

Lea Weiss, Occupational Therapy Coordinator
Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners

Greetings. My name is Lea Weiss, and I am the new Occupational Therapy Coordinator of the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE). I am honored to join TBOTE and the entire staff of the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) in supporting occupational therapy practitioners, their patients and clients, and the practice of occupational therapy in the State of Texas.

Since joining ECPTOTE in January as the Assistant Licensing Manager, I have developed an understanding of the needs of prospective OTs and OTAs as they proceed through the application process and of current licensees as they meet renewal requirements. I have enjoyed and benefited greatly from working with the staff of ECPTOTE, and in particular, from the opportunity to study with Augusta Gelfand, who recently retired as the Occupational Therapy Coordinator after fourteen years of service. Augusta acted as a guide and mentor, and I am grateful for her knowledge and insight. I have developed relationships with the Board and attended Board and Committee meetings, as well, during which time, I have been impressed by the vision, wisdom, and dedication of TBOTE's professional and public members.

Before joining ECPTOTE, I earned a Master of Arts in English, completed additional graduate coursework in literacy and linguistics, and worked as an English and English as a Second Language instructor. As the Occupational Therapy Coordinator, I look forward to supporting TBOTE as it crafts rules, as well as to adapting ECPTOTE's website to fit users' needs. I am excited, likewise, to apply my skills in technical communication to develop materials and resources for licensees and applicants.

As a former acupuncturist, I appreciate how rule and practice inform one another, and I am eager to assist OTs, OTAs, and applicants to understand better our Rules and Practice Act. Indeed, I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Sugar Land this November at TOTA's Mountain Central Conference.