



# Therapy Matters

WINTER 2007

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## President's Message

**Luella Grangaard, MS, OTR, CHT**



This December, my two terms on the California Board of Occupational Therapy will come to an end. I would like to take the opportunity to review some of the highlights that have occurred since the first Board meeting was held August 15, 2001, in Sacramento. The initial Board members were Cindy Burt-OT, Christine Wietlisbach-OT, Roberta Murphy-OTA, Margaret Cunningham-public member, Collin "Hugh" Smith-public member, and Suzanne Sampson-public member. The Interim Executive Officer, Gretchen Kjose, was interviewed and offered the position at that first meeting. At that time, there was no office, no staff, and Gretchen's services were shared with another board. The Board was loaned money for operations, but there were no licensing fees or income. We had a lot to do before issuing our first license; every OT/OTA had to be licensed by January 1, 2003!

The Occupational Therapy Practice Act was in place by the initial meeting, but there were no regulations set at that time to guide application review, enforcement, or to further define practice. At the first meeting, the Board voted to approve the first regulations regarding definitions, applications, and license renewals. As we all know now, regulations don't happen overnight. Once approved by the Board, regulations have to be noticed and open for public testimony and then reviewed by a number of State departments; this process takes a minimum of six months and can take up to several years.

Since that first meeting, the Board has researched and developed all of the regulations that are currently in place. This includes noticing the language and taking testimony for numerous sections concerning applications, renewal, fees, citations and fines, ethical standards, advanced practice, continuing competency and supervision. The last three topics have had extensive review and feedback from licensees and the public. The Board

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## The Board is Moving!

The Board will be moving its office to a new location in January 2008!  
Our new address will be:

California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT)  
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please check our Web site for the latest information regarding the move!

Current Board Members (2007)



Standing: Nancy Michel, Luella Grangaard, Christine Wietlisbach. Seated: Bobbi Jean Tanberg, and Mary Evert. Not pictured: Patti Horsley.

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continues to try to meet the needs of public protection while at the same time not hindering the practitioners. Through the complaint process, new issues were brought forth that were never considered and the Board has responded by modifying or clarifying regulations to resolve these issues.

In the fall of 2002, the Board, with a very limited staff, licensed more than 7,000 OTs and OTAs. A large number of applicants were investigated during the licensing process as a result of obtaining a history of criminal activity. Since then, the Board continues to receive complaints from the public, other governmental agencies, and practitioners, which have resulted in probation or revocation of licenses.

In 2005, the Board underwent a Sunset Review to justify continued existence. This took place while Gladys Mitchell was serving as Interim Executive Officer. The report demonstrated a continued need for regulating occupational therapy practitioners and the Legislature approved continuing the Board's existence.

Founding Members (2001)



Back Row: Margaret Cunningham, Cynthia Burt, Christine Wietlisbach. Front Row: Roberta Murphy, Suzanne Sampson, Hugh Collin, and Luella Grangaard.

### **California Board of Occupational Therapy**

*Luella Grangaard, MS,  
OTR, CHT  
President*

*Mary Evert, MBA,  
OTR/L, FAOTA, Scd (Hon.)  
USA Delegate to WFOT  
Secretary*

*Patti Horsley, MPH  
Member*

*Nancy Michel  
Member*

*Bobbi Jean Tanberg, COTA/C,  
ATP  
Member*

*Christine Wietlisbach, MPA,  
OTR/L, CHT, CWS  
Member*

*Heather Martin  
Executive Officer*

Additional Board accomplishments include decreasing renewal fees from \$150 per year to \$150 every other year; taking positions with ACOTE regarding accreditation guidelines; and establishing a number of committees consisting of volunteers and Board members that facilitate the work of the Board between meetings to increase efficiency.

There is so much for all the Board members and staff to be proud of. Much has been completed since that first meeting only six short years ago. I think what the Board has accomplished is tremendous. We truly have met the mission of the Board to protect the well-being of the public by regulating the practice of occupational therapy. There have been times where this has not been easy for the practitioner Board members, who have had to change their viewpoints and protect the consumer instead of the profession.

### *Luella Grangaard*

Founding Board Member and President

August, 2001—December, 2007

### **License Verification Available Online!**

You can verify licensure status online via the Board's Web site at [www.bot.ca.gov](http://www.bot.ca.gov). The online license verification system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Records are updated daily (M-F).



## Biennial Renewal Implementation Schedule

2008  
Even Birth Year

\$150 Renewal Fee / Two-Year License

2008  
Odd Birth Year

\$75 Renewal Fee / One-Year License

Expiration Date	Next Renewal Date
1/31/2008	1/31/2010
2/28/2008	2/29/2010
3/31/2008	3/31/2010
4/30/2008	4/30/2010
5/31/2008	5/31/2010
6/30/2008	6/30/2010
7/31/2008	7/31/2010
8/31/2008	8/31/2010
9/30/2008	9/30/2010
10/31/2008	10/31/2010
11/30/2008	11/30/2010
12/31/2008	12/31/2010

Expiration Date	Next Renewal Date
1/31/2008	1/31/2009
2/28/2008	2/28/2009
3/31/2008	3/31/2009
4/30/2008	4/30/2009
5/31/2008	5/31/2009
6/30/2008	6/30/2009
7/31/2008	7/31/2009
8/31/2008	8/31/2009
9/30/2008	9/30/2009
10/31/2008	10/31/2009
11/30/2008	11/30/2009
12/31/2008	12/31/2009

### Frequently Asked Questions - Professional Development Units

#### What are Professional Development Units?

Professional Development Units, or PDUs, are units of measure for each professional development activity; unless otherwise stated, each contact hour represents one PDU.

#### Do I need PDUs for my first license renewal?

No. Pursuant to Section 4161(e) of the California Code of Regulations, PDUs are not required for first license/certificate renewal (following issuance of the initial license/certificate). If you are unsure of how many PDUs you need, please visit the Board's Web site at [www.bot.ca.gov](http://www.bot.ca.gov) and click on the "Continuing Competency" link.

#### What is my time frame for completing professional development activities?

PDUs must be earned in the period preceding your

renewal date. For example, if your license expires December 31, 2007, your PDUs must be earned between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007 in order to renew your license.

#### How long must I retain my PDU documentation?

Records must be maintained for four (4) years following the renewal period.

#### Can I get an extension on my license renewal if I have not completed my required PDUs?

No. There is no provision in the law to allow for an extension on a license renewal. The only options are to renew as inactive or become delinquent until the professional development activities have been completed. Keep in mind that you cannot practice with an inactive or delinquent license or certificate.



## *Meet Two of the Most Recent Board Appointees*

**Bobbi Jean Tanberg**, COTA/C, ATP, has been working as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center since 1990, and has served Ranchos' Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology (CART) for the past 10 years.

Ms. Tanberg is the co-founder of KnowBarriers, a grant-funded program that provides life coaching to persons with disabilities. She is the Vice President of the Board of Directors of Southern California Rehabilitation Services and an appointed member of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women. Ms. Tanberg proudly represented the USA on the women's wheelchair basketball team at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

Ms. Tanberg was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger; her term expires December 31, 2007.

**Patti Y. Horsley**, MPH, is a Program Coordinator for the Center for Injury Prevention Policy and Practice and the California Department of Public Health, where she coordinates the Senior Safe Mobility Program. This program works to increase the number of health care providers addressing driving safety and community mobility in older patients. Ms. Horsley also coordinates a statewide strategic planning project to expand California injury prevention efforts.

In 2006, Ms. Horsley received the OTAC Award of Appreciation for her efforts to support OTs in the growing practice area of driving and community mobility. Ms. Horsley earned her masters degree in Public Health from San Diego State University.

She was appointed by Assembly Speaker Nunez; her term expires December 31, 2008.

### *Coming Soon!*

Effective January 1, 2008, the Board will have a new toll-free number:

**(800) 952-5210**

Consumer service representatives can answer questions in more than 170 languages, and can answer questions regarding license applications and license renewals. They can also assist in the filing of complaints, completing requests for address changes, name changes, etc.

Publications can be provided via fax, e-mail, or regular mail. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### *iLicensing*

Imagine being able to renew your license online. Soon this will be a reality! The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is currently developing a project that, upon implementation, will offer licensees of this Board, as well as other DCA boards and bureaus, a chance to file applications, make name changes, order duplicate licenses, and pay renewals online. This project represents a huge effort on the part of DCA. Under the current timeline, online license renewal will be available some time within the next 18 to 24 months. We'll keep you posted!

### *The California Board of Occupational Therapy's Vision*

*The California Board of Occupational Therapy is recognized as the model organization for all occupational therapy state regulatory boards, ensuring consumer protection and quality occupational therapy services.*



## *New Regulations Approved*

Regulations governing the use of topical medications became effective August 1, 2007:

### **§ 4152.1. Use of Topical Medications**

- (a) An occupational therapist who is approved by the Board to perform advanced practices in physical agent modalities may administer topical medications to a patient directly or via iontophoresis or phonophoresis.
- (b) As used in this section, “topical medications” means medications applied locally to the skin or underlying tissue where such medications require a prescription or order under federal or state law. The following medications are applicable to the practice of occupational therapy and may be used by an occupational therapist:
- (1) Bacteriocidal agents;
  - (2) Debriding agents;
  - (3) Topical anesthetic agents;
  - (4) Anti-inflammatory agents;
  - (5) Antispasmodic agents; and
  - (6) Adrenocortico-steroids.
- (c) An occupational therapist shall apply or administer topical medications in accordance with this subsection.
- (1) Any topical medication applied or administered shall have been ordered on a specific or standing basis by a practitioner legally authorized to order or prescribe such medication pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2571(a).
  - (2) An occupational therapist shall follow written protocols in applying or administering topical medication. The protocols shall:
    - (A) Be prepared by the facility within which the topical medications are being applied or administered;
    - (B) Be approved by the medical director or equivalent of the facility;
    - (C) Include a description of each medication, its actions, its indications and contraindications, and the proper procedure and technique for application;
    - (D) Require that the administration be consistent with the manufacturer’s guidelines for any equipment to be used in the administration of the topical medication; and
    - (E) Be based on research and evidence-based practice, pharmaceutical standards of practice and known desired outcomes.
  - (3) Supervision of the application or administration of topical medications by an occupational therapy assistant under this section shall be in accordance with Article 9.

## 2008 Board Meetings

The California Board of Occupational Therapy’s meetings for 2008 are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- February 21, 2008, in San Francisco  
May 15, 2008, in Ontario  
August 28, 2008, in Sacramento  
November 20, 2008, in San Diego

All meetings are open to the public. The Board welcomes and encourages your attendance! Please visit our Web site, [www.bot.ca.gov](http://www.bot.ca.gov), for more information on meeting dates, times, and locations.

Agendas for upcoming meetings are posted 10 days prior to the meeting dates.



## Notice on Collection of Personal Information

The California Board of Occupational Therapy requests personal information on many of its forms as authorized by Section 30 of the Business and Professions Code.

The Board uses this information principally to 1) identify and evaluate applicants for licensure, 2) issue and renew licenses, 3) enforce licensing standards set by law and regulation, and 4) collect outstanding costs ordered in final decisions resulting from enforcement action.

**Mandatory Submission.** Submission of the requested information is mandatory. The Board cannot consider your application for licensure or renewal unless you provide all of the requested information.

**Access to Personal Information.** You may review the records maintained by the Board that contain your personal information as permitted by the Information Practices Act. See below for contact information.

**Possible Disclosure of Personal Information.** We make every effort to protect the personal information you provide us. The information you provide, however, may be disclosed in the following circumstances:

- In response to a Public Records Act request (Government Code Section 6250 and following), as allowed by the Information Practices Act (Civil Code Section 1798 and following);
- To another government agency as required by State or Federal law; or
- In response to a court or administrative order, a subpoena, or a search warrant.

**Address of Record.** Please be advised that your address of record is not considered personal information and may be disclosed to the public.

**Contact Information.** For questions about this notice or access to your records, you may contact the Board by writing to 444 North 3rd Street, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95811, calling (916) 322-3394, or e-mailing [cbot@dca.ca.gov](mailto:cbot@dca.ca.gov). For questions about the Department of Consumer Affairs' privacy policy or the Information Practices Act, you may contact the Office of Privacy Protection in the Department of Consumer Affairs by writing to 1625 North Market Blvd., Suite N-324, Sacramento, CA 95834, calling (866) 785-9663, or e-mailing [dca@dca.ca.gov](mailto:dca@dca.ca.gov).

## 2007 Strategic Plan

As part of its 2007 Strategic Plan, the Board modified its core values. Each strategic goal outlined in the Strategic Plan supports the Board's Core Values:

### Core Values

The California Board of Occupational Therapy will strive for the highest possible quality throughout all of its programs, making it an outstanding regulatory organization by:

- A. Providing excellent customer service to consumers, practitioners, employers, and other stakeholders;
- B. Upholding ethical standards of practice and applying the law fairly and consistently;
- C. Supporting and recognizing the diverse practice settings and roles of occupational therapy practitioners;
- D. Providing opportunities for active participation to all stakeholders; and
- E. Ensuring a high level of effectiveness and efficiency by Board members and staff.

## We Want to Hear from You

If you have issues, concerns, or ideas you think would better serve the consumers of California or the occupational therapy profession, we want to hear from you. E-mails can be addressed to [cbot@dca.ca.gov](mailto:cbot@dca.ca.gov).

To order copies of legal pleadings, disciplinary actions, or penalty documents, please send a written request, including the respondent's name and license number (if applicable), to the Board's Sacramento office at 444 North 3rd Street, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95811, or e-mail the Board at [cbot@dca.ca.gov](mailto:cbot@dca.ca.gov).



## Enforcement Actions

### LICENSES REVOKED TO DATE

*The license or certificate has been revoked and all rights and privileges to practice have been rescinded.*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LIC NUMBER</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Burnett, Gret	OT 5720	12/24/04
Caudillo, Deanna	OT 6430	4/28/05
Cooper, Clyde	OTA 1143	2/5/05
Miller, Aimee	OT 3766	4/15/07
Murphy, Patricia	OT 6730	1/7/07
Olarte, Benigno	OT 2883	3/9/07
Prasad, Alvin	OT 7530	8/11/05
Velasquez, Michelle	OTA 985	4/15/06

### ACTIONS TAKEN JANUARY 1, 2005—JUNE 30, 2007

#### PRACTITIONERS PLACED ON PROBATION

*The Board has approved a probationary license with terms and conditions.*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LENGTH OF PROBATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Fujikawa, Kris	OT 5673	5 years	05/13/07
Oetter, Patricia	OT 7491	3 years	04/08/07
Schonbrod, Terri	OT 6305	3 years	01/01/05
Shah, Zarana*	OT 6529	3 years	01/19/05
Westlund, Kелorie	OT 3827	5 years	12/22/05

\*Probation tolled (suspended) for out-of-state practice.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION GRANTED ON PROBATION

*The Board has approved the issuance of a conditional/probationary license with terms and conditions.*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NUMBER</u>	<u>LENGTH OF PROBATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Billings, Cynthia	OT 2917	5 years	01/30/07
Delmo, Lourdes	OT 9556	4 years	08/15/07
Kim, Grace	OT 8982	5 years	09/15/06
Knoefler, Kolee	OT 8115	3 years	02/28/05
Nguyen, Uyen	OT 8101	2 years	02/16/05
Philip, Michael	OT 7054	3 years	08/15/03



California Board of Occupational Therapy  
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 410  
Sacramento, CA 95811

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PERMIT 685  
SACRAMENTO, CA

### **Address Change Notification**

You must notify the Board within 30 days of an address change.

Failure to do so could result in being issued a citation/fine, and delay your receipt of important materials.

Your written request must include your first and last name, your OT/OTA number, your previous address, your new address, and your signature.

The Board will accept requests received by U.S. mail, fax, and e-mail at [cbot@dca.ca.gov](mailto:cbot@dca.ca.gov).