

AGENDA ITEM 9

UPDATE ON FIELDWORK COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP.



FIELDWORK COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, August 9, 2021

- California Board of Occupational Therapy (Board) Member and Fieldwork Communications Workgroup Chairperson Lynna Do called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm. Board staff called the roll and a quorum was established.
- The July 26, 2021, Fieldwork Workgroup meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- The Workgroup reviewed the fieldwork survey responses and agreed that they wanted to convey the message that fieldwork supervision can be beneficial to both the student and the hospital/organization as they could be getting a soon-to-be entry level practitioner that can contribute to their workforce if given the hands-on experience.
- The Workgroup reviewed two letters drafted by the California Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Council (one to health care administrators and another to OTs and OTAs) to encourage support of supervising students completing their fieldwork experience.
- The Workgroup also recommended the Board increase the number of PDUs earned for supervising students completing Level II fieldwork and consider a larger increase in PDUs earned for supervising a Level II fieldwork student from a California school.



Date

Dear Medical Education Department, Clinical Coordinator, or Director of Rehabilitation:
{What additional titles could be included here?}

We would like to recognize and thank you for your hard work!

Securing occupational therapy student fieldwork placements can be challenging yet the effects of COVID-19 has been devastating to those trying to enter the profession. Your occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) are battling on the frontlines to provide essential services while trying to stay safe and balance the needs of their families. Unfortunately, the past year and half has caused 'burnout' among many practitioners and there are few new graduates to enter the profession to ease the burden.

We have a suggestion to help you and your OTs and OTAs who are all under undeniable stress:

Occupational therapy students completing their Level II Fieldwork!

Level II students, located throughout the state, are skilled and educated clinicians who can help alleviate the demand placed on your scheduling needs and your OTs and OTAs.

California's 15+ occupational therapy programs have an urgent need for more than **1,000+** students who need to complete their Level II rotations. The California Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Council (Council), comprised of Academic Fieldwork Coordinators from all of California's OT and OTA programs, is available to assist you whether your organization/facility educates students regularly or may plan to do so in the future. The Council's goal is to support you and your OTs/OTAs through the process.

The Council is flexible, creative, and willing to help you build a fieldwork program from the ground up. They have resources to support any setting, including skilled nursing, community-based, in-patient or out-patient rehabilitation, pediatrics, or any private practice, including those providing telehealth. The Council can share the latest evidence-based interventions, provide access to up-to-date regulations and accreditation standards. The Council can create a program that will not only support but invigorate and inspire your practice.

Please help California's occupational therapy students get back on track.

This can't be done without you and your support.

All occupational therapy students must complete either 8,10, or 12 weeks of full-time clinical education. That means actual provision of OT services on persons or populations.

The Council can help organize and streamline the fieldwork placement process. If you have not placed students before, you are NOT alone and the Council or an OT/OTA program near you can help.

Did you know that OTs can now open a case and be the other discipline in Home Health? The American Occupational Therapy Association fought hard and won the battle over this outdated and obsolete law.

To find a school please visit: https://bot.ca.gov/applicants/ot_schools.shtml or https://bot.ca.gov/applicants/ota_schools.shtml

To contact an Academic Fieldwork Coordinator to get started please visit www.caotfc.org

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Dear Occupational Therapy Practitioner,

The California Board of Occupational Therapy (Board) would like to recognize and thank you for your hard work! The effects of COVID-19 are widespread and devastating. Occupational therapy practitioners are battling on the frontlines while balancing family needs at home. The California OT Fieldwork Council (Council) would like to help you.

The Council is comprised of Academic Fieldwork Coordinators from all California OT schools. The Council is flexible, creative and willing to help you build a fieldwork program from the ground up. They have resources to support you in any setting; whether you work in skilled nursing, community-based, or provide telehealth the Council can create a program that will invigorate and inspire your practice.

The Council can share the latest evidence-based interventions, provide access to up-to-date regulations and accreditation standards. Did you know that OTs can now open a case and be the other discipline in Home Health? AOTA fought and won the battle over this outdated and obsolete law.

Were you aware that you can earn PDUs for Level I and Level II Fieldwork supervision? Recognized by the Board and NBCOT, you can earn 1 PDU per week for full-time fieldwork supervision.

The pandemic effectively paused the educational journey for ALL OT and OTA students. Many students from the Class of 2020 still have not completed their Level II clinical rotations. There are practitioners under undeniable stress but there are few new graduates to ease the burden. Occupational therapy education programs and their students are in urgent need of Level II Fieldwork placements!!

Please help get California's students back on track and ensure they can complete their education and join the profession. ***This cannot do this without you.***

To find a school please visit the Board's website at www.bot.ca.gov. You can also contact an Academic Fieldwork Coordinator to get started. The Council's website is caotfc.org

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important request.

Sincerely,

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