

TBOTE *★news*

The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners

September, 2014

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Previous Newsletters, Forms, and Frequently Asked Questions are on the website.

www.ptot.texas.gov

Future Board Meeting Dates

November 7, Sugar Land

February 6, Austin

June 5, Austin

TBOTE BOARD

Stephanie Johnston, OTR, Chair
Todd Novosad, OTR, Vice Chair
DeLana Honaker, OTR, PhD, Secretary
Catherine Benavidez, OT
Jennifer Clark, COTA
Amanda Ellis, Public Member
William Hale, Public member
Sally Harris, COTA
Pamela Nelson, Public member

New TBOTE Board Member



Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Sally Harris of Houston to the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2015. The board licenses and regulates occupational therapy services in the state of Texas.

Harris is a senior certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA) and the occupational therapy fieldwork coordinator for Harris Health System. She is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the National Alliance for Mental Illness, and a member and education chair for the Texas Occupational Therapy Association Gulf Coast East District. She is also a board member of the Idylwood Civic Club in Houston, occupational therapy advisor for Houston Community College System, a volunteer for Rebuilding Houston Together and the Houston Food Bank, and served on the Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Board for Harris Health System.

Harris received her OTA certification from Houston Community College.

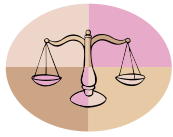
**New OT Coordinator
Lea Weiss**

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 from the opportunity to study with Augusta Gelfand, who retired in August 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 been impressed by the vision, wisdom, and dedication of TBOTE's Board members, as well, and I am honored to support them.

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.



OT BOARD FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN
SEPTEMBER 5, 2014 BOARD MEETING:

- (1) Sandra Vera-Summers, OT #102943 (Austin)** – failed the CE audit; lacked sufficient number or type of hours required for license renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***

- (2) Kelly Gibson, COTA #209161 (Magnolia)** – failed the CE audit; lacked sufficient number or type of hours required for license renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***

- (3) Christina Rangel, COTA #210942 (Laredo)** – failed the CE audit; lacked sufficient number or type of hours required for license renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.***

- (4) Sergio Tarango, OTR #111040 (El Paso)** – practiced occupational therapy in a detrimental manner by failing to document treatments rendered in a timely manner. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.***

- (5) Scott Nash, COTA #210532 (Houston)** – practiced occupational therapy in a detrimental manner by inaccurately documenting treatments rendered. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.***

- (6) Laura Ralstin, COTA #212514 (Otway, Ohio)** – practiced occupational therapy in a detrimental manner by resigning her position without sufficient prior notice. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.***

- (7) Guadalupe Carolina Rollins, COTA #212246 (San Antonio)** – practiced occupational therapy in a detrimental manner by engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a patient under her care. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.***

(8) **Kathryn Medina, COTA #210378 (Stafford)** – practiced occupational therapy in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required she cease and desist from the practice of occupational therapy until such time as she regains licensure through this board.***

(9) **Persis Appiagyei, OTR #113780 (Lewisville)** – requested the reinstatement of her license to practice that was previously suspended by the board. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act. ***Board Order reinstated her license to practice in Texas, without restriction.***

Adopted changes to [§367.2 & §367.3](#): Effective 9/28/14

[To read the adopted amendments on the website, click on link above.]

Change to §367.2 Categories of Education:

The OT Board has adopted a new category of obtaining continuing education credit. The adopted amendment appears below.

§367.2(a)(1)(B) Creation of a new course at or through an accredited college or university may be counted for 10 hours maximum. Proof of this type of CE shall be a letter from the Program Director.

This adopted amendment will allow regular and adjunct faculty a category to count toward continuing education requirements. Teaching occupational therapy in and of itself still does not count for continuing education.

Change to §367.3 Continuing Education Audit:

The adopted amendment to §367.3(a) is a revision to reflect the reality that more than 90% of licensees complete their renewal online and are not signing their renewal. The adopted amendment appears below.

§367.3(a) The board shall select for audit a random sample of licensees. The audit will cover a period for which the licensee has already completed the continuing education requirement.

Please note that due to these adoptions, the December 2013 OT Rules PDF on our website is no longer the most up-to-date, compiled PDF version of the Rules. Please click this [link](#) to the Texas Administrative Code in order to view the most recent version of the OT Rules.

Rule Reminder:
Changes in Name, Contact Information, and/or Supervisor

Licensees and applicants are required by the OT Rules to notify the board in writing of changes in name, contact information, and/or supervisor within 30 days of the change. Please see an excerpt from §364.1, Requirements for Licensure, and §369.2, Changes of Name or Address of Licensees, below.

§364.1(h)

Applicants and licensees must notify the board in writing of changes in name, residential address, mailing address, email address, and work address within 30 days of the change. Address of record is the information provided to the public. Until licensees select an address of record, the business address will be used as the default. If no business address is available, the mailing address will be used. If no alternate address is available, the home address will be used. The licensee may update this information at any time.

§369.2 Changes of Name or Address of Licensees

- (a) A licensee or applicant shall notify the board in writing of changes in name, residential and/or primary business address and/or supervisor within 30 days of such change(s). A copy of a marriage license, court decree, or divorce decree evidencing a change in name must be submitted by the licensee or applicant with any written notification in a change in name.
- (b) Failure to provide the changes requested in subsection (a) of this section may cause a licensee to be subject to disciplinary action.

Please be aware that in order to ensure that you receive correspondence from the Board, such as renewal reminders or Continuing-Education Audit letters (which must be answered promptly), it is imperative to keep your information current.

When you provide your address to the Board, in addition, you may select which of your addresses is the address of record, which is the address that is available to the public.



Frequently Requested Numbers

<http://www.ptot.texas.gov/occupational-therapy/ot-resources/ot-links>

Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE)

Act & Rules, complaints, and practice of OT in Texas

512/305-6900 telephone

512/305-6970 fax

Website: www.ptot.texas.gov

Email: info@ptot.texas.gov

Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA)

512/454-8682 telephone

512/450-1777 fax

www.tota.org

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

Specialty certification, student fieldwork, national issues, etc.

301/652-2682 telephone

www.aota.org

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

National certification exam and score reports

301/990-7979 telephone

301/869-8492 fax

www.nbcot.org

Dept. of Assistive and Rehab. Services (DARS)

Division of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

512/424-6790 telephone

512/424-6799 fax

www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/

Early Childhood Education

DARS, ECI

4900 N Lamar

Austin, TX 78751-2399

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml>

Medicare and Medicaid

<http://www.cms.gov/>

www.medicare.gov

Medicare Part A

888/763-9836 (Rehab Dept. Hospital)

Medicare Part B

903/463-0720 (independent practitioners)

To report Medicare fraud or abuse:

<http://www.medicarefraudcenter.org/>

800/252-8263

<http://www.hpsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/>

Medicaid provider fraud or abuse of a Medicaid recipient: 512/463-2011 or email mfcu@aog.state.tx.us

School Based Practice

www.txspot.org

School Health and Related Services (SHARS)

www.tea.state.tx.interagency/shars.html

Texas Dept. Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

800/458-9858 Long term care & complaints about nursing homes, home health agencies, or assisted living facilities

800/252-8016 Nursing homes

512/719-3521 Licensing Boards

800/228-1570 Home health agencies

Elderly or disabled abuse, neglect call

800/252-5400.

www.dads.state.tx.us

Texas Dept. of State Health Services (TDSH)

512/834-6650 Hospital licensing

www.tshs.state.tx.us

Texas Online Services

License applications, renewals, profile

TxServiceDesk@egov.com

877-452-9060 Help desk