



D.C. Board of Occupational Therapy

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YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

Board of Occupational Therapy Processing Department
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DOH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Promote. Prevent. Protect
Summer 2011

RENEWAL ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 5th edition of the District of Columbia Board of Occupational Therapy newsletter. This newsletter is published yearly, and this will continue to be our primary means of communication with all DC licensed Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs).



Frank E. Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA

In this issue, you will see an interview with a new member of the Board, Recreational Therapist Charles Bond. Since the Board has assumed responsibility for the registration of Recreational Therapists we thought it best that we have a Recreational Therapist on the Board. We continue looking for a public member. If you have any recommendations please let me know. They must be a resident of the District of Columbia and cannot be a healthcare practitioner.

The Board meets at least four times every year. The months we meet are January, April, July, and September. We generally meet the third Monday of the month at 3:00 pm in the board conference room at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 200. The public is invited to attend the our Open Session at 3:30 pm. We will meet at other times, if the need arises. The Board members do go into the office on a regular basis to review any pending applications. Rest assured that we do not do this just once every three months!

The Board continues to host two town hall meetings a year. The fall 2010 and winter 2011 town halls are featured in this newsletter.

(continued on page 2)

YOUR CURRENT LICENSE WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Upcoming Board Meetings

MEETING DATES TBA

Contact Mavis Azariah at
(202) 442-4782 or
mavis.azariah@dc.gov

Location: 899 N. Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

OPEN SESSION IS AT 3:30 PM.

Verification of Licensure

Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the licenses you currently hold or have held in the past. These letters of verification are sometimes called "letters of good standing," even though your DC license may have expired.

If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent gave you a form, simply forward the form and include a check or money order payable to "DC Treasurer" in the amount of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) to:

DC Board of
Occupational Therapy
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Be sure to include your name and the address where the form is to be sent on the form.

If the jurisdiction or institution did not give you a form, send the payment referenced above and a short note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include your name, and the name and address of where you want the letter of verification sent.

Letter from the Chair (continued from page 1)

The Board's primary responsibility is to protect the public. Disciplinary actions taken by the Board are in this newsletter on page 11. If you have a complaint against an OT or OTA licensee, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Mavis Azariah, the OT Board's health licensing specialist. She will provide you with the necessary information to file a formal complaint. Her contact information is mavis.azariah@dc.gov or (202) 442-4782.

An important reminder, if you are a new graduate and have taken the national certification examination and failed, you must stop practicing immediately. There is a \$2,000 fine for practicing without a license.

The Board is in the process of reviewing the rules and regulations. It has been several years since the rules were revised. The Board is focusing on clarifying the supervision requirements and responsibilities of Occupational Therapy Assistants and Occupational Therapy Aides. You will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed rules revisions.

In addition, the Board has also updated the application submission process as well as updated the Board's website.

Please go to www.hpla.doh.dc.gov and click on the link for Professional Licensing Boards and then Occupational Therapy, for the latest updates and additional information.

OT and OTA practitioners should be mindful that the license renewal process started in July. OT and OTA practitioners renew every odd year, and we will continue to have random audits of continuing education requirements. Please make sure you have earned enough contact hours for this renewal period—October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011. OTs needed to have earned 24 contact hours and OTAs needed to have earned 12 contact hours. We have issued a substantial number of fines because practitioners have not completed the required number of contact hours.

Please read this entire newsletter, as there is important information about the criminal background checks that are now required for all licensees in the District of Columbia.

I appreciate your constructive feedback. Please feel free to e-mail me at fgainer@aota.org. I would also like to hear what topics you think should be included at future town hall meetings.

Thank you.

Frank E. Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chairperson
Board of Occupational Therapy

LICENSURE RENEWAL: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I apply for a Temporary License in the District of Columbia?

The Occupational Therapy Board in the District of Columbia only issues a Temporary License (90 days only) for endorsement applicants who have a complete application, and the only pending item is their Criminal Background Check (CBC). The Board continues to issue a supervised practice form for applicants by examination, whereby they can only work for 60 days under a licensed Occupational Therapist in the District while their application is being processed at the Health Professional Licensing Administration (HPLA). Once a license is approved by the Board and issued, the supervised practice form becomes invalid. Please note: Applicant will have to stop working if his or her license is not issued by the 60 day deadline or the supervisor will face disciplinary action by the Board.

Where can I get my Criminal Background Check done?

The Criminal Background Check can be scheduled and processed through the HPLA/DC Metropolitan Police (MPD) or any law enforcement agency in any state.

Applicants Completing CBC through HPLA/DC MPD

1. Submit the following information in person to the HPLA Customer Service Center or by mail (address at bottom of page):
 - a. Completed application and application fee payable to the DC Treasurer.
 - b. \$50.00 fee payable to the DC Treasurer (check or money order only) to conduct a criminal background check through the DC MPD (This is not included in licensure fee, and may be added to payment of application/renewal fee).
 - c. Submit a Live-Scan Fingerprint Appointment Request Form to schedule an appointment with the DC MPD. Go to <http://hpla.doh.dc.gov/hpla/cwp/view,a,1194,q,501826.asp> to download the Live-Scan Fingerprint Appointment Request Form, or provide verification of fingerprinting completed by another jurisdiction.
 - d. Once evidence of a completed CBC scan is received, the applicant's licensure status will be placed in Temporary Licensure Status until CBC result is received.

DC Fingerprinting Location

DC METROPOLITAN POLICE

300 Indiana Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Metro: Red Line - Judiciary Square

Applicants Completing CBC Outside of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Area

1. To complete the CBC, go to any law enforcement agency and:
 - a. Ask for a State Police Clearance and to be fingerprinted on an FBI Applicant Fingerprint card (FD-258).
 - b. There is a \$18.00 fee for the FBI CBC.
 - c. FBI INFO: For more information regarding the criminal background check from the FBI, visit the FBI website at: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks>
2. You must then mail the Fingerprint card (FD-258) to the FBI. In the "Reason Fingerprinted" block of the card, write in "License or certification, HPLA – Board of Occupational Therapy, Department of Health, 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002."
3. Applicants' licensure status will be placed in "temporary status" once evidence of a CBC scan is received.
4. The FBI will mail the results of the background check to you the applicant.
5. Once the results from the FBI are received, THEY SHOULD NOT BE OPENED BY THE APPLICANT. The FBI CBC results must be mailed in its sealed envelope to our CBC Unit at the address below.
6. The applicant is responsible for making sure that the CBC results are delivered to the Criminal Background Check Unit at the address below.

HPLA/BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

899 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

RENEWAL REMINDER: POSTCARDS HAVE BEEN MAILED TO OTs & OTAs

★ ★ ★ GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DC Board of Occupational Therapy

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RENEWAL BEGINS ON JULY 1, 2011!
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSES
EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

STATE & FBI CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CBC) REQUIRED FOR THIS LICENSURE RENEWAL:

Go to www.hpla.doh.dc.gov to renew your OT license and select CBC by DC MPD, or CBC in another jurisdiction.

CBC BY DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) 300 INDIANA AVENUE, NW:

•When renewing your license online through the HPLA website, select to complete your CBC through the DC MPD. After answering all renewal questions, you will be prompted to a receipt page with a link to the CBC APPOINTMENT REQUEST FORM where you will request three dates to have your Live-Scan Fingerprinting done by DC MPD. The renewal fee is \$179.00, and the CBC fee is \$50.00 (total \$229.00). You will be emailed a confirmation of your appointment date. Once confirmation of your scan is emailed to us by DC MPD your license will be renewed.

CBC IN JURISDICTION OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

Renew your license and select CBC in another jurisdiction. The renewal fee is \$179.00.

Go to your local law enforcement agency and request a State Police Clearance.

Send state clearance results by mail to HPLA (see below); once received, your license will be renewed.

Request also to be Fingerprinted on a FBI Applicant Fingerprint card (FD-258). In the "Reason Fingerprinted" block of the FD-258, write in "License, HPLA/CBC Unit; 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002."

Mail fingerprint card (FD-258) to the FBI along with a money order or cashier's check for \$18.00 made payable to the Treasury of the US to: FBI CJIS Division – Record Request; 1000 Custer Hollow Road; Clarksburg, WV 26306

The FBI will mail the results of the background check to you. Submit the State and FBI results of your CBC to HPLA/CBC Unit (see address below).

IF WE RECEIVE A POSITIVE CBC RESULT FROM DC, STATE OR FBI CBC, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE COURT PAPERS.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TWENTY FOUR (24) HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR OTs AND
 TWELVE (12) HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR OTAs ARE REQUIRED FOR LICENSURE RENEWAL.**

DOH HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ADMINISTRATION

HPLA/CBC UNIT - 899 North Capitol Street, NE, First Floor, Washington, DC 20002

General Renewal Questions: 1-877-672-2174 - HPLA Phone: 1-877-672-2174

Computer / IT Questions: 202-724-8930 / 202-741-7689 - CBC Questions: 202-724-8800

Website: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov * Email: doh.cbcbu@dc.gov

FBI website: http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/background_checks

WHEN YOU MOVE (OR CHANGE YOUR NAME)

Licensees sometimes forget to inform the Board of Occupational Therapy when they move or change names. If we do not have your current address, you may not receive your renewal mailing because we may send it to your former address. ALL NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO OUR OFFICE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE CHANGE. Please include your name, address, Social Security number, and license number, if you know it. If you have a name change, you must also enclose a copy of your certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change. Fax your request to (202) 724-8677, or mail your name and/or address change to:

DC Board of Occupational Therapy
 Processing Department
 Address/Name Change
 899 N. Capitol Street, NE
 First Floor, Washington, DC 20002

EXPEDITE YOUR LICENSE

Make sure to have your entire application filled out and signed. Provide official court documents of final case dispositions for any felonies or misdemeanors that you incurred (i.e., a defendant, in any state or country). Malpractice case dispositions should include a case number, jurisdiction, year, all the defendant names, all plaintiff names, a brief summary of the case, and final disposition, such as judgment dollar amount, dismissed with or without prejudice, or settlement dollar amount—this information must be sent with your application.



Charles Bond, MS, CTRS, RRT

MEET RECREATIONAL THERAPIST BOARD MEMBER CHARLES BOND, MS, CTRS, RRT

"Serving on the Board is truly an honor and privilege that provides you an opportunity to serve the community, to see and effect change that drives the practice, and to be a voice for the profession."

When were you appointed to the Board?

I was formally appointed to the Board on July 13, 2010.

How did you first get involved with the Board? What sparked your interest in serving as a Board member?

In 2009, I received a letter from the Occupational Therapy Board informing me that the District of Columbia Council enacted revision to the Health Occupation Revision Act (HORA). One of the approved changes was that a registered recreational therapist will be a member of the DC Board of Occupational Therapy. This provided me the opportunity to serve as well as to be a voice for the recreational therapy profession.

Is there any aspect of your service as a Board member, thus far, that has surprised you (or has the experience been what you expected it to be)?

No aspects of the Board have surprised me thus far; however, I am still learning.

As a Recreational Therapist, what unique perspective do you bring to the Board?

I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that spans thirty years in the field of therapeutic recreation. Since 1998, I have been an active member of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA). September 2006 through September 2008, I served as a Board member of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. ATRA is the membership organization serving the needs of recreational therapists in the United States.

What issues, related to the regulation of your profession, interest you most?

The issues that interest me most are obtaining licensure for recreational therapy.

What do you feel is the greatest recent accomplishment of the Board?

The District of Columbia Board of Occupational Therapy is responsible for the registration of recreational therapists in the District of Columbia. Therefore, I feel that the greatest recent accomplishment of the OT Board is that a recreational therapist is a Board member.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about applying to serve on the Board?

Serving on the Board is truly an honor and privilege that provides you an opportunity to serve the community, to see and effect change that drives the practice, and to be a voice for the profession.

SERVE ON THE BOARD

OTs: Promote quality care in the community, and preserve the high standards of the our profession.

CONSUMERS: A dedicated and mindful member of the general public is needed to serve on the board. To begin the application process, contact OT Board Chair Frank Gainer by email at: fgainer@aota.org. Please email your name and contact information.

APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

FALL 2010 TOWN HALL: POWER AND CONFIDENCE



Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

The OT Board sponsored a town hall meeting in October 2010, featuring speaker Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, president of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Speaking to both licensed OTs and the OT students in the audience, Dr. Clark spoke about the crucial role that OT professionals play in the lives of their patients, such as wounded war veterans with spinal cord injuries. She encouraged OTs to take pride in their profession and strive for excellence in practice.

HD = CLARITY OF DETAIL THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

During the town hall, Dr. Clark explored the topics of power and confidence. “Power and confidence are essential components of HDOT—High Definition Occupational Therapy. Here in DC you are definitely diverse and globally connected,” she said, touching upon themes in the AOTA’s Centennial Vision for the profession.

Using the metaphor of high definition (HD) technology, Dr. Clark urged attendees to create a clear picture of OT: “Seeing OT with the contrasting pixels of HDOT, we create a clear beautiful picture of what OT actually is. HDOT demands a broad perspective that includes a holistic approach to treatment, working through every stage of life—for newborns, the very old, wounded veterans—including families in intervention, and attention to the storyline. The patient is a person with a story. As OTs, we are trained to think about that story.” Dr. Clark contended that saying “OT is like PT but with speech and ADL” is a definition with poor resolution.

“We are trained to look at individuality, complex problem solving. Take pride in the complexity of your OT education.”

REPRESENT OT WITH POWER AND CONFIDENCE

“Let everyone know that we have the most amazing job in the world. Each of you is like a separate voice in the orchestra,” said Dr. Clark, asking OTs to speak out for the profession, to be present in the media, and to advocate for patients on Capitol Hill. “Advocacy for OT leads to reimbursement, which gives us the ability to meet societal needs. OTs should think about running for political office, as well, she said.

Traditionally, “OTs have not been comfortable with being powerful,” said Dr. Clark. “OTs tend to see it as the opposite of caring.



Frank E. Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA



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“Power is neither good nor bad. It is how an individual uses or misuses power. Exert force to achieve your goals. Join OTA and DCOTA—it is essential for building a strong profession.

Dr. Clark asked OTs to think about the power dynamics in organization where they work.

“Assert your claims with more certainty—fuzziness doesn’t go far. Be clear on what you believe in. If you have done your homework, go with it.”



DCOTA officer Jan Kress, speaker Florence Clark, Howard University OT professor Felecia Banks, and OT Board Chairperson Frank Gainer

EVIDENCE-BASED EXPERTISE

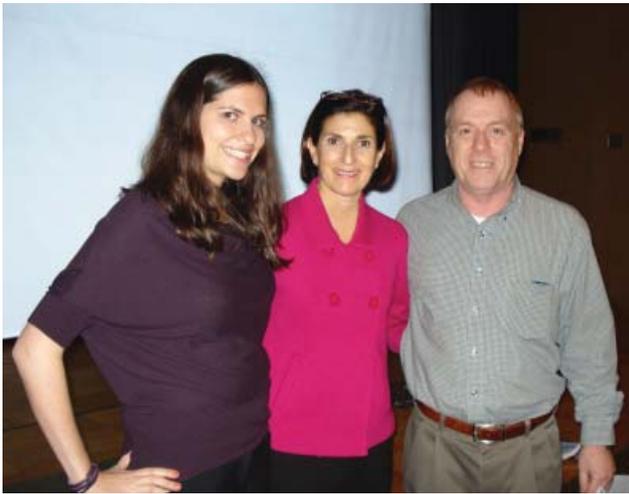
Dr. Clark reminded attendees that confidence should be undergirded by expertise in evidence-based practice: “OTs with confidence, but no expertise, are full of hot air; OTs with expertise, but no confidence, are sleeping giants. However, OTs who possess both expertise and confidence are superstars.”

The town hall was held at the basement auditorium of Howard University Hospital.



“Power is neither good nor bad. It is how an individual uses or misuses power,” Dr. Clark told attendees. “Assert your claims with more certainty... Be clear on what you believe in. If you have done your homework, go with it.”

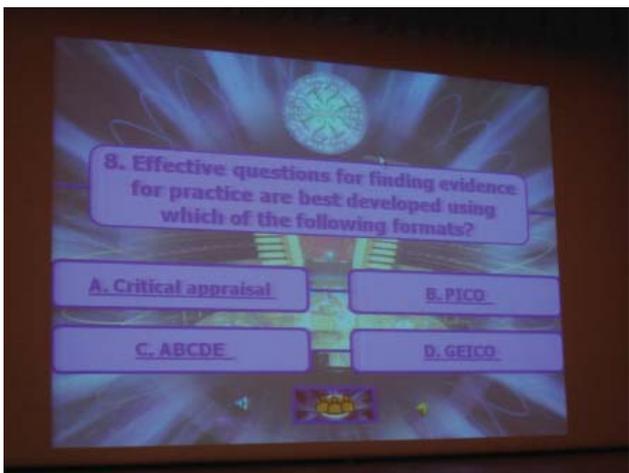
SPRING 2011 TOWN HALL: STREAMLINING YOUR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE



AOTA Intern Liz Metzger, Program Director Deborah Lieberman, and OT Board Chair Frank Gainer.



Ms. Lieberman distributes a prize during a game of Who Wants to Be an Evidence-Based Millionaire?



The OT Board sponsored a town hall meeting in March 2011, featuring speakers Deborah Lieberman, MHSA, OTR/L, FAOTA, who is program director of the Evidence-Based Practice Project at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and student intern Liz Metzger.

In addition, at the program held at Howard University Hospital, Board members provided an update on proposed revisions to the District OT Rules and Regulations, and the DC Representative to the AOTA Representative Assembly discussed the action items for the 2011 Assembly.

The speakers addressed the topic of Evidence-Based Practice which combines information from three sources: clinical expertise and reasoning, client preferences, and the scientific literature. Ms. Metzger reviewed the components of Evidence-Based Practice and the PICO formula (see below) to construct practice questions.

PICO

P = Patient, Population, Problem characteristics

I = Intervention

C = Comparison (Is there an alternative to the intervention)

O = Outcome

The speakers then reviewed the concepts of levels of evidence and hierarchy of evidence.

ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Ms. Lieberman provided information about resources for professionals seeking to access evidence-based practice and research information that can be found on the website of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Web-based resources include evidence summaries, easy-to-read summaries of critically-appraised topics and critically-appraised papers.

OTs can gain further insight by founding Journal Clubs with OT colleagues. AOTA's Journal Club Toolkit makes forming and operating a club more time effective and manageable.

"The Toolkit is comprised of 20 documents," Ms. Lieberman told attendees. "These items range from logistical items such as sample flyers and certificates, to informational tools on making your club work: creating a good PICO question, types of journal clubs, levels of evidence, critical appraisal form, example completed critical appraisal form, quick reference statistics sheet, and links to resources for conducting searches." AOTA also has Practice Guidelines publications available at the organization's online store.

Concepts covered during the program were reinforced with a game called "Who Wants to Be an Evidence-Based Millionaire?" led by Ms. Lieberman and Ms. Metzger.

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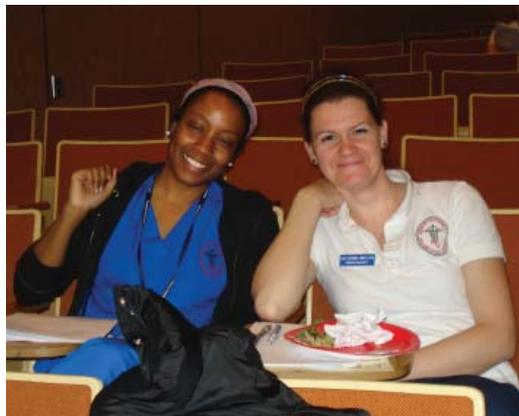
Board Chair Frank Gainer



Board ED Bonnie Rampersaud



AOTA DC Delegate Assembly Representative Delvin Champagne, MSHE, CHES, COTA/L (above, center), spoke to program participants and requests that OTs let him know about their issues and concerns.



Board Licensing Specialist Mavis Azariah (seated) assists OTs with obtaining their continuing education certificates.



Have questions?
Email
mavis.azariah
@dc.gov.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS VISIT OT BOARD



Occupational Therapy students from Howard University attend OT Board meeting.

Students from the Howard University Department of Occupational Therapy attended the Open Session of the OT Board meeting in January 2011. The students spoke with Board Chair Frank Gainer, Board Member Tracey Ellis, and Board Executive Director Bonnie Rampersaud, who described her role as the “glue” that holds it all together by initiating and coordinating activities on behalf of the Board including: research, assignments, community outreach, communication with specialists, attorneys, investigators, stakeholders, internal and external partners, the public, other licensure boards, and a host of other entities.

OT Board Attorney Tonia Bair informed the students about the regulatory process and taking action against healthcare professionals who are engaging in unlicensed activity or who pose an immediate threat to the community. HRLA Investigator Leonard Howard spoke about the investigative process. Supervisory Health Licensing Specialist Gabrielle Schultz spoke about the role of the health licensing specialist. Board member Tracey Ellis told the students that she believes being a Board member is a great opportunity for service. She also spoke about the Board’s Continuing Education (CE) Audit and the importance of licensees obtaining CE: “CE affects your professional standing in the community,” she said. Other issues she discussed were reinstatement—professionals leaving the District then returning years later to resume practice—and the importance of licensees having professional documentation habits.

Dr. Feseha Woldu, Senior Deputy Director of the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA), provided the students with a brief overview of the function and responsibilities of HRLA.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) REQUIREMENTS

To obtain a copy of the CE requirements for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants practicing in the District, go online at: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov. Click Professional Licensing Boards/Registrations, then click Occupational Therapy, and click DC Municipal Regulations.

BOARD ORDERS

(July 2010 - June 2011)

PUBLIC ORDERS

Fines

Ms. Emily Jeter – OT was disciplined by the Board for allowing unlicensed personnel to give massages at her private practice. The Board issued a \$2500.00 fine to Ms. Jeter and required quarterly monitoring of her practice for a period of one year.

Ms. Bonnie Eisenson – OT was fined \$500.00 for non-compliance to the CE Audit.

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE BOARD

To file a complaint against a licensed Occupational Therapist, simply write a letter that describes your complaint. The letter must be signed, and you should attach copies of any pertinent documents that you may have. The letter must also include your address, so we may contact you as necessary and notify you of any findings. You may fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 724-8677, or mail it to one of the addresses below.

PLEASE NOTE: You can print a complaint form from our website at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov.

You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Occupational Therapy
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity:

Supervisory Investigator
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If you have a fee dispute with a health professional, you can seek redress through the civil courts.

THE OT BOARD NEEDS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Send us your email address so that we will be able to deliver the newsletter electronically. Please send an email to mavis.azariah@dc.gov. Please provide your full name and license type. Place "OT NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

D.C. BOARD OF
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002



Government of the
District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Contact Information

Address

DC Board of
Occupational Therapy
899 N. Capitol Street, NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Phone number

(202) 442-4782

Fax number

(202) 724-8677

HPLA webpage

www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

DC Government website

www.dc.gov

Current Members of The District of Columbia Board of Occupational Therapy

Frank E. Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA,
Chairperson

Tracey E. Ellis, MPH, OTR/L
Board Member

Roxanne J. Arneaud, Esq., OTR/L
Board Member

Charles Bond, MS, CTRS, RRT
Recreational Therapist Board Member

Director, Department of Health
Mohammad N. Akhter, MD, MPH

Board Staff

Executive Director

Bonnie Rampersaud
Phone: (202) 724-7332
Email: bonnie.rampersaud@dc.gov

Health Licensing Specialist

Mavis Azariah
Phone: (202) 442-4782
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