparative effectiveness research and to disseminate research findings. In Committee.

SB 456: Establishes Oregon Integrated Health Home Program. In Committee.

Legislative Committee Update

by Karen Hass, Julie Seitz & Tiffany Boggis

One of our main goals as OTA's legislative committee is to not only make legislative information more accessible to OT practitioners around Oregon, but to be a voice for them in Salem. It is important to us that this voice represents all areas of OT practice throughout Oregon. Because of this we have formed a group of "legislative consultants". This group is updated periodically about legislative issues and members choose whether or not they want to respond to us about the issues. Some are simply a part of the group to stay informed of the happenings in Salem, while others more actively share their thoughts and opinions. There are currently 50 members in this group and here is what some of them are saying about being a part of it!

"I find value in being a legislative consultant in explaining the issues to my fellow therapists and neighbors, so that they can make decisions about advocating for specific legislative actions."

Charolotte Maloney, OT

"Realizing how little our legislators know about occupational therapy and its contribution to their constituents has been my biggest lesson recently; and finding out how relatively easy it is to educate them has been my biggest excitement. I observed the OT students as they took an active role in that education process which added to my excitement. They realized how they could have an impact on our profession as well as on legislation that will affect their future clients. These two experiences give me great hope for the future of a politically engaged group of professionals and the informed lawmakers who will understand what value OT can add to our clients' health and well-being and improve the communities within which they all live"

John A. White, Jr., Ph.D., OTR/L
Program Director and Associate Professor,
Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy

"As for my experience...Being an AOTA Representative was an amazing opportunity to be a part of the legislative process and I recognized that constituent feedback was so important in order to truly represent Oregon's members. However during my term, I received very little feedback from members which made it challenging for me to know if in fact I accurately represented ALL of Oregon's members. Members should be more involved!"

Heather Chiappisi, OT

To become a "legislative consultant" and receive legislative updates please email us at seitzlegchair@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Legislative Co-chairs

Tiffany Boggis, Julie Seitz, Karen Hass

AOTA Update

by Peggy Hanson, OTR/L, OTA Representative to AOTA Assembly

As the new AOTA representative, I am learning how to navigate the world of virtual meetings using the new “AOTA CONNECTIONS” website. It is the latest on-line tool created by AOTA and it replaces the old list-serves. I have found it to be quite user-friendly for the Online Representative Assembly Meetings and pre-meeting communication. Anyone who is an AOTA member is able to log on and choose from a number of discussions and interest groups. Right now, motions are being shared in the Public Forum for review and discussion. The next step will be for the state representatives to cast votes.

If you are a member of AOTA, you can read these motions on the AOTA website (go to: Leadership & Governance> Representative Assembly> Online Meeting>MOTIONS). I am providing a summary here. If you have an opinion, question or concern about any of these motions, I hope that you will contact me. My role is to represent the membership in Oregon so I encourage you to let your voice be heard!

1. Definition of OT/OTA Roles within the Model Practice Act and All Other Relevant Documents.

This motion asks the Commission on Practice (COP) to clarify the various roles of OT practice in a document to be completed by 2010. Clear definitions support state organizations (like Oregon) in our lobbying efforts to protect our own practice laws. As

nontraditional practice areas emerge, this motion urges our profession to clearly identify and articulate what “OT practice is and what it is not”.

2. Specialized Knowledge and Skills Paper for Occupational Therapists in Oncology

This motion charges the COP to develop a specialized knowledge and skills paper for OT’s and OTA’s in oncology. It will address the complexity of cancer and its treatment, and emphasize the role that OT practitioners play in this population’s recovery process to optimize safe participation in meaningful daily occupations.

3. Title Change for Occupational Therapy Assistants

This motion recommends that an ad hoc committee be created to evaluate the need for a title change for occupational therapy assistants that would better reflect their current roles and responsibilities. Working in conjunction with the NBCOT, the committee would determine an appropriate title change. If the need is confirmed, the committee would design an action plan for implementation.

4. Develop Model Requirements for Re-Entry/Re-Licensure

This motion charges the Commission on Competence Continuing and Professional Development (CCCPD) to develop guidelines for return to practice (re-entry) appropriate for incorporation in the Occupational

Therapy Model Practice Act and Model Regulation. The guidelines and model language would be available to state associations and state regulatory boards seeking to establish or amend re-entry/re-licensure requirements.

5. Ensure Broad Practice Area Representation Within the AOTA Board of Directors

This motion asks that the AOTA Board of Directors develop and present a plan to the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC), re-designing Board elections in such a way that a broad range of occupational therapy practice areas are consistently represented on the Board.

6. Building Diversity in Occupational Therapy Now To Meet the Centennial Vision

This motion proposes that a focus on the “development of a diverse workforce” be incorporated into all relevant AOTA initiatives and that a method be established for collecting, reporting and maintaining statistics related to clinical and academic workforce diversity. In a 2006 report, 86.2% of OT’s and 85.7% of OTA’s reported themselves as being Caucasian. About 95% of OT’s are women and 5% are men; this statistic has remained fairly steady since 1990.

OTAO CONFERENCE 2009
THEME: ADAPTING IN A TIME OF CHANGE
“Call for Papers” PROPOSAL

TITLE OF PRESENTATION: _____

NAME OF PRIMARY PRESENTER: _____

Session Type: Institute Workshop Concurrent Session Poster
Half/Full Day Usually 3 hours Usually 1-2 hours

TARGET AUDIENCE

_____ Student _____ Entry level (0-4yrs) _____ Intermediate (4-9 yrs.)
_____ Advanced (10+ yrs.) _____ Re-entry _____ Mixed

PRIMARY CONTENT AREA

Admin/Mgmt Education Gerontology
 Hand Therapy Home Health International
 Mental Health Physical Disabilities Reimbursement
 Sensory Integration School Systems Technology
 Worker Rehab Student Issues Other _____

Name: _____ Professional Title: _____

Home address: _____

Employer: _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Email) _____

Names and titles of co-presenter(s), if any: _____

SCHEDULING PREFERENCE:

Please indicate your preference for the day and time for your presentation. The committee will attempt to schedule according to speaker preference, however depending on the number of speakers accepted, this may not be possible.

Friday, October 16th Saturday, October 17th Sunday, October 18th
 AM PM

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED INFORMATION :

1. **ABSTRACT:** Prepare a summary of learning objectives and format that can be edited (if needed) for the brochure (maximum of 75 words for institute/workshop, 50 words for technical/poster).
2. **ONE PAGE DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION:** The description should include detailed learning objectives and a brief description of teaching methods and content.
3. **AUDIOVISUAL & EQUIPMENT NEEDS.**

Send Proposals (postmarked by May 15, 2009) to: Stacey Moret, 1176 NE 69th Ave, Portland OR 97213