



OT Outlook

Board Welcomes New Executive Director and Staff

On October 20, 2003, Jeffrey M. Rosa started as the Board's new executive director. A native of Long Island, NY, Jeff comes to the Board with extensive experience in state government in Ohio.

After receiving his B.A. from Yale University and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan, Jeff spent over six years as a Senior Budget Analyst for the Ohio General Assembly. In addition to his work for the legislature, Jeff spent just over one year as the Legislative/Regulatory Specialist for the Ohio Board of Nursing. The

Board is glad to have Jeff as the new executive director.

In addition to a new director, the Board hired two new investigators and a new administrative assistant.

Joseph Kirk, the new administrative assistant, graduated from Ohio University with his B.A. in Political Science. Joe comes to the Board from the Ohio Board of Nursing, where he served as a licensure clerk.

Jason Schutte, one of the new investigators, served in the same role for the Counselor, Social Worker,

and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. Jason graduated from Ohio State University with his B.A. degree in Criminology and is currently working towards his M.B.A.

The other new investigator, Gina Longstreth, served as the administrative assistant with the Board prior to starting her new position. Gina graduated from Ohio State University with a B.A. degree in Business/Marketing and is currently working towards her M.B.A.

Please welcome these individuals to the Board staff.

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board

Spring 2005

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Frequently Asked Questions
- ☺ Pitfalls of the Renewal Process
- ☺ Recent Rule Revisions
- ☺ Role of the Licensure Board and the Professional Associations
- ☺ 2005 Meeting Dates

Paul Hoffer Joins OT Section

On October 22, 2004, Governor Bob Taft appointed Paul Hoffer, from Cincinnati, to the Occupational Therapy Section for a term ending on August 27, 2006.

Paul replaced Sally Oberbeck, from Dayton, who resigned her seat in order to enjoy her retirement. The Section thanks Sally

for all of her years of service and dedication to the Board and the practice of occupational therapy.

Paul is currently the director of occupational therapy at Summit Behavioral Healthcare.

Paul received his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from Ohio State

University.

Please join the Section in welcoming Paul.

In addition to Paul, Lois Borin, from Powell, and Hector Merced, from Cleveland, were reappointed to the Section. Their terms expire August 27, 2007.

Board Members

Lois Borin, OT
Powell
Section Secretary

Marty Cameron, OT
Columbus
Section Chair

Paul Hoffer, OT
Cincinnati

Rebecca LeBron, OT
Niles

Hector Merced, OT
Cleveland

Message From the Executive Director, Jeffrey Rosa

Things have been quite busy since I started as the Board's Executive Director in October 2003. In addition to learning about the professions of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training, I have examined the current operations of the Board in an attempt to improve customer service to the licensees. However, it is important to note that the Board's primary role is not to serve the licensees. The Board is statutorily required to protect the consumers of occupational therapy services through the effective regulation of the practice of occupational therapy. By comparison, the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association exists to advocate for the profession. That is the main difference between the licensure board and the professional association.

In response to tighter fiscal situations facing all state agencies, the Board is emphasizing greater use of the website. In the past year, the Board's website design received a major overhaul, in addition to receiving a new web address:

www.otptat.ohio.gov. With the new design of the website, any information pertaining to occupational therapy, including the laws and rules and licensure applications, is available at the click of a mouse. Remember, it is your professional responsibility to stay informed on changes to your profession! In addition, to better meet the Board mission of protecting the public, all disciplinary actions are posted on the website on a monthly basis and after each renewal, expired license listings will be posted.

Please contact us at board@otptat.state.oh.us if you have suggestions for improving our website.

Continuing Education

Rule 4755-9-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code requires all licensed occupational therapists and occu-

pational therapy assistants to complete at least 20 hours of continuing education during each two-year renewal period. For example, individuals whose licenses expire in June 2005, all continuing education hours must be taken between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2005. Please note that the Section now requires all licensees to complete at least one contact hour of ethics continuing education each renewal cycle. The "Continuing Education" link on the Board's website specifies the amount of continuing education required based on your previous and current expiration dates.

Please note that the reporting period and specific requirements of the Section may differ from the continuing education requirements needed to maintain your certification. Therefore, it is important to understand the requirements contained in rule 4755-9-01 to ensure that your continuing education is in the appropriate categories.

Agency Administrative Changes

To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of Board services and activities, I recently enacted various administrative changes. Some of the changes included:

Board staff now processes most licensure applications. As a result of this change, once an individual's application is complete, assuming there are no problems, staff review the application and usually issue a license within one week. Under the old system, applicants were required to wait until an upcoming Section meeting to receive a license.

Board staff now processes applications for continuing education approval. This change, and the change to licensure application review, allowed the Section to streamline meetings. Therefore, the members of the Section can focus on policy instead of process at their meetings.

Implementation of new licensing system. With the new system, an individual's licensure status is immediately updated on the public license verification page. The new licensing system will also allow for the potential introduction of on-line renewal. The earliest the Board would implement on-line renewal is in 2006.

Establishment of an email listserv to enable the Board to quickly communicate with the public in a cost-efficient manner.

OT Section Initiatives

I am also pleased to report that the Section is taking a proactive approach to informing entities of the specific details of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act. For example, the Section recently drafted a statement explaining the role of occupational therapy practitioners in treating feeding/swallowing issues. This statement will be placed on the Board website in the near future. The members of the Section are also assisting OOTA as the association meets with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) regarding supervision issues.

Help Us Keep in Touch

As mentioned above, Board is currently in the process of building an email listserv to improve our ability to quickly and cost-efficiently communicate with licensees and the general public in a timely manner. To this end, we are requesting that you send an email to the Board's email address, board@otptat.state.oh.us, so we can add your email address to our distribution list. **This information will not be shared, sold, or otherwise given to any entity, unless required by law.** Indicate in your message your license number and that you would like to be added to the mailing list.



Disciplinary Actions

To obtain additional information regarding the actions listed, you may submit a public records request to the Enforcement Division via mail, email, or fax. Please include the individual's name and license number, and your name and address or fax number.

Pursuant to section 149.43 of the Revised Code, individuals who wish to have the documents forwarded to them via mail will be charged a fee not to exceed the actual cost of record duplication and postage. There is no charge for records returned via fax.

All enforcement actions are now posted monthly on the Board website.

The Enforcement Division conducts investigations of complaints filed against occupational therapy practitioners. The Board requires that all complaints be submitted in writing. You may access a complaint form on the Board website.

Upon receiving a written complaint, the Enforcement staff sends notification that the complaint has been received. After an investigation has been conducted, the Occupational Therapy Investigative Committee reviews the information to determine if a violation of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act occurred. If the individual is found to be in violation, the Committee will determine whether or not disciplinary action is warranted.

Please be advised that no specific information can be released regarding the outcome of the investigation, unless disciplinary action is taken.

The following is a list of individuals who were disciplined by the Occupational Therapy Section for the period of August 1, 2002 through January 31, 2005.

Received disciplinary action for continuing to work on an expired license:

Allison Allgier, OT
La-Vyla Kay Barker, OT
Angela Boyd, OT
Connie Carrasco, OT
Lynne Chapman, OT
Kevin Gerndt, OT
Billie Jo Gilbert, OT
Marcia Healy, OT
Melanie Higgins, OT
Stephanie Hill, OT
Shannon Holman, OT
Zhanna Ioffe, OT
Katherine Kraft, OT
Tiffany Lasko (now Lester), OT
Diane Loughren, OT
Pamela Millar, OT
Susan Morit, OT
Carrie Minich, OT
Linda New, OT
Karyn Pack, OT
Jennifer Parks, OT
Seth Pierson, OT
Anna Rzepecki, OT
Nicole Scheiman, OT
Wendy Schmidt, OT
Robertta Smith, OT
Carrie Taylor, OT
Stephanie Teodosio OT
Lynne Umbarger, OT
Tracy Anthony, OTA
Joyce Birden, OTA
Brent Cadwallader, OTA
Traci Dick, OTA
Kimberly Gray, OTA
Joseph Kovach, OTA
Kimberly LaRou, OTA
Mary Jo McClure, OTA
Andrea Schneider, OTA

Received disciplinary action for supervising an unlicensed person who was functioning in the capacity of an occupational therapy assistant:

Carrie Brisker, OT
Gretchen Forshey, OT
Heather Garrow, OT
Sarah Janelle Harris, OT
Michael Mazak, OT
Julie McGillivray, OT

Received disciplinary action for engaging in the practice of occupational therapy prior to being issued a license:

Shannon Leeth, OTA
Kori McQuillin, OTA
Carrie Ryan, OT
Gean Kay Smith, OTA

Received disciplinary action for obtaining a license by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of material facts and continuing to work on an expired license:

Joseph Ivey, OTA

Received disciplinary action for obtaining a license by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of material facts:

Brenda Mitchell, OTA

Received disciplinary action for initiating treatment prior to an evaluation being performed by an occupational therapist:

Connie Federspiel, OTA

Received disciplinary action for failure to meet continuing education requirements:

Kristina Figgins, OTA

Received disciplinary action for having been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude:

Debra McRill, OT

Received disciplinary action for practicing while impaired by alcohol :

Marcy Luther, OT

Frequently Asked Questions

The Occupational Therapy Section receives numerous letters requesting interpretations of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act. These letters typically reflect current issues and problems experienced by licensees in the delivery of services.

The following is a list of frequently asked questions and general responses given by the Section. This is by no means a complete list. If you have any questions related to occupational therapy practice, please do not hesitate to contact the Section in writing.

How do I meet the new continuing education ethics requirement?

1. **You may attend a workshop, seminar, or conference session lasting at least one hour that addresses either general ethics or ethics in healthcare.**
2. **You may take the Ohio Laws and Rules Examination, which is available on the Board website.**
3. **You may attend a presentation by the Section (e.g.: Licensure Board Update at the OOTA Annual Meeting).**
4. **You may complete a distance learning, self study, or informal independent study ethics course.**

How do I document that collaboration has taken place?

Co-signing alone is not evidence that collaboration between the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant has taken place. All collaboration should be documented somewhere in either the client's medical record or on a supervision log. A template of a supervision log is available on the Board website.

Simply using a check box or a blanket statement and co-signing that statement does not amount

to collaboration. The purpose of requiring documentation of collaboration is so there is proof that both parties met to discuss each client's treatment and progress. There should be written evidence that a meeting to discuss each client, either formal or informal, took place. That evidence can be noted in the client's medical record or on a supervision log with a simple statement detailing the discussion between the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant.

Collaboration should take place at varying points during the treatment. If the occupational therapy assistant is in their first year of practice, supervision must occur at least once per week. If the occupational therapy assistant is beyond their first year of practice, supervision must occur at least once a month. Supervision does not need to take place face to face, but the supervising occupational therapist must always be available for consultation. Either practitioner can keep the supervision log.

Can I use a massage therapist in the provision of occupational therapy services and bill under occupational therapy for the client's massage?

A facility or clinic may acquire the services of any professional. The problem often becomes how to be reimbursed for those services. A facility or clinic may not utilize massage therapy services and convey the impression the services fall under occupational therapy. Only individuals who hold a current occupational therapy license may bill under occupational therapy codes. Under no circumstances may an occupational therapist integrate a massage therapist's services into treatment and bill for those services under occupational therapy billing codes.

As stated in rule 4755-7-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code, licensed occupational therapy practitioners may delegate non-treatment tasks to unlicensed personnel. Some examples of allowable delegation include department maintenance, transport of patients, work area preparation, assisting with patients personal needs during treatment, assisting in the construction of adaptive equipment and splints, and other clerical or administrative functions.

The following all violate the Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act:

- 1) **Delegating evaluative procedures;**
- 2) **Delegating treatment procedures;**
- 3) **Documenting in the client's official record;**
- 4) **Acting on behalf of the occupational therapist in any matter related to occupational therapy that requires decision making.**

Professionals holding a license other than an occupational therapy license are considered unlicensed personnel in the provision of occupational therapy services and those tasks may not be delegated to licensed nurses, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, speech language pathologists, etc. This would also include the services of a licensed massage therapist.

Pitfalls of the OT/OTA Renewal Process

With every renewal cycle there are occupational therapy practitioners who do not receive their license because procedures are not followed or they fail to abide by rule 4755-3-08 of the Administrative Code, which requires any address changes to be submitted to the Board within thirty days of the change.

The following is a list of some of the pitfalls that every licensee can easily avoid so the renewal process can be completed on time and without error.

- Failure to notify the Board within 30 days of an address change may cause a licensee's renewal application to be returned to the Board and could ultimately cause the expiration of the license.
- Each year there are numerous licensees who fail to correctly complete the renewal application. Regardless of the number of times a licensee has renewed their license, all of the directions should be followed because the Board does make changes to the renewal application each year.
- The continuing education re-

porting form, which is required for license renewal, must be completed. The form can be considered incomplete for the following reasons: 1) There is not a date listed for the course that was taken; or 2) The continuing education credits were obtained prior to the appropriate date, which corresponds with the expiration date of your license.

- The deadline for renewals is June 30, 2005. Any renewal postmarked on or after July 1, 2005 will not be processed and the license will expire.
- Many times licensees indicate that they mailed their renewal materials to the Board, but there is no record of the renewal application. To avoid this problem, use the envelope enclosed with the renewal materials to return your renewal and reporting form. Keep a receipt of your cashier's check, money order, or business check and make a copy of all the renewal materials mailed to the Board.
- Please be aware that if you mail your renewal materials in the last two weeks of June, you may

not have your updated pocket ID card for the July 1, 2005 deadline. Processing takes approximately two weeks, but toward the end of the renewal cycle, the Board is busy processing all of the last minute renewals.

By following these simple suggestions, the renewal process can be a smooth one. Please e-mail any questions to the Board at board@otptat.state.oh.us.

The Board has done several things to make the renewal process run more smoothly for the licensees. You can now verify your own information on-line at the Board website. The verification site contains the most up to date information and is updated instantly when a licensee has been renewed.

Please be aware that in order to avoid a potential lapse in practice, you should have all of your completed renewal materials mailed to the Board office no later than May 31, 2005. Pursuant to rule 4755-3-10(B)(3), any renewal postmarked between June 1 and June 30, 2005 may be subject to an administrative processing fee.

Professional Responsibility

When making professional practice decisions regarding the provision of occupational therapy services, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants must accept responsibility for their judg-

ments.

As a licensed professional, all practice decisions rest solely with the occupational therapist and should not be dictated by corporate administrative policy.

The Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act, which is available on the Board website, outlines all of the regulations governing occupational therapy practice.

Census Count

As of March 16, 2005 there are:

3,792 occupational therapists;

258 occupational therapists in escrow;

2,159 occupational therapy assistants;

192 occupational therapy assistants in escrow;

6,224 physical therapists;

4,205 physical therapist assistants; and

1,682 athletic trainers with active Ohio licenses.

Recent Rule Revisions

The Occupational Therapy Section amended the following rules that went into effect on May 1 and July 1, 2004.

4755-3-01 and 4755-5-02: Limited Permit Requirements

The Section made various changes to the limit permit requirements and application. Prior to the change, limited permits were valid for a three-month period or until the exam results were received by the Section. Based on feedback received from OT program directors, the Section changed the expiration date from three months to four months. Limited permits still expire once the Section receives the exam results if that happens prior to the end of the four-month period.

In addition to the expiration date, the Section increased the fee for a limited permit from \$50 to \$100. In addition to making this change, the amended rule states that if a limited permit holder passes the exam on the first attempt, the Section will automatically issue a full license without requiring any additional fee or application. If an applicant fails the exam, however, they still must submit a new application for licensure prior to receiving a license to practice in Ohio. The Section believes that this change should reduce the number of new licensees that inadvertently work prior to receiving a license to practice.

4755-9-01 and 4755-9-02: Continuing Education

The Section made various changes to continuing education (CE) requirements. Several categories for continuing education credit were added and ethics became a mandatory requirement.

2005 Rules Changes

The Occupational Therapy Section proposed changes to the following rules. The changes will go into effect on May 1, 2005.

Prior to the proposed change, rule 4755-3-01 established application procedures for initial licenses, limited permits, and license reinstatements. The Section felt that the current structure of the rule was difficult for licensees and applicants to follow. For this reason, the procedures for the three application types were split into three separate rules (4755-3-01, 4755-3-11, and 4755-3-12). For the most part, the substance of each rule did not change from the previous language in rule 4755-3-01.

Applications for Initial Licensure

The main change to the initial licensure application entailed separating initial licensure by examination versus initial licensure by endorsement. To apply for an initial license by examination, an applicant must graduate from an ACOTE accredited program, pass the NBCOT examination, and never been licensed to practice in any U.S. state or territory. The requirements for an initial license by examination, other than the non-Ohio license provision, remains the same as the previous rule.

To apply for an initial license by endorsement, an applicant must graduate from an ACOTE accredited program, pass the NBCOT examination, and hold a current, valid license to practice as an OT or OTA in another state or U.S. territory. If the applicant no longer holds a current license to practice in another state, they may apply if they possess current, valid certification from NBCOT. As a result of this change, an individual who is currently or was previously licensed in another state may only apply for a license via endorsement.

The Section felt that the proposed changes ensured that all individuals licensed meet minimum competencies to practice in Ohio. The fee for initial licensure remains at \$100 for both exam and endorsement appli-

cations.

Applications for Limited Permit

As noted above, the provisions for the limited permit application were moved from rule 4755-3-01 to rule 4755-3-11. The substance of the rule, however, remains the same.

Applications for Reinstatement

In addition to moving the reinstatement provisions from rule 4755-3-01 to rule 4755-3-12, the main change to the reinstatement application procedures deals with the number of hours of CE required to reinstate a license. Under the previous rule, all reinstatement applicants were required to complete twenty contact hours of continuing education. Under the changes, the number of hours of CE required to reinstatement will be determined based on the reinstatement application date.

For individuals submitting a reinstatement application before August 1 of the year their license expires, the applicant must complete the number of contact hours that were required to renew the expired license. For example, an out-of-cycle licensee who needed 10 hours to renew would only need 10 hours to reinstate provided the application was submitted prior to August 1. The Section's rationale behind this change was to provide a one month "grace" period for individuals before they would need the full twenty hours to reinstate.

For individuals submitting a reinstatement application on or after August 1 of the year their license expires, the applicant must complete 20 contact hours of CE. In both scenarios, contact hours used to reinstate the license may not be used to renew the reinstated license.

Recent Rule Revisions (Continued)

The additional requirements the Section may require for applicants out of practice more than five years, as well as the \$150 reinstatement fee, remain the same.

License Escrow Procedures

In addition to clarifying the application process to restore an escrowed license, other changes to rule 4755-3-05 alter the continuing education required to restore the license. Under the previous rule, an applicant was required to complete a minimum of fourteen contact hours of CE within six months prior to returning to active practice plus an additional six hours prior to the expiration of the restored license.

Under the change, restoration applicants must complete at least twenty contact hours of CE within the two-year period immediately preceding

the restoration application. At least one of the twenty hours must be in ethics education. The changes to the rule also specify that the hours used to restore the license may not be used by the licensee to renew the license.

A final change to the license escrow application is the change in fee to restore a license. Previously, the fee specified in rule 4755-5-03 was “the biennial renewal fee prorated for the balance of the current licensure period, but not less than one eighth of the regular charge for active license renewal.” As one might imagine, it sometimes takes a math major to determine the specific fee needed to restore a license. For this reason, the Section changed the restoration fee to a flat \$80 (rule 4755-5-09). The fee to place a license into escrow and to renew an escrowed license remains \$20.

4755-7-06: Exploitation of Persons Served

The change to this rule clarifies that occupational therapy assistants may not exploit persons served professionally. The language of the previous rule only included occupational therapists.

4755-9-01: Continuing Education

The changes to the continuing education rule include the following:

Clarifying that any person who obtains an initial license by examination within twelve months of graduation from an entry level OT/OTA program is not required to obtain CE units for the first renewal.

Explaining how a licensee may meet the one hour ethics requirement was also added for clarification purposes.

Address Change Reminder

Pursuant to rule 4755-3-08 of the Administrative Code, all occupational therapy practitioners licensed in Ohio are required to submit any change in address, employment, or name to the Board in writing. This must be done **within 30 days** of the change.

You can fax your changes to the Board at (614) 995-0816, e-mail them to board@otptat.state.oh.us,

or send them via mail to the Occupational Therapy Section, 77 South High Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108.

Please be certain to include your name, license or social security number, new address or employment information, and phone number. If you are submitting a name change, please be sure to include a notarized copy of the name change

form from the Board website and a copy of the supporting name change documentation.

New pocket identification can be purchased for \$10.00/card and new wall certificates can be purchased for \$20.00/certificate. Please make your cashier's check, money order, or business check payable to "Treasurer, State of Ohio".

Inspections

To ensure consumer protection, the Enforcement Division conducts random, unannounced inspections of occupational therapy facilities and personnel. These visits are a proactive approach to affirm compliance with the Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

Visits include, but are not limited to: verifying the credentials of occupational therapy personnel, reviewing patient documentation of occupational therapy services, verifying proper supervision of licensed personnel and unlicensed support personnel, and checking the display of wall licenses.

Inspection information is reviewed by the Occupational Therapy Investigative Committee each month and a follow-up letter is sent to the licensee or facility. The Committee clarifies any misinterpretations of the law and makes recommendations for changes that are necessary for compliance with the Ohio Occu-

Board Office Staff

The Board employs nine people to assist licensees and applicants. The current staff consists of:

Jeffrey Rosa
Executive Director

Lisa Foor
Enforcement Division Supervisor

Stephanie Youst
Executive Secretary

Gina Longstreth
Investigator

Jason Schutte
Investigator

Joseph Kirk
Administrative Assistant

Mary Jane Langlois
Certification Licensing Examiner

Diane Moore
Certification Licensing Examiner

Thanh "Mai" N. Vo
Certification Licensing Examiner

Please visit the Board website for information on each employee's area of responsibility.

You can email the office anytime and expect to receive a response within two business days.

2005 Meeting Dates

All Board meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact the Board at board@otptat.state.oh.us or (614) 466-3774 to verify the time and place of any meeting you wish to attend.

The following is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

May 5, 2005

June 14, 2005

August 9, 2005

September 22, 2005

November 15, 2005

The meetings are typically held at the Vern Riffe Center for the Government and the Arts, 77 South High Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, Ohio.

Correspondence Regarding Occupational Therapy

Professional concerns regarding the practice of occupational therapy in Ohio should be forwarded, in writing, to the Section via e-mail, fax, or mail.

Please be sure to read the Occupa-

tional Therapy Practice Act, meeting minutes, and previous newsletters before writing any correspondence to the Section because your questions may already be answered within one of those documents.

The practice act, newsletters, min-

utes, and other important information are available on the Board website at www.otptat.ohio.gov.

All correspondence is answered by the Section at their Board meetings. Please see the above meeting schedule for the next meeting date.

License Verification

The fee to verify your license to another state is \$30.00 per request. Please send a cashier's check, money order, or business check made payable to "Treasurer, State of Ohio" in the appropriate amount.

Please include your name, Ohio li-

cence number or social security number, and the address of the entity where you would like the Board to mail the verification.

Processing takes approximately five business days and the verification will be mailed directly to the ad-

dress specified on the request. All requests are sent via the US Postal Service.

Please email the Board if you have any questions regarding the license verification process.

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board

Occupational Therapy Section
77 South High Street
16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Phone: 614-466-3774

Fax: 614-995-0816

E-mail: board@otptat.state.oh.us

Web Address: www.otptat.oh.gov

The mission of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board is to actively promote and protect the health of the citizens of Ohio through effective regulation of the professions of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training. Goals to achieve this mission include:

- Ensuring that the individuals practicing occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training meet sufficient standards of education, training, competence, and ethics, as defined in the laws and rules governing the profession.
- Investigate and discipline licensees whose practice falls below the minimal standards of care.
- Define and advocate for standards of safe OT, PT, AT practice, and ensure that the laws and rules governing the practice accurately reflect current standards.
- Provide information about the licensees of the OT, PT, AT Board, the Board's functions and operations, and the laws governing the practice of OT, PT, and AT.
- Achieve and maintain the highest possible levels of organizational efficiency.

The Licensing Board and Professional Associations

The OT Section often receives correspondence addressed to the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association (OOTA) and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). The OOTA and NBCOT are professional organizations and membership is *voluntary*.

The Occupational Therapy Section regulates and licenses all occupational therapy practitioners in Ohio.

Licensure in Ohio is mandatory if you wish to practice as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, but registration and certification are voluntary.

Ohio does not require you to maintain NCBOT certification to renew your license or to provide occupational therapy services in the state.

If you know someone who would like to obtain an Ohio occupational therapy license, please direct them to visit the Board website to download an application.
