



The Viewpoint

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Summer 2009

Message from the President

What has OTAO done for You?

Holy smokes! I've been recollecting what OTAO has been up to since last June and I think (and hope) that if I share it with you...you too will be at least a little impressed. Maybe it will at least make you raise your eyebrows or say "humph...that's good" to yourself once or twice.

In our efforts to reduce costs and reduce waste, we have gone to all online Newsletters with the exception of one a year, and well, since you are probably reading this on paper *and* you are a smart person, this is the one a year we print. We print this for all of our current members as well as for all licensed OT's and OTA's in the state of Oregon who are not members of OTAO.

Are you reading this thinking "wow, I haven't seen an OTAO Viewpoint in forever!?" If you said that out loud or in your head, I encourage

you to read on and feast your eyes on why it pays to be a member of OTAO. (and you are a current member saying this to yourself, well, you can read on and find out what you can do to be sure to access all your benefits.)

A year in the life of your state professional organization...

Quick facts (I found these facts to be fascinating when I became involved in the Board that I honestly did not know these bits of info as a member):

* The core of the Board of Directors is made up of 15 positions and only one of those positions is a paid position!

* The one paid position is Desiree Keplinger, our office manager, and she is paid to work for OTAO 16 hours a week.

* The rest of the positions are volunteers.

* Most of us work full time in a wide variety of practice settings for OT

* Many of us have children, ranging from young adults, to teens to kids to babies under 2 years old! Even a grandbaby!

* We meet once a quarter with contact in-between those meetings by email, smaller groups or phone.

Ok, now onto the meat of this article...a quick run down of ***what OTAO has been up to since June 2008.***

* Hosted 7 Continuing Education events around the state covering a wide variety of topics from pain management to hand therapy to Aspergers syndrome.

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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)

- * Put on one of the most successful annual conferences in Salem with national speakers and great feedback.
- * Hosted community meetings in Portland and Salem to generate ideas, network and have good old fun.
- * Partnered with AOTA, Pacific University and the OT Licensing Board to band together and negotiate very important language to be included in the Definition of Physical Therapy Intervention in the state of Oregon.
- * Convened on the floor of the Oregon State Capital to teach legislators and the public about Occupational Therapy.
- * Followed over 20 bills this legislative session and had our Lobbyist testify on behalf of all OT's in Oregon a number of times.
- * Sought out local opportunities to strengthen our association, keep our costs down and support local groups: contracted a new grad from the Art Institute of Portland to develop a new logo for OTAO and worked with Lewis and Clark College School of Law Legal Business Council for pro-bono legal help with the legal side of running an association.

Phew! And that's just a quick and dirty type list!

What is OTAO looking to do in the next year? Well, there are a lot of ideas on the docket...

- * There will be a Bend Continuing Education Event July 10 and 11th.
- * We are looking to host a few more pain focused CE Events before next May when we all need the 7 hours of CE on pain for licensure.
- * Our Annual conference this year is in Beaverton October 16, 17 and 18th.
- * We are researching options for online ways of providing inexpensive (if not free...for members only of course) continuing education that you can access from anywhere, anytime. This has taken us longer than anticipated, so hang in there...it will be figured out!!
- * We are looking to partner with Rebuilding Together to do an event with them and OTAO for a community outreach event.
- * Watching very closely the legislature on the remaining bills as well as hovering over the comment our Governor made about suspending the OTLB. This will be fought, and fought hard when the time comes...so keep your eyes and ears peeled.

And I could go on and on and on....

The take away here? OTAO is mostly volunteers. We spend our free time trying to make your state association meaningful to you. We believe in Occupational Therapy and have a passion for our profession. Do you believe in OT? I know our economy is not strong right now, but we have to continue to build our professions strength in these times of worry, change and health care reform. Believe in the power of people and join OTAO today (www.otao.com) and show your dedication to the career you chose. Come join in on the fun, the opportunities and the education. Come along for the ride!

Happy Summer my OT friends! ~Sybil

Lobbyist's Update

by John McCulley

Legislature nears completion

The Legislature enters its last month with major work to be done. A revenue forecast predicting a \$3.8 billion gap between funds available and the amount needed to maintain state services, has lawmakers looking for about \$800 million in tax increases and the budget cuts necessary to balance the budget.

Legislative budget writers released their spending blueprint on May 18 recommending a 15 percent decrease for most budgets. Of course, hardest hit would be the largest expenditure categories of education, human services and public safety.

The proposed budget attempts to maintain a high level of state funds in K-12 education, but higher education could see big reductions resulting in large tuition increases. Human services cuts will cross all categories

It is expected that the Legislature will implement some aspects of health care reform with funds set aside to pay for the activities of the Oregon Health Fund Board. A tax on hospitals and health plans will provide revenue to advance efforts to bring health care to more people.

We have been involved in several bills of interest to occupational therapists. Here is a brief summary of that legislation.

SB 670 was introduced by Senator Jackie Winters of Salem to add to the list of professions that must report elder and child abuse. OT's are included as a mandatory reporter of elder abuse but for some reason, unless OT's were employed by a school or filled another mandatory reporter category, they were not a part of the child abuse reporting statute. SB 670 specifically requires OT's to report child abuse. But it may not be smooth sailing for such a non-controversial bill. The Department of Human Services indicates that it will cost about \$2,000 to print brochures to notify new reporters and the bill is headed to the Ways and Means Committee to discuss the fiscal impact.

Bills related to standardizing state health regulatory boards have had mixed success. The bill to change the number of public members on boards, HB 2056, (and one that did not affect the OTLB) did not make the sweeping changes

sought by Rep. Mitch Greenlick but did add increase the number of public members on some boards.

HB 2345 has passed the House and moved to the Senate. The main purpose of the bill is to have health regulatory boards deal with impaired professionals. The bill establishes an oversight board in the Department of Human Services to provide services to any board that has directed an impaired professional to get treatment. Boards would have the option of having an impaired licensure program, but if they do, would need to use the DHS monitoring service.

HB 2058 standardizes how boards operate. That standardization includes appointment of board members, removal of board members and appointment and removal of the executive director. The bill has already passed both the House and Senate.

HB 2059 requires professionals to report other professional's misconduct or illegal behavior.

HB 2118 also sets standards for boards, establishing qualifications for appointment and requirements that licenses must meet. It requires the Governor to consider ethnic and geographic diversity when making board appointments.

Then there's HB 2009, the health care reform legislation. It is moving forward with a timeline that would have the reforms in effect by the end of 2013. The bill is designed to consolidate several parts of state government involved in health care services including the Public Employees Benefit Board, School Employees Benefit Board and the Oregon Health Plan. Management of health care delivery would reside in the Oregon Health Fund Board. The process of consolidation will occur over the next three biennia with corresponding work done on a health insurance exchange to make sure as many people as possible are covered.

At this point all the policy committees have completed their work and the budget and tax committees remain active to finish the business of the session. With a target adjournment of June 30, the Legislature is on track to meet that objective but may be back in the fall depending on the budget outlook during the next few months.

WHY IS OREGON DIFFERENT!

Joan Knapp OTR/L, SIS for Driving

Herb turned on his left turn signal, then carefully steered his car the wrong way directly into the oncoming traffic exiting the freeway. Fortunately traffic slowed down. When his wife pointed out his error, Max slowly backed his car off the ramp. No accident occurred this time.

Herb has several issues that impact his ability to drive safely. His vision is not as good as it used to be and he is having problems with his memory.

If Herb lived in Oregon he would be considered an “at risk driver” This means a change or condition that could impair driving ability such as a stroke, dementia, a head injury, or low vision.

Herb’s doctor or another health care professional would be required under the Oregon Mandatory Reporting law passed in 2003 to determine if Herb is safe to continue driving or if he must retire from driving. If the doctor determines that the impairments are severe, uncontrollable and not treatable, he or she fills out the Mandatory Reporting Form and sends it to the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). If the doctor or another health care professional has questions or concerns about the ability of the patient to drive, then a referral is made to an Occupational Therapist for a Driving Assessment. In Oregon, Occupational Therapists are one of several disciplines designated to test “at risk drivers”.

During the process of passing the Mandatory Reporting Law, the Oregon State legislature transportation committee identified and defined skills and impairments to safe driving. These skills and impairments fall into three major areas including physical function, cognitive function, and vision. So for example, the Oregon DMV has identified poor judgment and problem solving as impairments to driving and partially defines those as “reduced processing speed, an inability to understand a cause and effect relationship, a deficit in decision making ability”. Other states have not gone through the same process to identify skills and impairments so clearly and the impact on function specifically

Occupational Therapists at Providence Portland Medical Center developed an in-clinic Driving Assessment that tests the abilities and skills that support safe driving. In the Providence assessment we use a number of tools and evaluations to determine impairment in cognition, vision or physical abilities. When our Driving Assessment is complete we have a picture of the driver’s abilities and make recommendations based on the results of our testing. If the Driving Assessment reveals that the physical, visual, or cognitive impairments are severe, uncontrollable, and untreatable, the Mandatory Reporting form is completed specifying the impairments, sent to the DMV, and the driver’s license is revoked.

If Herb lived in Oregon, the driving assessment might reveal that his judgment and problem solving, as well as his visual motor reaction time place him in the unsafe-to-drive area and his license would then be revoked.

Marketing Update

by Sally Stauffer & Amanda Moore

The OTA O Marketing team has been busy this year producing fliers for continuing education events. Topics included Adult Neurology, Hand Therapy, Sensory Processing in Older Adults, and multiple events for the pain continuing education requirement. Other projects have included the debut of the OTA O logo on window decals and a 4-in-1 tool kit showcasing our new logo. Look to purchase this merchandise soon on OTA O.com, and at future OTA O events. We will be looking to spread the word about OTA O membership in upcoming mailings to COTAs and OTRs in Oregon. In order to build community with other Occupational Therapy practitioners, we are exploring social networking, so stay tuned for future updates. We are also looking ahead to the conference this fall to introduce more OTA O merchandise and supporting the membership chair in developing recruitment materials. Other goals include raising public awareness of occupational therapy through community service projects/events. OTA O is looking to sponsor projects with Rebuilding Together, a non-profit whose vision is “a safe and healthy home for every person” (www.rebuildingtogether.org)



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Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

The next meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board will be on July 17th at the Portland State Office building in Portland. The agenda includes discipline cases, civil penalties, discussion of the 2010 Renewal process including CE audits, requirement for the new one-time Pain Management CE, renewal fees, making the Statement of Supervision form part of the online renewal, legislative bills that passed affecting Occupational Therapists and the Board (OTs added to list of mandatory reporters of child abuse, changes in health boards, mandatory reporting by health professional licensee of prohibited or unprofessional conduct of another licensee).

Governor Kulongoski said on May 15, 2009 that he will ask the legislature to consider “suspension” of the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board (among other actions). Felicia Holgate, Director, will work with other health licensing boards, the governor’s office and the legislature to discuss issues of “Consolidation” of health boards and other ways to save costs. Further information will be supplied in the July Licensing Board newsletter. If you have any questions please contact the board at (971) 673-0198 or e-mail: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us

Treasurer's Report

by Jan Reid, OTR/L

In my position as OTA0 treasurer I have worked with our office manager Desiree Keplinger to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2009. As we move into the 2009-2010 budget we currently have a balanced budget and do not anticipate having to transfer monies from our savings to be able to continue to provide the same level of service to the membership. Since membership in OTA0 and the annual conference are the two main sources of income for our organization, we encourage everyone to get the word out to non-members about the benefits of membership so we can continue to grow. OTA0 wants to thank everyone for making this year's conference very successful and for continuing to support the organization financially through attendance at the continuing education workshops sponsored by OTA0. We also welcome any legislative donations to offset our lobbyist costs which help support the interests of Occupational Therapy in the state legislature. .

There will be a change in the treasurer position starting in July as I am unable to fulfill the last year of my two year term. We have a nominated treasurer elect who will be learning the position before becoming treasurer. It has been a pleasure to serve in this position and if there are any budget questions contact Desiree via email at: otao@otao.com.

Election Results!

Congratulations to the newly elected Board Members:

President-Elect: Sara Pickett

and

Treasurer-Elect: Jan Cuciti

Both begin their one-year training on July 1, 2009. They will then begin their two-year terms as OTA0 President and Treasurer, respectively, on July 1, 2010.



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Manual Edema Mobilization

- Saturday, Oct 24- Sunday, Oct 25: Sacramento

Pediatric Hand Therapy and Splinting

- Friday, Nov 6- Saturday, Nov 7: San Francisco
- Friday, Nov 6 & Sunday, Nov 8: San Francisco

Upcoming OTAO Sponsored Events:

OTAO Conference in Bend
at St. Charles Medical Center

Friday, July 10th – 4:30 - 7:30pm

Kristin Gulick, OTR/L, CHT

presents:

Prosthetic Rehabilitation for the Client with
Upper Extremity Limb Loss

Saturday, July 11th – 8:00am - 4:30pm

Ann Ferguson, MS OTR/L

presents:

Treating Clients with Neurological Vision
Impairment: Techniques from a
successful outpatient program

Register online at: www.otao.com

OTAO Annual Conference in Portland
at St. Vincent's Medical Center

“Adapting in a Time of Change”

Friday, October 16th – Sunday, October 18th

Keynote Speaker:

Governor Barbara Roberts

Saturday, October 17th

Look for more details online at:

www.otao.com

Online Registration at:

www.otao.com

open by July 15, 2009

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**Did I renew my
OTAO Membership?
I better go online
at www.otao.com
and check!**

Reminders:

- ◆ Job Listings are posted online, and visible to all, go to www.otao.com and click on Jobs in the left-hand column
- ◆ Membership rates for OTAO have not increased. They remain at:
 - OT \$70.00
 - OTA \$50.00
 - OT Student \$30.00
- ◆ If you would like to continue to receive the Viewpoint, and you are not already a member, you must join OTAO
- ◆ Check out the Events Calendar for upcoming CE opportunities including:
 - Bend Conference July 10-11
 - Rehab Education Course Sept 11-12
 - Crisis Intervention Workshop Sept 25-26
 - OTAO Conference October 16-18
 - Jan Davis Workshop November 7-8
- ◆ Past editions of the Webletter and the Viewpoint can be found online by logging in and going to Newsletters & Forms

Membership Benefits:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Monthly (or bi-monthly) Webletter
- ◆ Dedicated Lobbyist working on behalf of Occupational Therapy's best interest
- ◆ OTAO-sponsored Continuing Education at discounted prices
- ◆ Online access to members-only options on the OTAO website, like forums and CE listings
- ◆ Access to research grant and scholarship money – applicants must be members of OTAO to qualify.
- ◆ Substantial discounted registration fees for Annual OTAO Conference
- ◆ Networking, SIS and Regional Reps
- ◆ Ability to make a difference in our great profession ... get involved and join OTAO
- ◆ Membership renewal is annual from the date you join