

WyOTA NEWSLETTER

Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association
307.778.2568 Spring/Summer 2009
Volume 5, Issue 2

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Note from the President

Hope you are all having a great summer, getting some time to refresh from the cold, windy, long winter. We have some changes to the WyOTA Board. I would like to thank Jean Owsly for her service as Wyoming's Representative to the American Occupational Therapy Association. I would also like to welcome our new Representative, Sarah Moore, and Alternative Representative, Tami Schlagel. They have both agreed to serve for the next three years and I am sure that they will bring forward all of Wyoming therapists' concerns and ideas to AOTA. Welcome!

I am very sad to announce another change that is coming up for the WyOTA Board. Janet Pisacka, our Vice President, has accepted a job in Colorado. This is a great move for her family and while I will miss the leadership and enthusiasm that she has brought to WyOTA, I wish her the best of luck in her new job and home.

Janet's move will leave an opening in the board that will be filled at conference. I encourage each of you to think about running for the position of Vice President of WyOTA. If you have questions please give me a call and we can discuss the job.

Make sure you read the article on health care reform on page 2. Grass roots help is needed now to get Occupational Therapy in health care reform discussions.

Sarah King

[Health Care Reform Heats Up on Capitol Hill- Update June 18, 2009](#)

AOTA Active in the House and Senate!

Both the House and Senate are actively engaged in hearings and mark ups related to health care reform. In the Senate the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee led by Chairman Kennedy (D_MA) and Ranking Member Enzi (R-WY) have introduced a 615 page bill titled the [Affordable Health Choices Act](#) and have already begun the technical process of marking up the bill in Committee. The Finance Committee has delayed their introduction and hearing regarding a separate health care reform bill. Both Committees are struggling with very large scores from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in excess of a trillion dollars; particularly under President Obama's pledge to pay for health care reform within the budget. The Committees are looking at various ways to reduce costs and raise revenue to pay for health care reform and coverage of the nearly 49million Americans who are currently without coverage. Some of the proposed savings could result from Medicare and Medicaid cuts. AOTA is working closely with Congress to ensure that occupational therapy is well represented in the health care reform debate.

The House of Representatives is also moving forward with a single piece of health care reform legislation that will be marked up separately in each of the three Committees of Jurisdiction in the House: the Ways & Means Committee, the Energy & Commerce Committee and the Education and Labor Committee.

The House Tri-Committees continue to actively engage in the health care reform debate with each committee holding multiple hearings this week to discuss specifics of the proposed legislation. A good portion of the debate focused on the idea of a public plan option.

The debate surrounding the public option is split down party lines with the Republicans in opposition arguing against the public plan stating that it will lead to government rationing of care and will be the first step toward a Canadian or Great Britain styled single payer system. Democrats in support of the public plan option argued adamantly against these assertions stating that this will not lead to rationing of care nor will it be a system similar to that of Great Britain or Canada but will be a uniquely American system focused on expanding coverage, increasing quality and efficiency while reducing overall cost.

During this past week's hearings numerous issues important to the profession of occupational therapy were discussed. Of specific interest was a discussion in the Energy and Commerce committee where the expansion of EPSDT services into CHIP and the proposed exchange program currently included in the House Tri-Committee Discussion Draft. Other pertinent discussions included the need to address health care workforce issues, health information technology, the role of early intervention services, and the need to include comprehensive minimum benefit packages in the proposed public plan.

While Senator Kennedy and others remain steadfastly committed to passing health care reform legislation in each Chamber before the August Recess, the timeline is becoming longer and longer, especially as concerns continue to grow regarding the cost of the bills and how Congress will find the money to offset such significant spending increases on health care. Continue to check back regularly and reach out to your

6-08-09 Medicare Fraud Alert

Practitioners need to be aware of a scam targeting Medicare providers. The scam involves a fax or mailing instructing a provider to complete re-enrollment forms within 48 hours or risk payment interruption. The forms contain sensitive information.

These requests are not coming from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) but from scammers who take the information, reregister the provider with Medicare and then reroute their payments to the scammers' accounts. Several days later the accounts are closed and the money leaves the country.

If you receive this type of fax or mailing, call the purported sender (CMS, your Medicare contractor, your Program Safeguard Contractor, or your Zone Program Integrity Contractor) to verify that they requested the information. Do NOT automatically send it in.

See an [example of a fraud alert](#) and [get more information about Medicare fraud](#). Read [CMS's press release](#) about its efforts to fight fraud. See [AOTA resources on fraud and abuse](#)

Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act

Health care reform has created a perfect storm of opportunity that has the potential to allow passage of the [Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act](#) (HR 1094) and remove a long standing problem for the profession. **We can do this now, but we need YOUR help! Passage of HR 1094 cannot and will not wait another year!**

“As a part of the Centennial Vision, we are pushing forward to strengthen occupational therapy’s role in enhancing the well-being and functional status of older adults so they are more likely to remain safely in their homes. Passage of the Medicare Flexibility Act and gaining initiating service status in Medicare home health will go a long way to raise the profile of occupational therapy and would be a great victory for the profession. Due to the current emphasis on the ‘medical home’ as part of the thinking behind healthcare reform, the time for passage of this bill has come and we need everyone’s help to make that happen. If any healthcare service belongs in the home, it is occupational therapy with its emphasis upon performance and participation in context.”

--- AOTA President Penny Moyers Cleveland

Go to this link to take action on this issue: [take action!](#)

The **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP)** is a fun-filled, low-impact program which is proven to help people with arthritis increase their joint flexibility and relieve arthritis pain and stiffness. Taken either sitting down or standing, this program features gentle, joint-safe movements and can be adapted for various fitness levels. Interested in teaching this class in your community? The Arthritis Foundation is hosting an instructor training in Casper, WY on August 6th. For more information, please contact Isabelle at (800) 475-6447 x235 or istohler@arthritis.org

RECEIVING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BROUGHT BEFORE SUPREME COURT

AOTA Contributes Information about the Important Role Occupational Therapy Plays
Bethesda, MD — The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), in coordination with The Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Children’s Law Center of the University of Richmond School of Law, Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee, Easter Seals of Northern Ohio, Inc., Parentadvocates.org, and Parents for Autistic Children’s Education, submitted an **amici brief** and respondent’s brief about the right of a child with autism to receive occupational therapy services in a public school system, in support of *Jacob Winkelman, et al., v. Parma City School District* asking for U.S. Supreme Court review. **A team of attorneys at Troutman Sanders, LLP wrote the briefs**, which were submitted on May 29, 2009, on behalf of the amici. The Court deliberates over the summer about which cases it will hear in the October session.

“This is an opportunity to bring attention to the appropriate use of occupational therapy services in schools and as an intervention for children with autism,” said Christina A. Metzler, chief public affairs officer at AOTA. “The American Occupational Therapy Association is extremely supportive of the Supreme Court taking on the issues raised by this case.”

This case addresses the school district’s provision of occupational therapy to the student, Jacob Winkelman, and how an individualized education program (IEP) can be interpreted. The Court’s decision in this case will impact how a free and appropriate education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is determined and implemented. Occupational therapy services for students with special needs are determined through the IEP process.

Occupational therapy practitioners can help students succeed in academic performance and social participation and are an important member of an education team that includes educators, school counselors and other specialized instructional support personnel. Occupational therapy practitioners use their unique expertise to help children with and without disabilities be prepared for and perform important learning and school-related activities to fulfill their role as students.

They also support the development of the IEP by helping to determine the services, supports, modifications and accommodations that are necessary for the student to achieve these goals.

Occupational therapy practitioners assess students to determine their abilities, strengths and needs and collaborate with other members of the education team to identify a student’s annual measurable goals.

“The team develops realistic, achievable, outcome-based, individualized goals for the student and identifies the appropriate team members to provide the service to achieve the established goals. The parent is an important member of the team,” said Sandra Schefkind, MS, OTR/L, pediatric coordinator at AOTA.

Founded in 1917, the **American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)** represents the professional interests and concerns of more than 140,000 occupational therapists, assistants and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards including accreditations and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Md., AOTA’s major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential. For more information, go to **www.aota.org**.



Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association
Working to strengthen the profession!



WyOTA Conference 2009

● **When:** September 25th & 26th

● **Where:** The Holiday Inn 1809 Sugarland Dr, Sheridan WY 82801

A block of rooms has been reserved at the cost of \$85.00. you must make your reservation by September 3rd to be guaranteed this price! Call the The Holiday Inn@ 307.672.8931 or 800.465.4329.

● **Cost:** OT/OTA Member \$250.00 non-member \$300.00
Student Member \$75.00 non-member \$100.00

Registration will be taken on a first come first serve basis. To ensure that you have a space and materials pre-registration is encouraged.

Send Registration to:

WyOTA Conference Committee

Dawn Rogers, OTR/L

PO Box 631, Ranchester WY 82839

Phone: 307.751.8611

Email: dawn@jasonrogersphoto.com

Manual Therapy of the Upper Extremity – Joint and Soft Tissue Mobilization

Presenter: Michael A. Rosenberg, PT, ATC, M. Ed.

An intro-intermediate level workshop designed for OT's, PT's, ATC's and Assistants. This two day course will enable the participant to understand the role of manual therapy in rehabilitation of the upper extremity, and apply manual and exercise techniques appropriately. The participants will have an active learning experience and be able to apply these techniques immediately upon return to the clinic.

A certificate of attendance for 16 hours will be awarded to each participant.

The Out-of-Sync Child: Helping Children with Sensory Processing Disorder at Home & School

Presenter: Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A.

Learn about how Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) affects children's learning and behavior in group settings,

in social situations, at school, grocery store playground, etc... Learn the neurological affects of SPD and treatment approaches to utilize in a home and public environment.

A certificate of attendance for 16 hours will be awarded to each participant.

dawn@jasonrogersphoto.com

Conference Schedule:

Friday, September 25th 2009

- 7:30-8:00 AM Registration
- 8:00-12:00AM Class Presentation
- 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00-5:00 PM Class Presentation
- 7:00-9:00 PM Social Reception

Saturday, September 26th 2009

- 8:00-12:00 AM Class Presentation
- 12:00-1:00 PM WyOTA Business Meeting and Luncheon
- 1:00-5:00 PM Class Presentation
- 16 CEUs provided for the completion of the conference

WyOTA 2009 Annual Conference and Business Meeting Registration Form

Check the events that you will be attending, and include the appropriate monetary amount for your choices:

- OT/OTA Member \$250.00 non-member \$300.00
- Student Member \$75.00 non-member \$100.00

_____ Manual Therapy of the Upper Extremity (Included with registration)

_____ The Out-of-Sync Child: Helping Children with Sensory Processing (Included with registration)
Disorder at Home & School

_____ WyOTA Luncheon Buffet \$11.00 (you must sign up in advance)

_____ WyOTA Membership Also include WyOTA Registration Form

- OT or OTA \$35.00
- Student \$15.00

_____ WyOTA Long Sleeved T-Shirt (circle appropriate size – must order in advance)

- \$25 S M L XL
- \$27 XXL

\$_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

For registration confirmation

Payment: Check Purchase Order Visa
 Master Card Discover

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVC #: _____

Signature: _____

WYOMING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE CONTACT: _____

Educational Level

_____ Associate _____ Bachelor _____ Master _____ Doctorate

Practice Specialty

_____ Mental Health _____ Productive Aging
_____ Children and Youth _____ Work and Industry
_____ Rehabilitation, Disability and Participation

Professional Level Fees

_____ Student \$15.00 _____ OTA \$35.00
_____ OT \$35.00 _____ Non-OT \$35.00

AOTA Membership Number _____

I would like to become a mentor for a fellow WyOTA member. _____

I would be willing to serve as an officer of WyOTA. _____

I would be willing to serve on a committee. _____

I would like assistance from WyOTA in the following area: _____

Conference suggestions _____

- I am willing to have my e-mail address released to those advertising educational events
- I am willing to have my e-mail address released to those advertising job listings

Make checks payable to WyOTA

Return completed form and payment to:

Heather Lyman, Secretary/Treasurer of WyOTA
3017 White Mountain Blvd
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-389-8511
lymanh@sweetwatercdcwy.org