



WISCONSIN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 20, 2001
TESTIMONY: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING
BOARD

Good Morning! My name is Michael Steinhauer and I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association (WOTA). WOTA represents the needs of occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) to advance the field of occupational therapy, the interests of our members in the profession and to assure the health, wellness and productivity of the public as it relates to the provision of our services.

I appeared before this committee last year to urge your consideration in evolving our regulatory structure in Wisconsin from certification to licensure status. You unanimously agreed to the appropriateness of that request and the Assembly concurred. The governor signed our licensure law on May 17, 2000 to take effect December 1. Because of the elections, and Governor Thompson's appointment as a member of the US Cabinet the nominations from his office was delayed several months. In fact, I may appear before you again later this year when the remaining 2 appointees are recommended by Governor McCallum.

We are here today on the brink of a new era for occupational therapy in Wisconsin. Five of the seven necessary appointees are being considered today, creating a quorum for the credentialing board to begin its work. I urge you to consider several factors in your deliberations:

- 1) the OT association has no authority to judge the qualifications of the candidates before you. That function is left for employers, regulators and credentialing bodies. However you should be aware that we have no reason to believe or possess any information that the candidates under consideration today have had any problems or issues in this regard;
- 2) OT practice has expanded dramatically over the past 10 years and as a result, we urge you to ratify the appointments in part based on their membership in any and all trade associations that directly address OT issues. Specifically, that would include WOTA (and all the candidates are indeed members today), the American OT Association, and the National Board for Certification in Occupational

- Therapy. These memberships keep OTs and OTAs abreast of all the legislative, regulatory, reimbursement and practice changes that are unique to OT;
- 3) we urge you to require that all candidates currently serve in a capacity in which occupational therapy service are being delivered, researched, taught, supervised, or otherwise administered. Often enough in the rehab professions, licensed practitioners leave the field for a time for instance to raise families or explore other career paths. Although WOTA supports the right of its members to pursue an alternative path other than OT service provision for any reason, the best possible professional representation on the Affiliated Credentialing Board would be from those who currently practice.

It is our intention to submit to the credentialing board our recommendations for enhanced scope of practice language and updated administrative rules governing OT in Wisconsin. The criteria listed above will enhance the candidates familiarity with all the topics being considered, so that they may make informed decisions that balances OT practice with consumer access and protection to take to the legislature later this year for ratification.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide comment to the Committee as required. WOTA is always ready to assist the legislative process in meeting the needs of the profession and to assure consumer protections and rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this day!

Respectfully,

Michael J. Steinhauer, OTR, MPH, FAOTA

Michael J. Steinhauer, OTR, MPH, FAOTA
Executive Director

Cc: file
WOTA Board



State Representative

GREGG UNDERHEIM

Chair: Assembly Committee on Health

Chair: Assembly Select Committee on State & Local Finance

August 6, 2002

The Honorable Oscar Herrera, Secretary
Department of Regulation & Licensing
PO Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Dear Secretary Herrera:

I write regarding Clearinghouse Rule 02-026 relating to the licensure and regulation of occupational therapists.

Pursuant to §227.19 (4)(b) 1.a., I respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the above referenced clearinghouse rule.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

GREGG UNDERHEIM
State Representative
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health

GU/sjl

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Health
Senator Judy Robson, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging

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Sargent, Justin

From: Austin, David
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2002 3:44 PM
To: Sargent, Justin
Subject: FW: Update on CR 02-026-Occupational Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board (OTACB) Rule

FYI. Note, the committee's jurisdiction over the rule will end Sept 1. So if the Board is going to make changes, you need to do something to extend the committee's jurisdiction. I would talk to Ron about how to do this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelton, Myra
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2002 3:39 PM
To: Lonergan, Sandra; Austin, David
Cc: Rep.Underheim; Sen.Robson; Herrera, Oscar-DRL; Horstman, Greg; Austin, Wayne; Zychowski, Deanna; Haack, Pamela
Subject: Update on CR 02-026-Occupational Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board (OTACB) Rule

Hi Sandy and David:

Secretary Herrera told me to make sure you were kept updated on the progress being made by the Occupational Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board (OTACB) and representatives of the Wisconsin Medical Society, Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association(WPTA) and the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association (WOTA) on reaching an agreement on the board's proposed rule, CR 02-026.

The board met on Thursday, August 22 and discussed the proposed rule changes that came out of the meeting held on Monday, August 19, with Legal Board Counsel Wayne Austin, Cindy Erb, OTACB professional member, myself, and representatives from the Wisconsin Medical Society(Elizabeth Schumacher), Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association(Ron Hermes and Michael Edwards) and Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association (Michael Steinhauer, Linda Anderson, and Terri Black).

At the board meeting on Thursday, August 22, Elizabeth Schumacher, Legislative Counsel for the Wisconsin Medical Society, Michael Edwards, physical therapist and member of WPTA, and Terri Black, occupational therapist assistant and member of WOTA, joined the board to discuss and review the proposed rule changes. The board meeting went good. Terri Black expressed that WOTA has no problems with the proposed rule changes. Elizabeth Schumacher and Michael Edwards will get back to the board within two weeks on their prospective associations' feedback on the proposed rule changes. Everyone appears to be much closer to reaching an agreement on the rule than they were a few weeks ago.

The next scheduled OTACB meeting will be by teleconferencing on Wednesday, September 4, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is to finalize and vote on the proposed rule changes.

If you have any questions please let me know. Thanks and have a great weekend. Myra

Myra L. Shelton, Executive Assistant And
Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary
Department of Regulation and Licensing
myra.shelton@drl.state.wi.us
608-266-8608

Have A Great Day-Smile!
Myra