

PHYSICAL THERAPY INFORMATION ACCESS

SUMMER 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BARB KRAYNIK

During my brief tenure as chair of the Physical Therapy Section, the Board has experienced many challenges. The biggest challenge was the proposed consolidation of the regulatory boards under the Ohio Department of Commerce. Thankfully, the legislature ultimately recognized the benefits of the current structure of regulation in Ohio and deleted the consolidation language.

The other major challenge facing the Board is certain provisions contained in House Bill 403. Although the bill contains many changes requested by the Board, there are three main areas of concern. If an agreement on these issues could be reached, the Board would feel more comfortable with the overall changes in the bill and would be more likely to support the bill.

I would like to briefly explain the Board's three main concerns.

1) Removal of the language in section 4755.40 that states that academic instruction is part of the practice of physical therapy. The Board believes that individuals providing academic instruction in clinical subjects need to be licensed in Ohio. The "As Introduced" version of the bill contained language regarding academic instruction that was agreeable to the Board.

The Board previously disciplined a faculty member at a physical therapist assistant program in Ohio for committing sexual boundary violations with

seven female students. Under the change contained in the bill, this individual would not be required to hold a license to practice. If he committed the same actions without being licensed in Ohio, the Board would have no ability to discipline him and potentially prevent him from quietly moving to another state to continue his pattern of abuse.

Additionally, the 2002 Model Physical Therapy Practice Act, developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, defines the practice of physical therapy as: "Engaging in administration, consultation, education, and research."

2) Changes made to the credential evaluation process in sections 4755.411 (K) and 4755.45 (B) of the bill. The Coursework Evaluation Tool (CWT) currently used by the Board is a reliable and validated tool to measure the foreign physical therapy education for licensure applicants. The tool is currently used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (US CIS) as one of the ways to determine if an individual is eligible for a visa to enter the country and practice physical therapy in the United States. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy developed and copywrote the CWT, but will allow any organization to use the tool, provided that the organization pays a \$1 licensing fee and completes training on use of the tool.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

- *Donna Baker, Secretary*
- *Raymond Bilecky*
- *Thomas Caldwell*
- *Robert Frampton*
- *Beth Gustafson*
- *Mike Herbert*
- *Janet Howells*
- *Barb Kraynik, Chair*
- *Averell Overby*

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (CONTINUED)

To date, five organizations have received training on the tool: FCCPT, IERF, ICD, ICA, and a professor at the University of Texas.

In a survey of other state physical therapy boards conducted in February 2006, it was determined that 20 states (including Ohio) currently accept evaluations only from FCCPT. Of the states that responded to the survey, 10 additional states that accept evaluations from multiple organizations require the use of the CWT. Six states responded that they do not require the use of the CWT and 14 states did not respond to the sur-

vey.

3) Removal of “do all things necessary and proper” in section 4755.02 (F) of the bill. The healthcare field is a rapidly changing environment. In order to ensure public protection, the regulatory board must be able to quickly respond to changes in practice. For example, the Board adopted rules dealing with electronic signatures and acceptance of fax referrals to reflect how technology changes impacted the practice. With the power to do all things necessary and proper, the Board can adopt rules to regulate a part of the practice

that does not currently exist, and, therefore, would not be contained in the list of items for which the Board may adopt rules. Retention of this language allows future Boards to respond to these changes in an expedient manner to ensure public protection.

It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of the State of Ohio as a member of the Board. I hope to relate many positive changes to the profession of physical therapy in future messages. Stay tuned.....

PROFESSIONAL TITLES AND DEGREE DESIGNATIONS

During its infancy as a licensed profession, the educational route taken was usually the BSPT. During this time, LPT and LPTA were the standard designation for an individual licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, with the “L” standing for Licensed. In fact, some PTs and PTAs who have been practicing for many years continue to put the letter “L” in front of their professional initials even though that has not been a requirement in some time.

As the profession evolved and educational programs offered a variety of degrees, the names of the physical therapy degree proliferated, reflective of each university’s unique outline. For example, University A offered the BSPT, University B graduates had a MSPT degree, while University C offered the MPT. On the other hand, the initials that allow you to

practice physical therapy in Ohio are unique – PT or PTA.

In the last five years, the Board has seen an increase in the number of people who put the letters designating their degree in physical therapy in place of the appropriate licensure title initials. Most of these people are recent graduates with MPTs or DPTs.

But a degree is only part of what allows the Board to grant a license; it doesn’t automatically give the holder the right to practice. The law gives a title to the licensed professional to signal that he or she met all of the requirements to practice, which include passage of the licensure examination. A person with an MPT may be a “master of physical therapy”, but that’s not the title designated in the law. By law, regardless of whether Jane Doe earned a BSPT in 1963 or a

DPT in 2005, she is Jane Doe, PT.

Since the loss of the “L”, PT (or PTA) has been the only legal abbreviation for physical therapist (or physical therapist assistant). These are the initials you should put when you are signing a treatment note, or on your badge or nameplate.

Still want to include your degree in your professional name? Those letters should be in addition to your legal title designation when you are writing or signing your name professionally. Although not required under Ohio law, it is recommended that the degree initials should follow the professional initials, similar to the location of specialty certification initials. You may put as many sets of initials after your name once you have earned them, just make sure to also include the initials that make you legal to practice.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEFFREY ROSA

In the 2+ years that I have served as the Executive Director for the Board, one of the most frequent requests made by licensees was the ability to renew their license on-line and pay for the renewal with a credit card. I am pleased to announce that physical therapists and physical therapist assistants scheduled to renew by January 1, 2007 will have the ability to renew their Ohio license over the Internet with their Visa or MasterCard.

Instead of the traditional paper renewal application, the Board will mail licensees a letter with the instructions on how to renew on-line. This letter will also include the online user ID and password, which are needed to log into the

system. In addition to renewing your license, licensees can use the ID and password to log in anytime to provide updated home and business addresses.

Thanks to the new system, a licensee can renew a license any time, day or night. In addition, the renewal can be completed accurately, without hassle, and the individual will receive an immediate online receipt and verification of renewal.

Individuals who are unable or do not want to renew online will be required to contact the Board via phone, fax, mail, or email to request a printed renewal application. In addition, credit cards cannot be used with a printed renewal. Individuals

choosing not to renew online must remit a cashier's check, business check, or money order in the exact amount. Personal checks will not be accepted.

The introduction of online renewals is just the first step as the Board changes many processes to take advantage of current technology. The Board hopes to introduce online initial licensure applications no later than mid-2007. Ultimately, the Board envisions a time when a cramped file room is replaced with electronically stored licensure records. I'm excited about the journey we are about to begin and hope that our customers share our enthusiasm as we truly enter the 21st Century.

2006 / 2007 MEETING DATES

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

The following schedule is tenta-

tive and subject to change.

2006 Meeting Dates:

August 1, 2006
September 21, 2006
November 16, 2006

2007 Meeting Dates:

January 11, 2007
March 1, 2007
May 3, 2007
June 21, 2007
August 9, 2007
September 20, 2007
November 15, 2007

LICENSEE CENSUS

As of June 26, 2006 there are:

6,471 physical therapists;

4,445 physical therapist assistants;

3,899 occupational therapists;

291 occupational therapists in escrow;

2,289 occupational therapy assistants;

194 occupational therapy assistants in escrow; and

1,629 athletic trainers with active Ohio licenses.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER?

Have you ever wondered what goes on during a Physical Therapy Section meeting? Do you ever think that you may be able to contribute to the profession of physical therapy by serving as a member of the Board?

The Governor is responsible for appointing all members of the Board. Currently, members are appointed for a three year term and there are approximately 7 Board

meetings each year. Board members are reimbursed for their time and travel expenses.

To be eligible to serve on the Section, each applicant must be licensed to practice physical therapy and have been engaged in or actively associated with the practice of physical therapy in Ohio for at least five years immediately preceding the appointment.

There are two Section members whose terms expire on August 27, 2007. If you are interested in submitting your name for consideration by the Governor, please contact the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions for an application and further instruction. (www.ohio.gov)

WHAT ROLE DOES THE LICENSING BOARD PLAY?

The Physical Therapy Section regulates and licenses all physical therapy practitioners in Ohio.

Licensure in Ohio is mandatory if you wish to practice physical therapy; however, membership in the Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA) or the American

Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is voluntary.

The Physical Therapy Section contracts with the OPTA to review and approve all continuing education courses that are issued Ohio approval numbers, which are mandatory for license

renewal.

If you know someone who would like to practice physical therapy in Ohio, please direct them to the Board website where they can review and download the appropriate application for licensure.

CONTACT US

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