

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



October 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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Don't miss the 2024 OTA Conference

Courtesy of the OTA Conference Committee

EMPOWER, ENGAGE, EVOLVE: BUILDING CAPACITY

& COMMUNITY IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



Welcome to a transformative exploration into the heart of occupational therapy. Inspired by the tremendous growth of OT education in Oregon and the energy of 2023's Annual Conference, this year's conference, "Empower, Engage, Evolve," invites practitioners, educators, researchers, and advocates to join forces in building robust capacity and fostering vibrant communities within the field of OT in Oregon and beyond. Through dynamic presentations, interactive poster sessions, and collaborative discussions, we'll explore innovative strategies to empower both practitioners and clients, engage with diverse communities, and evolve our practice to meet the changing occupational needs of Oregonians.

DETAILS

- When: Friday, 11/15/2024 and Saturday, 11/16/2024
- Where: Lebanon at Boulder Falls Inn and Linn Benton Healthcare Occupations Center
- Meet the OTA Board
- Hear updates from our OTA Lobbyist, Niki Terzieff
- OTA Awards and Scholarship Winners will be announced
- Potential for 14 CEU's
- Keep our in-person conference momentum going as we also expand and celebrate OT's reach in Oregon

Conference Schedule can be found [HERE](#)

[REGISTRATION INFO HERE](#)



***Join the OTLB at the OTA Conference
Saturday 11/16 @ 10:30am***

OT Whitney Hooker, OTLB Board Chair, will discuss recent topics that the board has dealt with, including use of OT credentials and social media / dual relationships.
We look forward to seeing you there!



Remembering Sybil

The OT community has lost a very dear member. OT Sybil Hedrick Park passed away on September 29th from cancer.

Sybil practiced OT for over 28 years, most recently at the Providence Sports Care Center. She served on the OTA board (2006-2010) and the OTLB (2013-2021), including 2 years as board chair. Sybil was highly respected by her counterparts and her leadership on the board helped shape the profession of occupational therapy in the state. We will miss our amazing friend and colleague. We carry her memory in our hearts.

There will be a special presentation at the upcoming OTA Conference to honor Sybil.

OTA Board Member Vacancy

The OT Licensing Board is seeking a new **OT Assistant** member to serve on its five member board. The Board is comprised of 2 OTs, 1 OTA and 2 public members. Board members are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. Board members can serve up to two 4-year terms. The application deadline is **December 13, 2024 at 5pm**.

Board member responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attend quarterly Board meetings, customarily held in the months of February, May, August and November. The meetings begin at 10:00am and generally last until 2:00pm. Meetings are usually held virtually with one in-person meeting per year in Portland.
- Review confidential complaints and complaint investigations, including confidential and protected health information to determine whether a licensee has violated Oregon statute or rule in the course of their practice, and impose discipline.
- Assist in responding to clinical or scope of practice inquiries that come to the Board.

The Board pays a stipend of \$178 per meeting plus reimbursement for travel to and from the in-person board meetings. **The Board encourages OTA's outside of the Portland area to apply! You must reside in Oregon.**

The next opening will begin formally in mid-June 2025, however the appointment process will begin a few months in advance. **If you are interested, please apply online on the Boards and Commissions page of the Governor's website.** For the link, click [here](#).

The Governor is committed to ensuring that all Boards and Commissions represent the growing age, racial and gender diversity of the state.

For more information, email the [Board Director](#).

Q & A: Complaints:

What are the typical types of cases the board receives? Most commonly they involve drinking and driving. Most are self-reported and some are found out through background checks required by the OTLB.

Should I file a complaint? Licensees may be reluctant to file a complaint against another licensee in fear of retribution or fear of getting someone in trouble. The Board is required to keep the name of the person who makes the complaint confidential. If the Board takes action, the complainant will be notified that public action took place. The final order will be posted on the licensee look up, reported to the National Practitioners Database and the NBCOT. [ORS 676.175](#)

What can the OTLB investigate? Practice by unlicensed individuals, quality of care including inappropriate or substandard, therapists working outside of the scope of practice, impaired therapists, inappropriate relationships with a patient or patient family member, criminal activity, violation of AOTA code of ethics.

What cannot the OTLB investigate*: General billing issues, complaints that a therapist was rude. Complaints about insurance companies, or facilities, such as hospitals, schools, or home health companies. Complaints about providers licensed by another regulatory Board. (The OTLB has jurisdiction over OT's or OTA's only).

What should I do if I'm arrested? Licensees are required to notify the OTLB within **10 working days** of a conviction of a misdemeanor, or an arrest for or conviction of a felony. Arrest means you've been taken into custody by a legal authority. Conviction means a formal declaration that someone is guilty of a particular crime, made by the jury, or the judge in a court of law.

*Each complaint is unique and is considered on its own merits with its specific set of circumstances. The board may conduct an investigation if the specific circumstances fall within state law.

Is your current OT Supervisor on file 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**. [339-010-0035](#) 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 OTLB is in process of conducting an audit of all OTA's to ensure compliance.

[339-010-0021](#) Imposition of Civil Penalties

(m) Undertaking to act as an occupational therapy assistant independently of the supervision of an occupational therapist licensed by the Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board, \$500.

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](#)

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

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

Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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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.