



# THE VIEWPOINT

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon Quarterly Newsletter • Fall 2011

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## From the President: Autumnal Thoughts

Greetings, everyone! Well, the kiddies are off to school, the weather should be getting cooler, and the time is upon us for OTAD Annual Conference! Following are a few thoughts you might find interesting.

September 23, 2011 is AOTA's Fall Prevention Awareness Day. Approximately 30%-35% of people over 65 fall annually and 45% of unintentional injury deaths among those ages 65 and older are caused by falls. In 2008 estimated cost of falls among older adults was about 26.3 billion dollars. Go to the AOTA website to see the AOTA fact sheet on Occupational Therapy and the Prevention of Falls. Also view policy making procedures that AOTA has been involved with in recent years regarding fall prevention. The Geriatrics Society and the British Geriatrics Society recommend being involved in an exercise program that works on balance and gait such as Tai Chi, and getting a home safety evaluation and making adaptations to the environment. Taking

adequate amounts of vitamin D and reviewing with doctors the types and amounts of medications that could affect balance issues are also recommended.

Here in Oregon, there is a state supported program in conjunction with the Oregon Research Institute in Eugene working on certifying instructors in an 8-form Tai Chi dance that can be used in community based fall prevention programs. I am sure you have seen the brochures in the mail regarding Tai Chi workshops as well. In this area as well as home safety evaluations and adaptation recommendations, Occupational Therapists are prime professionals to lead the way in preventing falls in older adults.

OTAO Annual Conference: "Restoration, Re-Creation, and Rehabilitation in Our Current Healthcare Climate" is set for October 28-29 at Embassy Suites near Washington Square in Tigard. The restoration of one's spirit and passion, the re-creation of ideas

by seeing concepts through other practitioners' experiences, and the rehabilitation of our local and national organizations are addressed in two presentations on Friday and Saturday.

The Keynote Address at the conference, "Seizing the Moment" by Denise Miller, ADTPAC, Region V Director touches on one last thought. That is the thought of being a visionary in your field. Being a visionary is not only about providing quality service and generating results; it is also about giving hope to your clients and to your work environment. A visionary must be both comfortable with his or her own opinions and not be afraid to express ideas that may not be popular. Only then can we move forward as practitioners, advocates and as a profession. This event should well be worth your time, money and effort. Go to our new website and register. NOW. See you in October!

Sara Pickett, DTR/L  
OTAO President

## Generally Positive Legislative Session

By all accounts, the 2011 Legislative Session tackled some major issues in a spirit of cooperation. With an equally divided House of Representatives and a State Senate with the barest of majorities for Democrats, legislative leaders generally succeeded in maintaining civility while passing landmark legislation. And in a sharp departure from his previous stint as governor, Governor Kitzhaber vetoed only one bill this session—testimony to the close working relationship developed between the Governor and legislators of both parties.

The session began (and ended) with the budget being the biggest challenge. Starting with a shortfall of \$3.5 billion to maintain current state services, legislators made some significant cuts and left Salem with the thought of returning in February 2012 to restore some of the cuts if the economy allows them to do so. Among the cuts are payment reductions to providers who serve people on the Oregon Health Plan.

What follows is a summary of the key legislative issues that involved OTAD during the session.

### Budget

The Occupational Therapy Licensing Board budget was approved in the final hours of the session, an unusual situation for a small licensing board with no general fund. The budget bill actually involved six different licensing boards and was held up due to a concern from one of the Ways and Means Co-Chairs about fee increases imposed by the Speech Pathology and Audiology Board. Legislators eventually rescinded those increases and passed the budget on the last day of the session. They also removed funding for the OTLB fingerprinting for background checks.

An additional, important budget issue was funding for Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) as contained in the OHSU budget. The Governor's proposed budget included a \$4

million reduction to CDRC. OTAD testified in support of restoring those funds and the legislature added back \$3.5 million. Still, CDRC saw funding reduced by 16% from the last legislatively-approved budget.

OTAD also followed budget actions related to the Oregon Department of Education, specifically, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) funding. The good news is that EI/ECSE was basically held unharmed, receiving about \$9 million more for this budget period than the last. As part of the education budget discussion, Governor Kitzhaber proposed to establish an Early Learning Council. Under the Governor's plan, EI/ECSE would have been pulled from the Department of Education and placed under the Early Learning Council, along with other pre-K programs. Legislators noted that further study in this area could result in action during the February 2012 session to

*continued on page 5*

## Legislation Gone Interactive: Jeopardy at Annual Conference

As we enter the fall season, the OTAD legislative co-chairs are trading in their legislation and public policy hats for their OTAD Conference hats. This year, the co-chairs have developed a fun and entertaining way to test OT practitioner's knowledge base of Oregon State Legislation, teach advocacy strategies and ways to contribute to public policy and discuss current legislation affecting occupational therapy. The OTAD Legislative Co-Chairs will host an interactive discussion in a jeopardy format to guide participants through 5 topics: Lobbyist, Current Legislative Topics, Important People in Oregon Politics, How Can I Help, and Licensing Board. The presentation will be held at OTAD Annual Conference on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Upon entering into the 2012 short session, the legislative committee will be following the subsequent senate and house bills that have been introduced and are still under debate: HB 3650, SB 555, SB 97, and SB 140. HB 3650 Requires that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) develop coordinated care organizations that would replace current managed care systems. SB 555 calls for insurance reimbursement for Autism spectrum disorders. SB 97 requires licensing boards to work with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop and incorporate standards for continuing education in cultural competence. SB 140 allows Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board to issue a subpoena

without requiring the Board chair's signature; impose civil penalties without a first warning; discipline for any violation of law or rule. OTAD members and non-members can find current legislation and more information on advocacy on the OTAD website under the 'Advocacy' heading.

The Fourth Annual Legislator's Day will be held in February 2012 during the short session at the Oregon State Capital. OTAD will offer 3 free continuing education units for participating. Stay tuned for dates and information about registration!

Rachael Gligorea, MOT, OTR/L  
Legislative Co-Chair

## OTAO Annual Conference: Restoration, Re-creation, & Rehabilitation in Our Current Healthcare Climate

OTAO's Annual Conference, "Restoration, Re-creation, & Rehabilitation in Our Current Healthcare Climate", is happening October 28-29, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Washington Square in Tigard.

OTAO offers this 2-day conference to give you the gift of time on Sunday while providing as many learning and networking opportunities as in past years. On Friday, past-OTAO president Sybil Fisher and OTAO Lobbyist, John McCulley will give a mini-keynote.

### Silent Auction

This year our annual OT conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Tigard this October with approximately 200 therapists attending from across the state of Oregon. Each year we have a silent auction to support our state's OT students (including professionals who are returning to school to further their degrees) with scholarships.

### Register Now

<https://m360.otao.com/event.aspx?eventID=31894>

Saturday features "Seizing the Moment" by our Keynote speaker, Denise Miller. Denise Miller, AOTA Political Action Committee Region V Director since 2007, is the Director of the Live Well (55+) Senior Program at Glendale Adventist Medical Center (GAMC). With a clinical background in physical disabilities (especially arthritis, repetitive motion disorders,

and back pain) she has experience in product development, technical writing, and teaching.

After October 15th late-registration charges apply. You can also fax your completed registration form to (503) 690-1819, or mail it to: OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007.

**Awards/Honors:** OTAO would like to recognize the accomplishments and efforts of members through several awards including the Award of Merit, Kudos Award, Grace Black Award of Honor, Award of Appreciation, President's Award, and Service Award. Nominations are due by September 30th. Find more information at: <http://otao.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfman=1&subarticlenbr=17>

We would be thrilled if you, or the organization you work for, would contribute an item for our silent auction. Donation items can be as small as a five dollar coffee card or as big as a weekend getaway. We are seeking new or homemade items that you believe your colleagues would be interested in bidding on. All donations are tax deductible! Receipts and tax ID numbers will be provided upon

receipt of donation. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at [2011OTAOconference@gmail.com](mailto:2011OTAOconference@gmail.com).

Again, thank you in advance for your support!

Olivia Bass, MOTR/L  
Silent Auction Chair

## Education Special Interest Section

This issue features a report on the progress of the new Occupational Therapy Assistant program based at Linn-Benton Community College and a message of appreciation from the Director, Ann Custer, and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Maggie Hotch, as their charter class of students begins their Level II fieldwork rotations. There is also an update on the occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) degree being developed at Pacific University.

*A Hybrid Program:* The program follows a hybrid delivery model—traditional students attend class on the LBCC campus while distance-education students attend classes in real time via the internet al-

lowing participation from remote sites. Laboratory and clinical portions are delivered locally and at partner sites. This means that students can enroll and take classes from several community college locations from across Oregon.

*Thanks:* As we approach the end of our successful first year, we wish to thank the OT community in Oregon for your tremendous support of our program! We are particularly grateful to the following individuals this year:

- Those who served on our Advisory Board: Alan King, Kristi Lougee, Lillian Crawford, Mashelle Painter, Matt Feldmar, Sue Byers
- Those who worked with us to develop &

deliver the laboratory component of the program: Eric Bowling, Mashelle Painter and Sue Byers

- Educators, who allowed Maggie & Ann to focus on other program aspects: Kelly Ricketts and Jody Victoria
- Guest speakers who shared passion and expertise: Felicia Holgate, Sybil Fisher, Mashelle Painter, Sue Byers, Jody Victoria, Erin Taylor, Sara Pickett, Amy Nistico, Adrienne Klaus, Kristi Lougee, Gail Kohler-Perkins and Mary Green.
- The many Level I Fieldwork Educators and have committed to taking Level II students this year!

*Students:*

The Class of 2012 just finished its first of  
*continued on page 5*

## AOTA Representative Assembly

The American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA's) Representative Assembly (RA) is your link to action in your professional association. It is the "Congress of AOTA"—it establishes policy for AOTA and deliberates on individual members' or member groups' requests for action on **issues of the profession**, primarily in the form of motions. It also considers motions from bodies of the Assembly, Board, and ad hoc committees.

It is now time for YOU, the **members of AOTA**, to become active participants in your Congress. Please give thought to the issues and draft motions that you would like to be considered by the AOTA RA in Indianapolis, Indiana, from **April 24 to 26, 2012**.

### Student Update

After a nice summer break, all of the students and faculty at Pacific are back on campus and starting the new school year. First years are beginning to see what exactly it is like to be an OT student, and are getting busy with all of their

Specific instructions on how to write motions may be found at this link: [www.aota.org/governance/ra](http://www.aota.org/governance/ra).

Do not hesitate to contact any of the RA officials or your representative, Sean Roush, ([rous4634@pacificu.edu](mailto:rous4634@pacificu.edu)), for advice on whether your idea should be a motion and to discuss appropriate topics and issues for policy changes. For the names of the officials, go to AOTA's Web site and click on Get Involved! then Representative Assembly for the RA Roster. Alternatively, you can call AOTA at 800-SAY-AOTA (729-2682), ext. 2103, or e-mail Laurel Cargill Radley at [lradley@aota.org](mailto:lradley@aota.org) for assistance. **Deadline for Submissions: December 5, 2011.** The RA will also be holding its next online

meeting from November 1-10, 2011. Motion submissions received by mid-October will be deliberated during the online meeting, then proceed to the live meeting in Indianapolis.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the OTAD Conference and hope to hear from you as I prepare for the RA fall on-line session. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [rous4634@pacificu.edu](mailto:rous4634@pacificu.edu) if there are any issues you'd like to see the RA address in its upcoming sessions or if you have any questions about the RA and AOTA governance.

Sean Roush, OTD, OTR/L  
Oregon Representative, AOTA RA

projects and exams. Second years are enjoying their last semester on campus before they go out and start their level II fieldwork. Third years are on campus for just a little bit longer before they leave for their last fieldwork. We all hope that

you had a great summer and look forward to seeing you both in our fieldwork settings and at OTAD conference this fall!

Michelle Cargenie, OTS  
Student Representative

## Education Special Interest Section *continued*

two years in the program, and will complete Level II field work in winter & spring terms. The Class of 2013 begins classes on September 27th. The Class of

2014 will apply in April.

("The Initial Review"), and we are working towards Step 3 ("The Initial On-Site Evaluation"). The on-site visit is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Want to be involved?* We are looking for laboratory instructors and fieldwork educators throughout the state, particularly in the Pendleton and McMinnville areas. Prospective instructors, contact Ann Custer ([ann.custer@linnbenton.edu](mailto:ann.custer@linnbenton.edu)). Prospective fieldwork educators, contact Maggie Hotch ([maggie.hotch@linnbenton.edu](mailto:maggie.hotch@linnbenton.edu)) or 541-259-5836.

Pacific University's School of Occupational Therapy is progressing in development of an Occupational Therapy Doctor-

ate program and has begun step I of the ACOTE accreditation process by submitting application for accreditation. The School expects to admit the first class of OTD students in fall of 2012, assuming a successful accreditation review report this December. A transitional post-professional OTD program will be offered to graduates of Pacific OT School classes of 2007-2011) in March 2012. The post-professional OTD will be available for all other practicing occupational therapists the following year (2013). Information and the application will be available November <http://www.pacificu.edu/ot/> and additional information is available by calling 503-352-7648.

If you know of someone who is interested in applying to the program, please refer them to our updated published program materials:

<http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/ota>

OTA Bulletin & Application at <http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms>

Scroll to "Special Admissions Bulletins & Applications" → Select "Occupational Therapy Assistant Distance"

2014 will apply in April.

*Accreditation:* There are three steps in the ACOTE Initial Accreditation process.

We have passed Step 1 ("The Application Review"), we have passed Step 2

## Generally Positive Legislative Session *continued*

change the administration of early education programs.

The Legislature approved dollars to continue construction of the Oregon State Hospital in Salem and provided \$5 million for ongoing evaluation and infrastructure development for the joint Department of Corrections/State Hospital site in Junction City. Several legislators are leery of the Junction City state hospital project but agreed to allow further study and site development to occur.

### Insurance Requirements

One of the victims of the budget environment was a bill to require insurance reimbursement for services provided to treat autism spectrum disorder. SB 555 was approved by the Senate Health Care Committee, but needed the scrutiny of the Ways and Means Committee due to the bill's impact on state-provided health care insurance. One estimate put the cost of the bill at about \$13 million this biennium, which buried the bill.

Aside from the fiscal impacts of SB 555, OTAO had concerns about some of its policy aspects. The largest issue was lack of oversight for those line staff who would be mandated for insurance reimbursement under the bill and who provide services to children with ASD. OTAO leaders felt it was important to consider the safety of children in any bill that sanctions professionals to provide specific treatment. We hope to work with the bill's proponents before the 2013 session to develop language that will strengthen the client safety aspects of the bill.

### OT Policy Legislation

The OTLB succeeded in passing its bill to make minor changes in the disciplinary portions of OT licensing law. Those changes allow the board to issue a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 without first giving a warn-

ing; permit subpoenas to be signed by any Board member or the Executive Director; and allow the board to discipline a licensee for any violation of the Board's statutes or rules without the requirement that the violation must threaten public safety.

For those OTAO members working for ESD's, the Legislature made a major policy change with the passage of SB 250. The bill will allow school districts in Multnomah, Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington, Marion, Polk, Yamhill and Baker counties to withdraw from their ESD. SB 250 reduces the amount of distribution to ESD's this biennium and directs the ESD to distribute a prorated amount of funds to districts that withdraw. In addition, SB 250 creates the Office of Regional Educational Services (ORES) under the State Board of Education. ORES is to establish best practices policies, benchmarks and provide training and support to ESD superintendents.

Once again, Legislators waded into the murky territory of who can use the title "Doctor". HB 2395 attempts to clarify 2009 legislation by requiring a professional to designate the health care profession in which individual's doctoral degree was earned, including all written or printed matter, advertising, billboards, signs or professional notices used in connection with health care profession, regardless of whether the individual's name or the term "doctor" appears on the material. The Oregon Medical Association has agreed to work with the various health professions to see if there is a better way to regulate how "doctor" is used.

### Health Care Transformation

The Legislature moved boldly to enact legislation related to health care transformation. HB 3650 puts in place a

framework to transform public health care delivery. The massive bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to develop specific plans for implementation of Coordinated Care Organizations through which health care will be delivered. Those plans must be ready for the Legislature to consider in February. At this point Governor Kitzhaber has appointed four different workgroups to form a plan to present to the legislature in February. You can follow this process at <http://www.health.oregon.gov/>

### Health Related Licensing Boards

Coming into the session, we expected further discussion of how health-related licensing boards are regulated. While several bills were introduced in this area, none passed. Under discussion is the possibility of having more boards attain "semi-independent" status like the PT board.

The most interesting licensure bill, SB 97, would have required health licensing boards to develop continuing education standards and to list opportunities for licensees to obtain CE in the area of cultural competency. After passing the Senate, SB 97 was defeated on the House floor with a 30-30 vote based on concerns about the cost to implement such a program.

### Conclusion

As mentioned earlier, the Legislature meets again in February 2012. This will be a 35 day session as approved by the voters last November when they endorsed a change to the Oregon constitution to allow for annual sessions of the Legislature. During that time, we expect budget discussions will again take center stage along with the continuing evolution of health care transformation.

John McCulley  
OTAO Lobbyist



**Mail:**

OTAO  
PO Box 7133  
Aloha OR 9700

**Fax:**

(503) 690-181

**E-mail:**

otao@otao.com



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Editor: Lizzie Scanlon, MOT, OTR/L, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, Phone: (503) 658-6384, Fax: (503) 690-1819,  
E-mail: egscanlon@gmail.com

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**Change of Address:** Should be provided to OTAO via mail or E-mail as provided above, or done online by the Member. Newsletters are mailed 3 class and will not be forwarded by the post office. Yearly membership is renewed in July; applications must be received by November 1 for members to be included in the annual membership directory.

**Advertising:** All ads should be submitted to: Desiree Keplinger, OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, or via email at: otao@otao.com, by the 15th of the month preceding the desired month of publication. OTAO is not responsible for statements made by its advertisers; unless so stated, publication of advertisements does not reflect an official endorsement of the OTAO. Prepayment must be received prior to inclusion of advertisement.

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Conference Dates:

**September 30:** final date submission for poster sessions  
(contact: janhc@easystreet.net)

**September 30:** award nomination deadline

**October 11:** final deadline for vendor registration

**October 15:** early bird registration ends

**October 28-29:** OTAO Annual Conference

Silent Auction items are accepted anytime, including day of conference, contact: [2011OTAOconference@gmail.com](mailto:2011OTAOconference@gmail.com).

**Submit an article** for publication or an idea to make the newsletter a useful and engaging benefit of membership. Contact Lizzie Scanlon: [egscalon@gmail.com](mailto:egscalon@gmail.com).

**Licensing Board (OTLB) meeting Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** at the Portland State Office Building. The Board will be presenting at the Friday lunch for CE at the OTAO conference. If you have any questions, please contact the Director, Felicia Holgate at [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) or call 971-673-0198.