

Your Occupational Therapist Lobbyist – Amy Lamb is active in:

- **The Nebraska Unicameral: 1) reviewing all Nebraska Legislative Bill to prioritize bills which the NOTA will monitor, and or support, or oppose. 2) participating in Hearings of many Health-Education bills. 3) contacting senators or legislative assistants to increase visibility of OT and enhance lobbyist-senatorial relationship. 4) attending the Health and Human Services committee meetings and Bank, Commerce and Insurance Committee meetings to gain senatorial and statewide perspectives.**

Please refer to LEGISLATIVE TABLE which describes and identifies six bills selected for NOTA follow through. New bills were introduced through Jan 23rd. The Unicameral is a 60 day session; tentatively scheduled to end April 17th.

- Targeted Senators **chair and members of the Health & Human Services** Committee (Chair: Joel Johnson(37), Tim Gay(14), Phil Erdman, Tom Hansen(42), Gwen Howard(9), Dave Pankonin(2), Arnie Stuthman(22)), and Speaker of the Legislature (Mike Flood (19)).

Twenty OTs, have volunteered to be key senatorial contacts. We are in need of more volunteers to continue to build and strengthen senatorial relationships. **Please let us know if you are willing.** 15 senators are under term limits. **GOAL:** establish up to 5 OTs in each of the 49 Nebraska districts.

Lobbyist and Legislative Chair:

- **Participated in the Board of OT Practice all day Meeting, January 15th 2008 in Lincoln.** Facilitated board member, Stacy Yagow to prepare a article about Board Meeting highlights with the NOTA membership through next NOTA Newsletter. Facilitated Newsletter mailing to Diane Hansmeyer, Board of OT Practice Administrator. **Year 2008, is renewal year of OT license.**

- **Establishing a Medicaid Ad Hoc Task Force:**

Fielded communications with practitioners experiencing reimbursement challenges with Nebraska Medicaid. Offered consultation, identified resources for possible resolution of agency concerns. Encouraged appealing denials. Reviewed Medicaid Rules and Regulations; surveyed practitioners in variety of agencies. Recruited and established interested individuals to join a task force (Michelle Ratliff – Westpoint; Justin Young - Norfolk, Mary Sterup-Walsh Grand Island). Propose a teleconference meeting in the future. WELCOME all interested individuals.

Communicated with NEPT president about Nebraska Medicaid Bill (LB 1176) to limit adult outpatient therapy services. Submitted testimony at Hearing February 21. Coordinated with AARP lobbyist for amendment to allow exceptions similar to Medicare legislation.

- **Physical Agent Modalities (PAMS):**

Obtained information on curriculum offered at College of Saint Mary ;and Creighton University.

For specifics, please address questions to Al Bracciano at CU, or Kristin Haas at CSM.

ACOTE passed new accreditation standards regarding PAMS curriculum: These standards were passed 2007, and are effective 2008.

The citation is in Section 5.0 titled INTERVENTION PLAN: FORMULATION & IMPLEMENTATION

The specific citation is Standard B.5.13 and B.5.14.

You may visit the aota.org web site as a consumer. Click on the EDUCATORS RESEARCHERS tab, then click on ACCREDITATION STANDARDS, next, click on ACOTE STANDARDS and INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES. Search
C:\Users\liz\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\7HEEDINA\Legislative Update 02-2008.doc

for the term physical agent modalities, and you will locate the specific standard as it is written for Doctoral prepared OTS, Masters OTs and OTAs. The grey barred text is additional guidance for programs

As of February 2008, the **NEBRASKA Board of OT Practice has credentialed the following numbers of OT practitioners** in:

Deep Thermal - 227
Electrotherapeutic - 225
Superficial - 282
Total OTs- 758
Total OTAs - 142

Superficial Agents numbers is larger because OTAs have achieved this certification. Remember that one OT can be counted three times; one for each level of certification. One OT chose to be certified in only superficial and electrotherapeutic.

Nebraska OT Practice Law states...."when an OTA implements superficial PAMS, the supervising OTR who is credentialed in PAMS, must be on site."

- **Worked with AOTA to provide data and info to refute the Medicare RESNA Certification requirement for evaluating POWER MOBILITY**

April 2008 was the targeted date for implementation. Thanks to the partnership and efforts of the Federal Affairs divisions of AOTA and APTA this requirement will not be implemented. The arguments used to persuade Medicare to reconsider were: 1) this creates hardships and limited access for the customers and 2) state regulatory competency/continuing ed requirements promoted practitioner currency of knowledge base and 3) professional code of ethics prepares practitioners to update knowledge base for evidence based and appropriate practice.

Senatorial Outreach, Practice Visits. Such visits allow each of us to use our practices to educate our legislators. Truly some of the most productive meetings with legislators can be back in the less chaotic setting of their district. This is the most optimal place to talk with them about issues facing occupational therapy and the clients we serve. If you are interested in assisting a team in arranging a practice visit or in hosting a visit at your facility please email Amy Lamb at ajlambconsulting@gmail.com.

RA Motion to examine the feasibility of restructuring the agreement between the states and AOTA – Tabled, **postponed indefinitely**. Our research and data collection on the pros and cons of a chapter system (national association membership automates state membership versus our current affiliate arrangement) shows there is insufficient support to advocate at this time.

YOU are key to effective advocacy for Occupational Therapy. Your concerns, questions, and discussion are important to us.....please call or email.....

AND....see **NOTA website for informational documents** on: OT Key Senatorial Contact Registry, Tips on Communicating with your Elected Officials, Unicameral Bill Updates.

Submitted February 22, 2008
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