

## An Open Letter to all Licensees from the Board Chair

The Texas Board of Examiners and licensee's owe a debt of gratitude to the professional association, Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) for the time and funds it expended this last legislative session in changing some of the language in the OT Practice Act.

Some amendments to the OT Practice Act included:

1. Removed the late fee and restoration fee from its link to the national exam fee.
2. Removed a phrase from the continuing education section, after which rules could not be made.
3. Removed the requirements for expired and restoration of licenses
4. Updated the educational requirements for OTs and OTAs

The revised OT Practice Act is posted on the website where you can read the amendments.

TOTA has also amended the OT Practice Act to allow TOTA to be the mandated approver of continuing education (as well as AOTA). The Education Committee and the Board have been looking at their proposal. At the February board meeting, the Board charged the Education Committee to look at mandated CE approval and the Type 1 and Type 2 issues, as well the Chapter 367 as a whole.

The major points that have been made in favor of approved CE are:

- The quality of continuing education would be approved by OT Practitioners
- The ease for licensee to know what will count and what will not, without confusion
- The fact that some licensees attend in-services and get their information second hand, instead of hearing from the experts.
- The fact that other professions, in Texas have mandated continuing education such as doctors, nurses, social workers, speech therapists, physical therapists, lawyers, etc.

The arguments against having a mandated CE approval are:

- No other state has an OT mandated CE approval system
- The cost
- The present system is working, there are so few failed CE audits
- Ability of licensee to travel for courses nationally or internationally for courses without an approval process. We have out-of state- and out of country licensees.
- The reluctance of some of the board to fix what has been perceived as not broken.

The Texas Board of Examiners is not in total agreement on this subject. The Board will look at this in the coming months and discuss it at the next Education Committee meeting and the next Board meeting. The date of these meetings will be posted on the website.

If you have suggestions or thoughtfully considered ideas for the Board, please write to us.

Address your suggestions to:  
TBOTE Education Committee  
333 Guadalupe St, #2-510  
Austin TX 78701

You may also email [info@ecptote.state.tx.us](mailto:info@ecptote.state.tx.us). Please put "For the Education Committee" in the subject line.

Once any amendments have been proposed, licensees may submit public comment. Those who have signed up for board e-news will receive a notice of any proposed amended rules and whatever is

proposed will be posted on the website. Please encourage those you know to sign up immediately for board e-news. The sign-up is on the home page of the agency: <http://ecptote.state.tx.us>

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Johnston, OTR, MA  
Presiding Officer  
Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners