

**Mission:** To protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice and assuring safe & ethical delivery of occupational therapy services.

# OTLB News

Occupational Therapy Licensing Board



August 2024

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Whitney Hooker, OTR/L, CLT, Chair
- Heather McCarthy, OTR/L
- Kari Hill, COTA/L, Vice Chair
- Elise Dorris Public Member,
- Ellen Stauder, Public Member

## BOARD STAFF

- Nancy Schuberg  
Executive Director
- Rachel Cillo  
Licensing Specialist

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## 2024 RENEWALS—Done! Thank you!!

### 2024

	2/29/24 Total Licensees Before Renewals Started	Total Renewed	Difference
OT's	2,531	1,952	579
OTA's	535	391	144
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,066</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>723</b>

24% did not renew.

2,033 NBCOT Certified, 86% / 321 Not NBCOT Certified, 14%

### 2022

	2/28/22 Total Licensees Before renewals	Total Renewed	Difference
OT's	2,482	1,935	547
OTA's	568	390	178
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>725</b>

24% did not renew. (31% of OTAs did not renew).

1,933 NBCOT certified, 86% / 333 Not NBCOT certified, 14%

### 2020

	2/29/20 Total Licensees Before renewals	Total Renewed	Difference
OT's	2448	1932	516
OTA's	582	443	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>655</b>

22% did not renew

1,886 NBCOT certified, 79.5% / 489 Not NBCOT certified, 20.5%

## Renewals 2024, continued

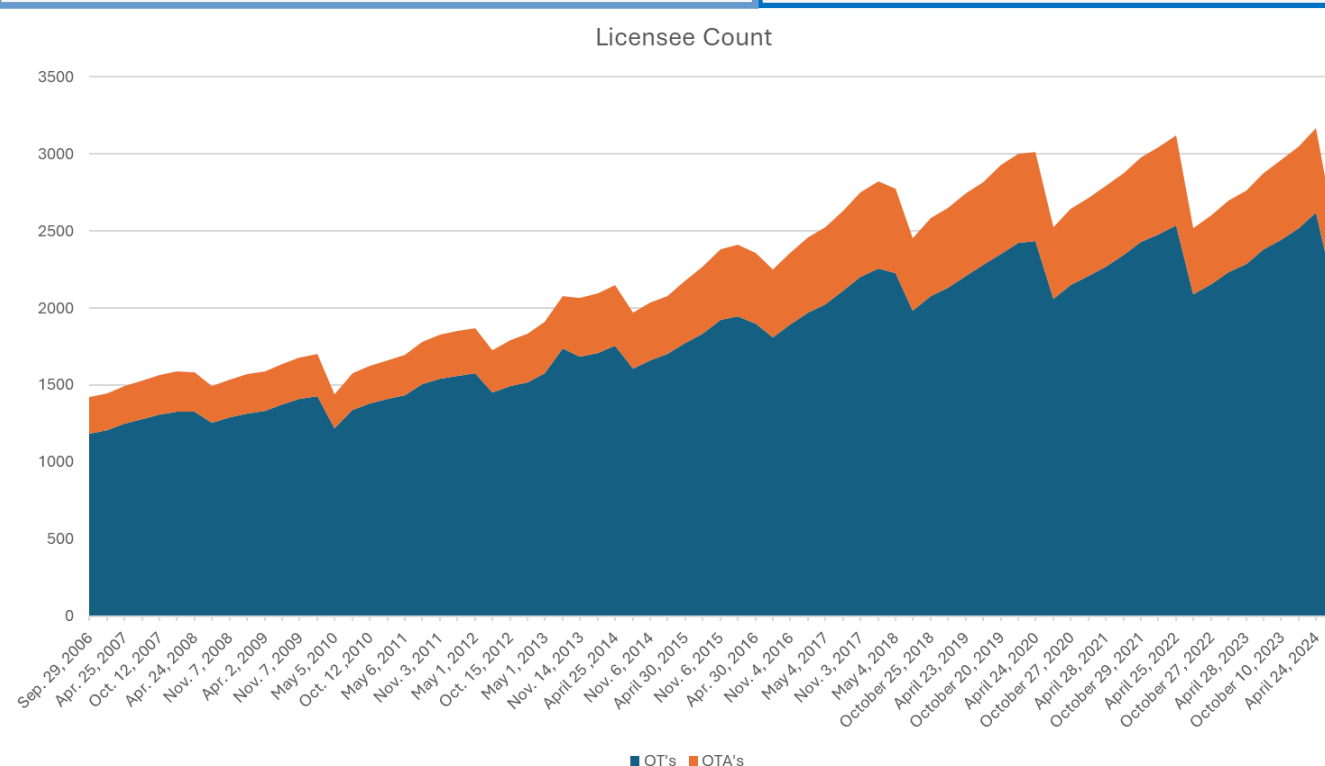
### REASONS FOR NOT RENEWING (for those who told us)

CARING FOR AN AGING PARENT	1
GOING BACK TO SCHOOL/CAREER CHANGE	2
HAD A BABY/HOME WITH KIDS	2
MEDICAL REASONS	1
MOVED OUT OF STATE	99
NO REASON GIVEN	124
NOT CURRENTLY WORKING	1
RETIRED	37

### Current Licensee Count (as of August 15, 2024)

**OT's: 2,135    OTA's: 437**

**Total: 2,572**



### Filing OTA Supervision with the OTLB

Any person who is licensed as an occupational therapy assistant may assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. Before an OTA can start working they must file their OT Supervisor with the board. OTA's must update their OT Supervisor electronically through the OTLB [License Portal](#). Log in and Click on Supervisor/Supervision Tab, add the name of the OT Supervisor, the Site of Supervision, the Start date and click SAVE. The OT supervisor entered will then need to log in to their License Portal and change the approval status to APPROVE. Once this done, the OT supervisor has been successfully filed with the Licensing board. The board will begin its audit of OTA supervision in September.

To review the OTA supervision packet sent to all newly licensed OT Assistants , click [here](#).  
[Step-by-step instructions on how to file supervision in the License Portal](#)

## ***The OTLB honors outgoing Board Members***



Erion Moore and Coco

At the January 26th board meeting, the Board bid a sad farewell to public member Erion Moore. The Board thanked Erion for his eight years of service to the OTLB and to the State of Oregon. Erion joined the board in 2016 and served out the maximum two, four-year terms. The last three years, he served as Board Chair. Erion did an excellent job facilitating the board meetings and presenting the perspective of the public. Thank you Erion!

With Erion's departure, OT member Whitney Hooker has taken on the role of Board Chair.



OT Max Perkins

At the January 26th board meeting, the Board also thanked Max Perkins for his five years of service. Max joined the board in 2019 and decided he would retire from the OT profession entirely after 40 years! Max was instrumental in establishing the board message especially when it comes to clinical competency. The board thanked him for going above and beyond by facilitating the strategic planning meeting and presenting at the OTA conference on behalf of the board. We wish him all the best in his retirement!

## ***The OTLB welcomes New Board Members***

New public member Elise Dorris was appointed to the OTLB by the Governor and was confirmed by the Senate in April. She works as an administrator for an international cloud solutions and managed services provider and has an extensive background in all areas of business. She is a mother of twin boys with autism and has direct experience in working with OTs in the pediatric and school settings. Elise has a deep and personal interest in assuring a safe and ethical delivery of OT services to all members of the public. Welcome Elise!

*(Many thanks to OT Olivia Bass for putting Elise in touch with the OTLB).*



Public Member Elise Dorris & OT Member Heather McCarthy

OT Heather McCarthy has been appointed to the OTLB and replaces Max Perkins. Heather has served the Occupational Therapy profession for over 22 years and spent many years working in geriatric settings such as SNF's and Acute Care. Heather brings a unique perspective to the board with her current position of Directory of Regulatory Administration for a large rehab provider organization. She also worked for 15 years as a Reimbursement Appeals Specialist, defending medically necessary OT, PT, and SLP services through all stages of the appeals process. Heather has practiced in several other states prior to making Oregon her home in 2017. Welcome Heather!

## *Advice from the OTLB*

The OTLB recently updated its new **Student/New Graduate handbook** with some words of wisdom. A good reminder for all OT practitioners:

1. Take your license seriously, you've worked hard to get it. If you are publicly disciplined by the Board, it stays on your record for life. Any public discipline is reported to the National Health Practitioners Databank, the NBCOT and the order shows up on the Online License Search on the OTLB website. If you move to another state, you will have to report any discipline and explain what happened. Make sure you are up to date with the OTLB rules and the AOTA Code of Ethics.
2. As a professional, you are accountable for the services that you provide, regardless of what is going on in your personal life, what the employer does or asks you to do. If you're being pressured to do something that is not right, it is up to you to remediate the situation to ensure you are practicing within the rules and statutes of the Board and staying true to the AOTA Code of the Ethics. What happens with your license is ultimately your responsibility.
3. You must be competent and qualified to do any intervention. Just because you're an OT / OTA doesn't necessarily qualify you to perform the task. Regardless of what your supervisor or employer is asking you to do, if you are not qualified and/or have the training to provide that particular clinical intervention, you should not do it. If there is a complaint and someone got hurt, and if it was found out in the investigation that the licensee was not qualified or didn't have the experience, they could be publicly disciplined. The board has authority to put a license on probation, suspend or even revoke a license.

The rules on unprofessional conduct state:

**339-010-0020 Unprofessional Conduct**

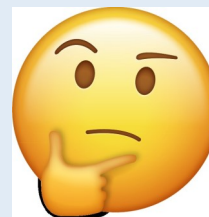
**(2) Unprofessional conduct relating to professional competency includes:**

**(a) Engaging in any professional activities for which licensee is not currently qualified;**

This assessment falls on the therapist and it does not matter what pressure is being put on you. Ask yourself, do you have the training to do it? Do you feel comfortable doing it? And do you have the clinical competency? If not, you shouldn't do it.

4. Some new graduates are surprised to hear that what happens in your personal life can affect your license. Licensees are **required** to "notify the Board within **10 working days** of a conviction of a misdemeanor, or an arrest for or conviction of a felony.
5. Always keep mindful of the expiration date of your license and keep your contact information current with the board so you don't miss out on the quarterly newsletter and renewal reminders. Newsletters and board email blasts will update you of rules changes, legislative requirements and important information that can affect your license so make sure you pay attention.

For a link to the **Student/New Graduate Handbook**, click [here](#).



## WHAT'S COMING UP

### 2024

- Nov. 1 Board Meeting  
Nov. 15-16 OTA Conference

### 2025

- Feb. 21 Board Meeting  
**April—OT Month**  
April 3-5 AOTA Aspire  
May 16 Board Meeting  
Aug. 15 Board Meeting  
Nov. 7 Board Meeting

### State Holiday Closure Schedule

#### 2024

- Sept 2 Labor Day  
Nov. 11 Veterans Day  
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving  
Nov. 29 Day after TG  
Dec. 25 Christmas

### Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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<https://www.oregon.gov/otlb/Pages/default.aspx>

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[Rachel.Cillo@otlb.oregon.gov](mailto:Rachel.Cillo@otlb.oregon.gov)

## Scam Alert! Please read

A notice to all licensees: The OTLB continues to receive reports from licensees that they are receiving fraudulent calls from scammers claiming to be Board staff. In some cases, the calls appear to be coming from the Board or another official agency because the scammers are “spoofing” telephone numbers. These scammers will pretend that you are under investigation with the Board and will threaten loss of license and will demand payment or personal info. We also have heard from other health boards that their board letterhead is being used so it appears to be an official letter from the board.

If you receive any of these calls or a letter and you are unsure if it is legitimate, please hang up and either call the Board at 971-673-0198 or send an [Email](#).

### Licensee Self-reporting Requirement

[OAR 339-010-0020 \(5\)\(d\)](#)

If you are arrested you must notify the Board within **10 working days** of a conviction of a misdemeanor, or an arrest for or conviction of a felony. Email the [Director](#).

### Name Change

[OAR 339-010-0018](#)

**To change your name:** Log into the [License Portal](#) and submit a name change request. You can also complete the [name change form](#) on the website. [Email](#) us or fax us a copy of the legal document showing the name change.

### Keep your Contact Info. Current—It's the Law

[OAR 339-010-0018](#)

Log into the [License Portal](#) and update your address, or complete and submit an [address change form](#).

### Order a verification to be sent to another state

**To order a verification to be sent to another state:** click [here](#). (We do not need their form). We will email you when it is done. The fee is \$25.