



Information Access

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

Message from the Executive Director, Jeffrey Rosa

This September marks a turning point for the Physical Therapy Section. Two long time members, Amy Heilmann-Rocco and Sandi Pomeroy, chose to not seek reappointment. They contributed greatly to the Section over the years and will be missed.

Included in the fiscal years 2006-2007 budget bill that passed the legislature is language that will consolidate the activities of 20 regulatory boards, including the OTPTAT Board, under the Department of Health, Com-

merce, or Public Safety.

As part of the budget bill language, a transition team will study the best way to implement the proposed changes. The transition team consists of representatives of the Departments of Health, Commerce, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management, and three directors representing the 20 boards slated for consolidation. I am pleased to report that, along with 2 other board directors, I was selected by my peers to serve

as a member of the transition team. It is our hope that with our knowledge of regulation and regulatory systems in other states, we will be able to better educate the other members of the team on the potential benefits and pitfalls of any proposals. On behalf of all licensees and the citizens of Ohio, I will work my hardest to ensure that the high levels of customer service offered by the Board will be maintained under any form of board consolidation.

Message from the Chair, Barb Kraynik

Do you consider your physical therapy license an important document? If not, think again. Important documents are often kept in a seemingly safe place, like a file box or home office. Seldom do we ever concern ourselves with these documents until disaster strikes.

Many of our colleagues in the Southeast lost their homes, businesses, and jobs. A vast majority are now displaced and now looking for employment. So, where are the important documents that verify their licensure?

This seems like a minute detail considering the magni-

tude of the situation, but it certainly has considerable importance when rebuilding a life, a home, and a family. The Louisiana PT Board was not destroyed by Katrina; however, the Louisiana OT Board was located in New Orleans, along with numerous colleges containing the educational records of licensed individuals. Those records, needed to prove licensure and/or assist an individual in obtaining licensure in another state, are now inaccessible, lost, or even destroyed.

Securing your licensure documents may seem like

“small potatoes,” but it could make rebuilding your life after a disaster a lot easier.

The Board recommends that every licensee keep a copy of their pocket identification card and wall certificate in a secure place, like a safety deposit box or a fireproof box. We recommend that you do this now while the devastation of Katrina, Rita, and 9/11 are still fresh in our memories and keep those who are at trying to pick up the pieces of their lives in your thoughts.

Fall/Winter 2005

Physical Therapy Section

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

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Special Thanks to Amy Heilmann-Rocco and Sandi Pomeroy

At the September 22 meeting, the Section recognized Amy and Sandi for their years of service to the profession of physical therapy.

Amy and Sandi worked tirelessly to protect, regulate, and raise the standards of physical therapy for the citizens of the State of Ohio.

While on the Section, Amy and Sandi each served as Chair, Secretary, Investigative Liaison, and Joint Board President.

Governor Bob Taft acknowledged each of them by issuing commendations recognizing the years of service each gave to the Board. He also thanked them for the proficiency and expertise

that each of them brought to the many challenges that faced them while they were members of the Board.

The Physical Therapy Section commends Amy and Sandi for their outstanding service as members of the Physical Therapy Section and wish both of them much continued success in their future endeavors.

How Do I 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?

Do you want to contribute to the profession by serving on 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 6 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, 2006. If you are interested in submitting your name for consideration by the Governor, please contact the Governors Office of Boards and Commissions for an application and further instruction. (www.ohio.gov)

The Section Welcomes Two New Board Members

On September 9, 2005, Governor Taft appointed Ray Bilecky and Tom Caldwell as the newest members of the Physical Therapy Section.

Ray is a resident of Columbia Station and earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from Ohio State University. He is currently the Director of

Operations for Total Rehabilitation Specialists, Inc.

Tom, a resident of Galena, earned his Bachelor of Science in Allied Medicine from Ohio State University and a Master of Health Science from the University of Indianapolis. In addition to physical therapy, Tom also holds a li-

cense to practice athletic training in Ohio. He is currently the Director of Sports Medicine at The Ohio State University Sports Medicine Center.

Please join the Section in welcoming Ray and Tom





Frequently Asked Questions

Can a licensed massage therapist be utilized in a physical therapy setting?

Rule 4755-27-04 (F) of the Ohio Administrative Code defines other assistive personnel as “those individuals who hold a license, certificate or evidence of other formal training in health care and who are within the supervision of physical therapy and participating in physical therapy patient care delivery, and shall require the on-site presence of the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.” When acting under the direction of a physical therapist, licensed massage therapists are considered other assistive personnel.

Other assistive personnel, who are working within the supervision of physical therapy, involved in physical therapy patient care activities, should do so within the limits of their education and at the discretion of the physical therapist. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must demonstrate involvement in each treatment session in which a component or components of a treatment session is performed by other assistive personnel; therefore other assistive personnel cannot be assigned their own caseload without this involvement.

When other assistive physical therapy personnel are involved in components of a treatment session, they may document only their involvement. Their signature may reflect their training or credentials, but must be countersigned by the supervising physical therapist. The countersignature must indicate that the supervising physical therapist reviewed the written note. Only a hand written or electronic signature is acceptable.

Is there a specified length of time for the life of a physical therapy

prescription?

There is nothing in the Ohio Physical Therapy Practice Act that dictates the length of time that a referral is valid. If you have a case or patient where a referral is required, the Physical Therapy Section recommends that, at a minimum, referrals be renewed annually. The Section recognizes that third party payers may require physical therapists to follow more specific requirements.

If you have evaluated the patient and are sending the physician plans of care for review and signature, these can be considered a new referral each time the plan of care is signed by the physician. If the patient brings in a referral that does not have a current date or there is a significant time lapse between the date the referral was written and the date the patient brings it in, it is the therapist’s decision to accept the referral or request a current referral from the physician.

If you have a case you are dealing with under direct access, you are not required to practice pursuant to a referral.

Can a physical therapist remove staples and perform wound care on patients?

Provisions of wound care, including the application of topical medications, debridment, and dressings, as well as removal of stitches/staples, are within the scope of practice of a physical therapist.

There is nothing in the Ohio Physical Therapy Practice Act that would prohibit a physical therapist from removing staples, so long as the physical therapist has demonstrated competency in the treatment or modality being provided.

The physical therapist may delegate this component of care to a physical

therapist assistant so long as the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant has demonstrated competency in the administration of these procedures.

Am I eligible for a PT or PTA license if I have been convicted of a felony?

The Section does not provide legal advice concerning the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Ohio; however the Section understands that you are seeking to better understand the factors the Section considers when determining the licensure potential of an applicant.

The Board cannot make a determination regarding an Ohio licensure application until a completed application is submitted. The current Section considers each applicant on a case by case basis. However, there are several factors used when reviewing the application of an individual with a criminal conviction. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Severity of offense.
2. Length of time since the conviction.
3. Corrective action taken by the applicant (Including counseling and drug treatment when applicable).
4. Character of the applicant (Determined by the applicant’s written statement and/or personal appearance before the Section and recommendations of colleagues).

Please keep in mind that the composition of the Section may change, therefore, the current Section cannot guarantee a future Section will adhere to the same standards. Additionally, the law in Ohio could change in a manner that may affect your ability to receive a physical therapy license. Thus it is impossible to eliminate the risk involved in your pursuit of a physical therapy license.





What Role Does The Licensure Board Play?

The Section often receives correspondence addressed to the Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA). The OPTA is a professional organization and membership is voluntary.

The Physical Therapy Section regulates and licenses all physical therapy

practitioners in Ohio.

Licensure in Ohio is mandatory if you wish to practice as a physical therapy practitioner, but membership in OPTA is voluntary.

The Section does contract with the OPTA to review and approve all Ohio

approved continuing education courses that are issued Ohio approval numbers.

If you know someone who would like to practice physical therapy in Ohio, please direct them to visit the Board website to download an application for licensure.

2006 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 tentative and subject to change.

- January 5, 2006
- February 16, 2006
- March 30, 2006
- May 11, 2006
- June 15, 2006
- August 3, 2006
- September 21, 2006
- November 16, 2006

Most Board meetings are held in Room South A on the 31st floor of the Vern Riffe Center for the Government and the Arts, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Licensee Census

As of October 21, 2005 there are:

6,427 physical therapists;

4,426 physical therapist assistants;

3,778 occupational therapists;

295 occupational therapists in escrow;

2,185 occupational therapy assistants;

191 occupational therapy assistants in escrow; and

1,727 athletic trainers with active Ohio licenses.

Contact Us

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