

AT Perspective

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board

Board Welcomes New Executive Director

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

After receiving a 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 a year as the Legislative/Regulatory Spe-

cialist 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 and Social Worker Board. Jason graduated from Ohio State University with his B.A. degree in Criminology.

The other new investigator, Gina Longstreth, served as the administrative assistant with the OT PT AT 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 MBA at Ohio University.

Please welcome these individuals to the Board staff.

2004-2005 Meeting Dates

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

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

December 1, 2004
January 6, 2005
February 16, 2005
April 6, 2005
May 5, 2005
June 22, 2005
August 3, 2005
September 22, 2005
November 16, 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.

For a listing of current dates and meeting minutes, please visit the Board's website at www.otptat.ohio.gov.

Fall 2004

Volume 9, Issue 1

Board Members

Jody Benda, AT
Ada
Secretary

Kurt McClurg, AT
Bowling Green
Chairperson

Paul Miller, AT
Lewis Center

Vincent O'Brien, AT
Columbus

Dr. John Lombardo
Columbus

Inside:

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- Athletic Training Student or Graduate Assistant—Which is Correct?

Athletic Training Student or Not?

In order to provide athletic training services utilizing student status, as described in rule 4755-46-02 of the Administrative Code, a student must be enrolled in an accredited or approved post-secondary program that leads to a baccalaureate or higher degree in athletic training. If the college or university does not offer such an academic program or if the athletic training program is not affiliated with a college or university offering an accredited program, students may only function as “first aiders” and are considered unlicensed supportive personnel.

Student status only applies to the undergraduate or graduate student who is working to “fulfill the educational requirements to sit for the BOC examination and earn a baccalaureate or higher degree in athletic training.” These students require daily visual and audible contact at all sites at which the student provides services..

Graduate students are not considered “students” for the purpose of exemption from Ohio licensure if the student is not enrolled in a graduate athletic training program or if the student has completed the necessary educational

requirements to sit for the BOC examination.

New graduates who did not pass the BOC examination should accept employment as an athletic trainer or a graduate assistantship until they have passed the BOC examination and have become Ohio licensed athletic trainers. Failure to follow the proper procedures may result in disciplinary action against the person who practices prior to licensure.

For instance, a graduate student who completed his/her educational requirements and sat for the BOC examination . The student obtained a graduate assistant position consisting of sporting event coverage and outreach services. Since he/she is not licensed to practice athletic training in Ohio, he/she may only provide first aid duties. Student status does not apply to that individual because he/she already met the educational requirements to sit for the BOC examination.

If an institution plans to utilize gradu-

ate assistants in any capacity that resembles the practice of athletic training, the graduate assistant must be licensed to function independently and within the scope of athletic training practice.

There is no licensure grace period for any new graduate or applicant who has passed the BOC examination. In the State of Ohio, you must be licensed to practice athletic training.

High school students who are assisting a licensed athletic trainer in a school or other setting are not considered athletic training students pursuant to rule 4755-46-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code. They are considered student aides and require the on-site supervision of a licensed athletic trainer. Even under supervision, they may only provide basic first aid and may assist the licensed athletic trainer with routine duties such as training room maintenance and event coverage preparation.

There is no licensure grace period in the State of Ohio.

Direct Access: Referrals from PT's to AT's

Direct access for physical therapists became effective May 4, 2004. Direct access allows qualified physical therapists to practice their profession without a referral.

Athletic trainers still require a referral

for athletic training and/or the direction of a physician to practice. An athletic trainer may receive a referral for athletic training from a licensed physical therapist.

If you receive a direct access patient

referral from a physical therapist, you are encouraged to contact a physician of the patient's choice and inform them of the referral and work closely with that physician.

Board Office Staff

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

Jeffrey Rosa, Executive Director
Lisa Foor, Enforcement Div. Supervisor
Stephanie Youst, Executive Secretary

Gina Longstreth, Investigator
Jason Schutte, Investigator
Joseph Kirk, Administrative Assistant
Mary Jane Langlois, Cert. Licensing Examiner
Diane Moore, Cert. Licensing Examiner

Thanh “Mai” N. Vo, Cert. Licensing Examiner

Please visit the Board's website for information on what each person is responsible for in the Board office. You can also contact the office via email at: board@otptat.state.oh.us.

Message from Jeffrey Rosa, Executive Director

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 athletic training, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, I have examined the current operations of the Board office in an attempt to improve customer service for the individuals licensed by the Board.

However, it is important to note that the Board does not exist to serve the licensees. We are statutorily required to protect the consumers of athletic training services through the effective regulation of the practice of athletic training. That is the main difference between the licensure board and the professional association. The Ohio Athletic Trainers Association exists to advocate for the profession.

One example of the improved customer service is the time it takes to process and issue athletic training licenses. Previously, applicants for licensure were required to wait for the Athletic Training Section members to review their licensure applications.

The Section recently voted to allow Board staff to process and issue initial licenses to individuals who graduated from CAAHEP accredited athletic training programs. As always, licenses will only be issued once the Board receives a completed application and the applicant passes the Ohio Laws and Rules Exam.

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

<http://www.otprat.ohio.gov>.

With the new design of the website, any information pertaining to athletic training, 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, in order to better meet our mission of protecting the public, the Board will post disciplinary actions and expired licensee lists on the Board website following each Board meeting. Please contact us by email at board@otprat.state.oh.us if you have suggestions for improving our website.

Continuing Education

Rule 4755-45-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code requires all licensed athletic trainers to complete at least 60 hours of continuing education during each two-year renewal period. For example, for individuals whose licenses expire in 2005, this period runs from May 15, 2003 to May 15, 2005. Even though you must submit your renewal application to the Board office by December 31, 2004, classes taken before May 15, 2005 count towards the 60 hour requirement.

Please note that the reporting period and

specific requirements of the Board may differ from the continuing education requirement needed to maintain your certification. Therefore, it is important to understand the requirements contained in rule 4755-45-01 to ensure that your continuing education is in the appropriate categories.

Rules Changes

Effective May 1, 2004, the Athletic Trainers Section amended the following rules:

4755-41-01: Code of Ethics

The Section reworded the code of ethics rule to improve organization of the language.

4755-43-06: Reinstatement of Licensure

The amendment to this rule specifies that individuals seeking to reinstate

their athletic trainers license must successfully complete 60 hours of continuing education within a two-year period immediately preceding the date of the reinstatement application.

4755-46-02: Athletic Training Students

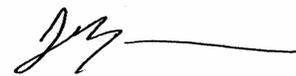
This rule change specifies that, for the purposes of the exemption from licensure, athletic training students only includes students who have not yet met the requirements to sit for the certification examination.

Help Us Keep in Touch

The Board office is currently in the process of building an email server list to improve our ability to communicate with licensees and the public in a timely manner.

To this end, we are requesting that you send an email to the Board's email address, board@otprat.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.**

To be added to the list, please send an email to board@otprat.state.oh.us and indicate in your message the professional license you hold and that you would like to be added to the mailing list.



The Board is emphasizing use of its redesigned website at <http://www.otprat.ohio.gov>

The Importance of Continuing Education

The annual audit of licensees, required by the Ohio Revised Code, is complete for 2004 and it is apparent to the Board that many licensees do not meet the continuing education requirements for maintaining their Ohio licensure. For this reason, the Board is increasing the amount of athletic trainers audited by 50%. If an audit reveals a deficiency in continuing education, it may become a significant problem for the licensee because the licensee could be disciplined by the Board and reported to the HIP Databank.

Please familiarize yourself with the Athletic Training Practice Act, especially the continuing education rule, which is partially included below. It is your responsibility to understand that the stan-

dards for maintaining your Ohio license are NOT the same as the standards required by the BOC. The requirements, reporting period, and audit procedures are different. It is unethical to not maintain the appropriate amount of continuing education required for your license renewal. Failure to meet the 60 hour requirement can be inconvenient, costly, and professionally embarrassing. All licensees are urged to maintain the appropriate amount and types of continuing education in order to avoid potential disciplinary action.

Some of the courses that are not acceptable continuing education activities include the following: pupil activity validation, coaches clinics, presenta-

tions or teaching high school or college students, graduate education not related to the practice of athletic training such as marketing or business writing, being a model/examiner for the BOC examination, being a TSA/TMC proctor for the BOC examination, and being a reader/writer for the BOC examination. None of these courses will count toward the 60 hour requirement for your Ohio license renewal. The Board has added a CEU tracking sheet to the website in an effort to aid you in tracking your Ohio CEU's. You can always contact the Board office if you have a question regarding continuing education or check for and Ohio approval code for the specific course you are interested in taking on the Board's website at www.otptat.ohio.gov.

Continuing Education Requirements for License Renewal

Athletic trainers are required to obtain 60 hours of continuing education every two years for their Ohio license renewal. Approved continuing education activities require that the content apply directly to the athletic training profession. The continuing education activity the licensee chooses must come from the following categories specified in rule 4755-45-01 of the Administrative Code:

(C)(1) Participation in professional workshops, seminars and/or conferences. Credit is obtained by participation in presentations that have either been approved by the athletic trainers Section, sponsored by the national athletic trainers association, or the Ohio athletic trainers association. ***A minimum of ten hours is required to be earned under this category per renewal cycle.***

(C)(2) Presentations of athletic training education programs, workshops, or seminars. The presentation must be to health or education professionals and/

or students, and related to the practice of athletic training. Teaching a course that is within the scope of your job duties does not qualify under this category. ***A maximum of ten hours can be earned under this category per renewal cycle.***

(C)(3) Publication of original work in a state or national scientific journal. ***Ten hours will be awarded per publication with a maximum of twenty hours per renewal cycle.***

(C)(4) Any study completed after receiving a bachelors degree may be submitted for consideration by the athletic trainers section. The study must be related to improving ones athletic training skills and/or knowledge. ***There will be five hours awarded per semester hour with a maximum of forty hours per renewal cycle.***

(C)(5) Formal self-study packages related to the practice of athletic training are acceptable. ***A maximum of thirty hours may be earned per renewal cycle.***

(C)(6) CPR certification, recertification or instructor status will be awarded ***five hours per renewal cycle.***

(C)(7) First Aid certification, recertification or instructor status will be awarded ***five hours per renewal cycle.***

All records of attendance, completion, publication, and/or presentation must be kept and maintained by the licensee. If a licensee is audited, copies of the completed continuing education activities must be submitted to the Athletic Trainers Section as proof of completion of the required 60 hours of continuing education.

The Section does not recognize continuing education activities such as teaching and/or instructing a pupil activity validation program. Even though a continuing educational activity is approved by the BOC, it may not be an acceptable continuing education activity for Ohio.

Disciplinary Actions

The following actions were taken between July 8, 2003 and June 30, 2004.

Disciplined for working with an expired license:

Stephen Nickell

Valerie Schatzke

Disciplined for failure to meet the continuing education requirements for license renewal:

Jennifer Magee

Kimberly Mechlin

James Moore III

Kathleen Pokupec

Ryan Rishel

Sandra Smith

Kari Terrell

Deborah Torman

James Williams

Douglas Willmott

Disciplined for failure to meet the continuing education requirements for license renewal through false or misleading representation:

Heidi Wallace

To obtain additional information regarding the above actions, you may submit a public records request to the Enforcement Division via mail or facsimile. Please include the individual's name and profession, and your name and address or facsimile 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 facsimile.

Address Change Reminder

Pursuant to rule 4755-44-01 of the Administrative Code, all athletic trainers licensed in Ohio are required to submit any change in address, name or employment to the Board office in writing within 30 days of the change.

You can fax your changes to the Board office at (614) 995-0816, email them to the Board office at

board@otptat.state.oh.us or send them via mail to 77 South High Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, OH 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's website and a copy of the supporting name change documentation.

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

Website News

The Board recently updated its website. There are many items that are currently available that have never been available from the site before.

For example, you can view the list of licensees whose athletic training license expired on May 15, 2004. You can also verify a license to determine if a trainer has a valid Ohio athletic training license.

The application, name change form, address change form, complaint form, and meeting dates are all available online.

The Board also has a new web address. You can visit us at: www.otptat.ohio.gov to get the most current information on your profession or to see what is happening in occupational or physical therapy.

Please remember that it is your professional responsibility to remain current on athletic training practices and regularly visiting the Board's website is one way to ensure that you are knowledgeable about current practice and updated regulations governing the practice of athletic training in Ohio.

You can email the Board at any time at board@otptat.state.oh.us with questions, updates or suggestions.

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board

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We're On The Web
www.otptat.ohio.gov

Board Mission

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.

Investigating and disciplining licensees whose practice falls below the minimal standards of care.

Defining and advocating for standards of safe OT, PT, AT practice, and ensure that the laws and rules governing the practice accurately reflect current standards.

Providing 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.

License Verification

The fee to verify your license to another state is \$25.00/request. Please send a cashier's check or money order made payable to the "Treasurer, State of Ohio" in the appropriate amount.

Please include your name, Ohio license number or social security number, and the address of the entity where you would like the Board to mail the verification.

Processing takes approximately two weeks and the verification will be mailed directly to the address specified on the request. All requests are sent via the US Postal Service.

Census Count

As of July 21, 2004 there are 1,602 athletic trainers, 3,877 occupational

therapists, 2,208 occupational therapy assistants, 6,153 physical

therapists, and 4,104 physical therapist assistants licensed in Ohio.