



STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

P.O. Box 34779 Reno, Nevada 89533-4779 / Phone: 775-746-4101 / Toll Free: 800-431-2659
Fax: 775-746-4105 / Website: www.nvot.org

Fall / Winter 2010

Inside this issue:

Your Board at Work!

Continuing Competency as Board Members

National Certified Investigator Training and CLEAR Conference

Board members **Elizabeth Straughan** and **David Tanabe** and Executive Director, **Loretta Ponton**, completed an intensive three (3) day National Certified Investigator Training program provided by the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR). The 2010 Annual CLEAR Educational Conference, immediately followed the training.



NBCOT 16th Annual State Regulatory Conference

Board members, **Ronald Tulak**, **Eric Gerkin**, **Allison Stephen** and Executive Director, **Loretta Ponton** participated in the annual NBCOT state regulatory conference. Prior to the conference, Loretta represented the Board during an innovative Focus Group session on Continuing Competency.

Boards and Commissions Training

Eric Gerkin attended the Boards and Commissions training in Carson City provided by the Nevada Attorney General's office.

Complaints and Disciplinary Actions

The Board experienced an increase in Complaints filed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. During Fiscal Year 2010, the Board office received and processed eight (8) Complaints. Six (6) complaints were investigated and were dismissed through Board action and two (2) complaints are in pending status.

Fiscal Year Comparison

FY 2010: 8 FY 2009: 4

Challenges in School Based Practice	2
What You Should Know if You Work in a Skilled Nursing Facility	2
Important Contacts	2
Continuing Education Seminars	3
Common Types of Disciplinary Actions	3
Board Contact Mission Statement	3
Informational Resources	4

Board Members

Elizabeth Straughan, OTR/L
David Tanabe, OTR/L
Eric Gerken, OTR/L
Allison Stephens, Public
Ronald Tulak, COTA/L

Staff

Loretta L. Ponton,
Executive Director
Henna Rasul, DAG

Licensure Statistics

September 30, 2010

Licenses	OTR	COTA	Total
Active Licenses	524	139	663
Inactive Licenses	18	2	20
Temporary Licenses	5	2	7
Provisional Licenses	9	6	15
Total Licensees	556	149	705



Challenges in School Based Practice

The Public School systems are facing budget shortfalls and challenging economic conditions which can lead to lower staffing levels and larger case loads. When faced with providing adequate OT services; administrators may be considering alternatives measures to providing OT activities. Guidelines to the OT practitioner in school based practice have been developed and published as an informational brochure on our website.

- Can a COTA attend an IEP without an OTR present and can she sign the IEP?
- Can a COTA do the present level of performance as long as it is not an initial evaluation or the 3 year re-evaluation?
- And many more questions! Read the guidelines under the Publications tab at www.nvot.org.



“Skills for the Job of Living”

Practice Information

What You Need to Know if You Work in a Skilled Nursing Facility

The Final Rule governing the 2010 Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) payment rate introduces a number of updates and policy changes to the SNF environment. Some of the changes are complex and will require therapist education. The SNF policy changes may represent new responsibilities for occupational therapy practitioners.

The 2009 final SNF rule did not make changes to group therapy policy, it did make changes to concurrent therapy.

Medicare Part A allows for *concurrent therapy* or *dovetailing* where the therapist treats more than one patient during a specific time period. CMS has stated that the decision as to whether concurrent therapy is appropriate should be made at the treating therapist's discretion and should not be based on company policy or productivity concerns.

Effective October 1, 2010—Concurrent Therapy

- **Limits the number of patients** treated concurrently to **two** patients, but CMS did not place any cap on the percentage of time a patient can spend in concurrent therapy.
- Requires the minutes of treatment to be allocated on the basis of individual therapist time with an individual patient.
- Requires therapists to code on the MDS the minutes of each mode of therapy (i.e., individual, concurrent, group) provided to patients.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy	NBCOT:	301-990-7979	www.nbcot.org
American Occupational Therapy Association	AOTA:	301-652-2862	www.aota.org
Nevada Occupational Therapy Association	NOTA:	not available	www.nvota.org



BOARD SPONSORED CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

December 4, 2010—Airport Plaza Resort—Reno, Nevada

Session I: NBCOT

The Profession's Essential Credential Organization

Presented by: Paul Grace, MS, CAE—President/CEO

Don't Miss this Exciting Opportunity!

No Registration Fee!

Session II: It's Good to Grow

How a Professional Development Plan Can Benefit You and Your Clients!

Presented by: Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

San Jose State University, Department of Occupational Therapy

The Disciplinary Process—Common Types of Disciplinary Actions

When considering what kind of disciplinary action it should take, the Board always asks itself, ***“What is needed to make this person safe to practice?”*** The Board must make decisions based upon the best interests and safety of the public.

Depending on the nature of the violation, disciplinary actions can range from reprimanding an individual and ordering the person to attend a remedial class to revoking the person's license. All disciplinary actions are reported to the national disciplinary data banks. NRS 640A.130, delineates the range of disciplinary actions available to the Board. The most common types of disciplinary actions are:

Denial of Application or Application for Renewal of License—A determination that the individual violated the Occupational Therapy Practice Act. In most cases, the denial is due to criminal convictions and/or submitting a fraudulent application.

Reprimand—The Board may reprimand either orally or in writing an OT or OTA that has been determined to have violated the Occupational Therapy Practice Act or Regulations. This action does not prohibit or restrict the individual's practice.

Probation—If the Board puts an individual on probation, the OT or OTA may work, but will be working on a restricted license and will be monitored by the Board for a specific time period. The probation may also include practice and/or setting restrictions and requirements like classes or random drug tests.

Suspension—If the Board suspends a license the OT or OTA is prohibited from practicing for a designated time period.

Voluntary Surrender—The practitioner has agreed to voluntarily surrender his or her license and cannot practice in Nevada. If the person applies for reinstatement, the Board weighs evidence of rehabilitation and remediation when considering the application.

Revocation of License—If the Board revokes a license, the individual cannot practice in Nevada for a minimum of one to a maximum of 10 years. After that time, the practitioner may apply for reinstatement if all the requirements in the order of revocation have been met. The Board weighs evidence of rehabilitation and remediation when considering the application for reinstatement.



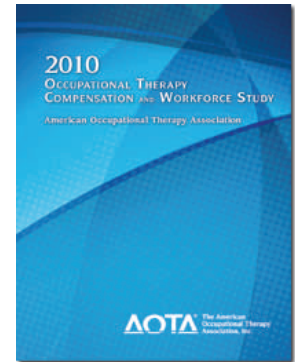
P. O. Box 34779
Reno, Nevada 89533-4779

Phone: 775-746-4101
Toll Free: 1-800-431-2659
Fax: 775-746-4105
E-mail: board@nvot.org

Mission Statement

“To protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring that only competent occupational therapy practitioners are licensed in the state and that those licensed practitioners maintain the highest standards of professional conduct. This includes ensuring the competency of occupational therapy practitioners by requiring continuing education and to provide the public with a means by which they can pursue administrative legal recourse.”

AOTA 2010 Occupational Therapy Compensation and Workforce Report



The AOTA 2010 *Occupational Therapy Compensation and Workforce Report*, compiled from over 10,000 practitioners, includes trends and comparative data covering salaries and benefits as well as overall trends in the occupational therapy workforce.

[AOTA 2010 Occupational Therapy Compensation and Workforce Study](#)

CTRL Click to Access Report—Go to Practitioners Tab

State of Nevada
Board of Occupational Therapy
P.O. Box 34779
Reno, NV 89533-4779

“Skills for the Job of Living”