



## NOTA Annual Conference

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

<p><b>Keynote Address:</b></p> <p>Finding My Passion: Life After a Traumatic Brain Injury</p>	<p>Sydney Boyce, BA, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM</p>
<p><b>Track 1 (morning track - Intermediate Level Course):</b></p> <p>Occupational Therapy's Role in Mental Health and the Transition of Care</p>	<p>Michael Tambone, OTD, OTR/L Serena Blank, MOT, OTR/L</p>
<p><b>Track 2 (morning track - Beginner Level Course):</b></p> <p>Grace Discovers Her Purpose: Journey Of A Therapy Dog</p>	<p>Melody Charleson, OTR/L Jessica Gleason, CDT</p>
<p><b>Track 3 (morning track - Advanced Level Course):</b></p> <p>Unlocking the Lymphatic Connection: Exploring Brain Lymphatics in Occupational Therapy</p>	<p>Crystal Bennett OTR/L, CLT, CWT, NLN Expert Clinician</p>
<p><b>Track 4 (morning track – Intermediate Level Course):</b></p> <p>Debunking 3 myths of mentorship; how to be an effective OT mentor with students and colleagues</p>	<p>Abbie Nelson, MOT, OTR/L, BCP Michelle Westengaard, OTR/L, BCP</p>
<p><b>Track 5 (afternoon track – Intermediate Level Course):</b></p> <p>OT's Role in Addiction Recovery and Homelessness</p>	<p>Kylie Widhelm OTD, OTR/L Karly Boehm, UNMC Occupational Therapy Student, &amp; Serena Blank, MOT, OTR/L</p>
<p><b>Track 6 (afternoon track – Intermediate Level Course):</b></p> <p>A Collaborative Approach to Early Intervention: Building Capacity to Optimize the Primary Service Provider Model</p>	<p>Mary Kriha, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS Shayla Kruse, OTD, OTR/L</p>

<p><b>Track 7 (afternoon track – Intermediate Level Course):</b></p> <p>Time for an Upgrade: The Case for Updating Occupational Therapy Practice with Fascia Science</p>	<p>Amy Mayer OTD, OTR/L, RYT</p> <p>Kaitlyn Rambo OTD, OTR/L, PAMS, LSVT-BIG</p>
<p><b>Track 8 (afternoon track – Advance Level Course):</b></p> <p>Classroom and Clinical Accommodations for OT programs</p> <p>Empowering Practice: Transitioning from Clinical Accommodations to Workplace Accommodations</p>	<p>Anna Domina OTD, OTR/L, Julia Shin, EdD, MS, OTR/L, BCP, Katie Wadas-Thalken, EdD, Anne Heimann, MS, Angela Lampe, OTD, OTR/L</p> <p>Becky Kinnison, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR Erin Young, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR Angela Lampe, OTD, OTR/L</p>
<p><b>FREE Student Session (Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> via zoom from 7-8pm. Please register at <a href="http://notaonline.org">notaonline.org</a> under the Conference Tab)</b></p> <p>NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know</p>	<p>Melissa Kimmerling, EdD, MOT, OTR/L Nebraska Ambassador to NBCOT</p>

### *Continuing Education Sessions*

The Keynote Session is an unopposed educational session. Participants may choose 1 of 4 continuing education session tracks Saturday morning and 1 of 4 continuing education session tracks Saturday afternoon. Participants cannot move between tracks and will not receive partial credit for attendance of a portion of a course. When you register, you will be required to choose your tracks. Seating is limited for each track, so register early! (Day of conference registration will be available as seating allows.)

**\*By registering and attending the conference in-person in Omaha, NE you will receive a code to be used on Aspire OT to view ALL recorded 2025 conference sessions for FREE to earn additional CEU's!**

*\*Continue to next page for conference schedule, registration information, and in-depth session information.*

## *Conference At-A-Glance Schedule*

### **Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:00pm-8:00pm

- Free Student Session (Via Zoom)

### **Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30am-8:15am

- Registration

8:30am-10:00am

- Keynote (1 CEU)
- Awards
- Why be a part of NOTA?

10:10am-12:10pm

- Sessions (2 CEUs)

12:15am-12:30pm

- Lunch Served- grab and go style

12:15pm-1:30pm

- Sponsor Booths
- Poster Session
- Raffle Prizes-must be present to win!

1:45pm-3:45pm

- Sessions (2 CEUs)

## *Hotel Information*

*There are many hotel options available in the Omaha area! Here are a few near College of Saint Mary.*

### **Hilton Garden Inn Omaha Aksarben Village**

6737 Frances St, Omaha, NE 68106

402.334.4441

### **Courtyard Omaha Aksarben Village**

1625 S 67th St, Omaha, NE 68106

402.951.4300

### **Hampton Inn Omaha Midtown-Aksarben Area**

1401 S 72nd St, Omaha, NE 68124

402.933.5510

## *Registration Fees*

Registration for conference & membership are available online at [www.notaonline.org](http://www.notaonline.org)

\*\*Cancellation Policy: If notification of cancellation occurs prior to February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, refunds will be given less a \$20 administration fee.

\*\*There will be an additional fee of \$20 when registering the day of conference.

\*\*WEATHER POLICY: Due to the complexity involved with planning conference, any major weather-related issues that could result in a registrant being unable to attend will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A refund of *up to 50%* may be considered but is not guaranteed. The conference planning committee would review each individual case once conference is complete and any refund will be given within 30 days.

\*\*If College of Saint Mary implements a Mask Mandate, NOTA must adhere to this policy and all those in attendance will be required to Mask while on property.

*Early Bird Pricing valid until*

*March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Don't delay, register today!*

Registration for conference is available online at [www.notaonline.org](http://www.notaonline.org).

**Save money on your conference registration by becoming a member of the Nebraska OT Association when you register! Save over 15 % with EARLY BIRD pricing!**

6 In-Person CEU hours possible  17 TOTAL CEU's with access to all courses on Aspire following conference.	<b>EARLY BIRD Pricing *register before February 22<sup>nd</sup>!</b>	<b>Pricing After Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>!</b>
OTR Member	<b>\$185</b>	\$220
OTR Non-Member	<b>\$285</b>	\$340
COTA Member	<b>\$160</b>	\$190
COTA Non-Member	<b>\$235</b>	\$280
Student Member	<b>\$110</b>	\$130
Student Non-Member	<b>\$160</b>	\$190

**Keynote Session: Finding My Passion: Life After a Traumatic Brain Injury**

**Speaker: Sydney Boyce, BA, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM**

Sydney is a daughter, sister, and girlfriend. Sydney lives in a small town in Nebraska and enjoys reading, baking, and crafts. She is a graduate of College of Saint Mary and is employed through Methodist Health Systems. Sydney acquired a traumatic brain injury in 2014 and has persevered through the ups and downs following her diagnosis.

**Course Description:**

A presentation sharing the story of Sydney's traumatic brain injury experience. The presentation will include information regarding challenges Sydney experienced both in and out of the hospital, people/professionals who supported her recovery, and how she applies her experiences when treating patients.

**Course Objectives:**

- Define Diffuse Axonal Brain Injury.
- Identify additional services patients may need after discharge from therapy.
- Identify challenges patients may have after traumatic injury or illness.
- Understand the importance of therapeutic use of self when treating patients.

**Track 1 – Intermediate Level Course: OT's Role in Mental Health and the Transition of Care**

**Speaker Qualifications:**

**Michael Tambone, OTD, OTR/L & Serena Blank, MOT, OTR/L**

Michael graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions with an OTD in 2021. His doctoral capstone focused on mental health research as well as the creation and implementation of a mental health screener for outpatient care. Michael has experience working in behavioral health at Lasting Hope Recovery Center since August 2022, working inpatient, outpatient, and partial hospitalization programs. Michael is currently on the NOTA board as the Vice President of Mental Health and Wellness.

Serena Blank, MOT, OTR/L graduated from Saint Louis University in 2019. After graduating, Serena completed an AOTA mental health fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery at the Durham VA. Throughout her career, Serena has provided OT services in a variety of community based mental health settings including a jail re-entry program and a non-profit homeless agency. Serena currently works at Lasting Hope Recovery Center, an inpatient psychiatric facility, providing services in both the inpatient and partial hospitalization programs.

**Course Description:**

This presentation will explore the distinct goals and objectives of occupational therapy in inpatient and outpatient behavioral health settings, highlighting barriers and facilitators of the transition of care. We aim to promote a deeper understanding of the importance of the need for collaborative, patient-centered approaches to support optimal outcomes.

**Course Objectives:**

- Differentiate the role of occupational therapy in inpatient and outpatient mental health settings, including distinct goals, objectives, and treatment plans.
- Analyze the transition of care from inpatient to outpatient settings, identifying barriers and potential solutions to ensure continuity of care and optimal mental health outcomes.
- Apply knowledge of occupational therapy's role in mental health care to develop patient-centered, collaborative approaches that promote seamless transitions and effective treatment plans.

## Track 2 – Intermediate Level Course: Grace Discovers Her Purpose: Journey of a Therapy Dog

### Speaker qualifications:

**Melody Charleson, OTR/L, CAPS, PAMS & Jessica Gleason, CDT, & Grace**

Melody Charleson, OTR/L, CAPS, PAMS received her Bachelor Degree in Occupational Therapy from Creighton University in Omaha, NE in 1990. She has spent most of her career working in adult and geriatric rehabilitation. Melody joined the team at Rebecca Snyder Speech Services, P.C., as their first staff Occupational Therapist in 1998. In 2009, Melody Charleson became the President of the company and the company name was changed to Snyder Charleson Therapy Services to more accurately reflect the evolution of the company to a multi-disciplinary therapy provider. In 2023, the company became MaxAbility Therapy Services to demonstrate the dedication to providing therapy services for ALL ages.

Grace is a Certified Therapy Dog through Alliance of Therapy Dogs and holds her Canine Good Citizen title through The American Kennel Club. Grace joined the MaxAbility team in 2024, serving clients of all ages. Grace, has positively impacted clients through improving motivation and engagement in social and physical activities.

Jessica is the Owner and Head Trainer at Pups with a Purpose, where she dedicates her expertise to fostering meaningful connections between dogs and their handlers. With a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska,, Jessica combines her understanding of behavior and motivation with her love for animals. As a Professional Member of the International Association of Canine Professionals, she is committed to excellence in dog training and improving the behavior expectations of therapy dogs. Additionally, Jessica serves as a Tester/Evaluator for Alliance of Therapy Dogs and the American Kennel Club. Her and her dog Stanley have completed over 1,000 hours of therapy dog visits and have trained over 150 therapy dogs since 2019.

### Course Description:

Therapy dogs bring great value to progressing and motivating patients of all ages. This presentation will guide you through the process of training and implementing a therapy dog into your practice. This presentation will afford many opportunities to learn and apply handling techniques with trained therapy dogs from an expert trainer. Meet Grace, the newest addition to the MaxAbility Therapy Team. Grace is a 2 yr old golden retriever. She loves her therapy “job” and the purpose that it has given her in serving others.

### Objectives:

- Define therapy dog, training process and resources.
- Review logistics of having a therapy dog as part of your practice from a business perspective.
- Explain implementation of a therapy dog into the clinical setting.

## Track 3– Advanced Level Course: Unlocking the Lymphatic Connection: Exploring Brain Lymphatics in Occupational Therapy

### Speaker Qualifications:

**Crystal Bennett OTR/L, CLT, CWT, NLN Expert Clinician**

Crystal is a Certified Lymphedema Therapist and Occupational Therapist with over 20 years of experience specializing in lymphedema, wound care, and chronic conditions such as fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and migraines. Passionate about education, she mentors clinicians and develops programs that integrate manual lymphatic drainage (MLD) and neuroregulation techniques to improve patient outcomes. Crystal is also a clinical instructor for The Academy of Lymphatic Studies, where she designs and teaches continuing education courses on Advanced Lymphedema Management and Manual Lymphatic Drainage.

**Course Description:**

Explore the groundbreaking discovery of brain lymphatics and its impact on occupational therapy. This interactive session will demonstrate how manual lymphatic drainage (MLD), breathing techniques, manual therapy, and exercise can improve cognitive function, pain management, and quality of life for clients with neurological conditions and chronic pain.

**Course Objectives:**

- Understand the Role of Brain Lymphatics: Explore the discovery of brain lymphatics and their impact on cognitive function, pain management, and autonomic nervous system regulation in occupational therapy practice.
- Apply Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) Techniques: Learn and practice MLD techniques for the head and neck to improve outcomes for conditions like migraines, post-concussion syndrome, and fibromyalgia.
- Integrate Therapeutic Approaches: Develop skills in combining MLD with breathing techniques, manual therapy, and exercise to enhance quality of life and functional outcomes for clients with neurological and chronic conditions.

**Track 4 – Intermediate Level Course: Debunking 3 myths of mentorship; how to be an effective OT mentor with students and colleagues****Speaker Qualifications:**

**Michelle Westengaard, OTR/L, BCP & Abbie Nelson, MOT, OTR/L, BCP**

Chelli Westengaard is the Occupational Therapy Director at UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute and Pediatric Fellowship Coordinator. Chelli has 25 years of experience working in a pediatric setting. She specializes in feeding and swallowing and binocular and cortical visual impairments. Chelli has had the opportunity to gain experience in multiple settings to include outpatient, inpatient, NICU, multidisciplinary clinics and the school system.

Abbie Nelson has been practicing in pediatrics for over 10 years with experience in inpatient, outpatient, and school-based practice. Abbie has her board certification in pediatrics. Abbie has always had a passion for working with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and advocating for inclusion. Abbie has a strong interest in assistive technology, adaptive equipment, and durable medical equipment. Abbie is a Primary Mentor for the AOTA Pediatric Fellowship at Munroe-Meyer Institute.

**Course Description:**

Mentorship in the OT profession is a crucial component for professional development, skill enhancement, and personal growth. Effective mentorship can be a key difference in facing challenges and mastering opportunities.

**Course Objectives:**

- At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to identify at least one myth of mentorship.
- At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to identify two mentorship strategies and how to implement them in your everyday practice.

**Track 5 – Intermediate Level Course: OT's Role in Addiction Recovery and Homelessness****Speaker Qualifications:**

**Kylie Widhelm OTD, OTR/L, Karly Boehm, UNMC Occupational Therapy Student, & Serena Blank, MOT, OTR/L**

Dr. Widhelm OTD, OTR/L, BCPR graduated from Creighton University in 2009 getting her doctorate in occupational therapy. She took a position at Bergan Mercy Hospital in which she specialized in early mobility with medically complex patients while also providing evaluations at Lasting Hope Recovery Center, an inpatient psychiatric facility. She created an early mobility protocol for mechanically ventilated patients that was accepted



throughout the CHI Health system. She was a mentor for the occupational therapy neurology fellowship program and took multiple students throughout her 10+ years of working in the ICU. She became the Education Coordinator for CHI Health, coordinating over 400 students/year while still seeing patients in the ICU. She then transitioned to a management position overseeing 50+ occupational, physical, and speech therapists at CUMC-Bergan Mercy Hospital. She has been in academia since October 2020 and co-currently started a pro bono clinic at the Stephen Center, a homeless shelter and inpatient addiction recovery program in South Omaha. She serves on the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association and coordinates the Occupational Therapy Neuro Fellowship Program at Creighton University.

Karly Boehm is a third-year OT student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is interested in community-based practice and is completing her doctoral capstone project at Lasting Hope Recovery Center and the Stephen Center.

Serena Blank, MOT, OTR/L graduated from Saint Louis University in 2019. After graduating, she completed an AOTA mental health fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery at the Durham VA. Throughout her career, Serena has provided OT services in a variety of community-based mental health settings, including a jail re-entry program and a non-profit homeless agency. Serena works at Lasting Hope Recovery Center, an inpatient psychiatric facility, providing services in inpatient and partial hospitalization programs.

### **Course Description:**

Individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction are often high utilizers of emergency health services and experience higher rates of readmission due to environmental barriers that exacerbate gaps in the healthcare system. Occupational therapists possess the skills to provide services in community-based settings and help address these gaps; however, there are limited opportunities for practitioners to step into such roles. This presentation will explore the feasibility of addressing the needs of individuals who have addiction and experience homelessness. Attendees will be introduced to the current landscape of homeless services, addiction recovery, and mental health care in Omaha. They will gain insight into the feasibility and opportunities to expand occupational therapy into emerging areas of practice. The presentation will highlight real-life examples of how occupational therapists are currently addressing these needs through trauma-informed and strengths-based interventions.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Discuss the needs of individuals who experience addiction and/or homelessness.
- Describe trauma-informed and strengths-based evaluation and intervention planning.
- Apply trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches to evaluation and intervention planning for clients across practice settings.

### **Track 6 –Beginner Level Course: A Collaborative Approach to Early Intervention: Building Capacity to Optimize the Primary Service Provider Model**

#### **Speaker Qualifications:**

**Mary Kriha, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS & Shayla Kruse, OTD, OTR/L**

Mary Kriha, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS, joined the Munroe-Meyer Institute Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Spring of 2023. Mary has focused on pediatric brain injury, stroke, sensory processing and cortical vision impairment in her several years as an occupational therapist. Mary is passionate about assisting individuals to reach their fullest potential to participate in their meaningful occupations. In her current role, Mary provides school-based therapy for students within the Omaha Public Schools through Early Developmental Network (birth-3) and school-aged.

Shayla Kruse, OTD, OTR/L, joined the Department of Occupational Therapy at UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) in the spring of 2022. Shayla is an occupational therapist with over 5 years of experience in a variety of pediatric settings including home health, outpatient, early-intervention and school-based services.



Over her career, Shayla has acquired special interests working with pediatrics including feeding development, sensory processing and self-regulation in students with various disabilities. In her current role, Shayla provides school-based therapy for students in Omaha Public Schools.

**Course Description:**

The primary service provider (PSP) service delivery model within Early Intervention programs is gaining popularity. Providers have the responsibility of collaborating with the team, while being aware of strengths and weaknesses that impact their ability to provide family-centered practice. Building one's competency is vital to effectively provide client-centered services.

**Course Objectives:**

- Identify the primary service provider model.
- Identify three ways to effectively communicate and collaborate when utilizing the primary service provider model.
- Identify two opportunities to expand your toolbox.

**Track 7 - Intermediate Level Course: Time for an Upgrade: The Case for Updating Occupational Therapy Practice with Fascia Science**

**Speaker Qualifications:**

**Amy Mayer, OTD, OTR/L, RYT**

Amy Mayer, OTD, OTR/L, RYT, is the owner of Mayer Wellness & Myofascial Release and The Fascia-Informed™ Therapist. With over thirty years of experience treating clients with pain, she leverages her doctorate-level training in occupational therapy alongside certifications in yoga, holistic stress management, and natural movement. Throughout her twenty-year career in higher education, Amy has been recognized for her excellence in teaching and leadership in wellness programming. She is passionate about educating health practitioners and the public on the crucial role of fascia in health, emphasizing how maintaining healthy fascia contributes to a resilient and functional body.

**Course Description:**

Discover how fascia science is transforming our understanding of the human body and how it functions. As human biology advances, Occupational Therapy practice must adapt. Participants will explore and experience fascia's essential roles in sensory processing, structural dynamics, and physiological integration, fostering lifelong learning and stimulating practice innovation.

**Course Objectives:**

- Critically evaluate how education in fascia science and fascia-informed intervention enriches professional reasoning and supports lifelong learning for occupational therapy practitioners.
- Shift traditional reductionistic views of the body toward a more relational and integrative understanding that includes the fascial system.
- Critically analyze the multifaceted contributions of fascia to body function, encompassing its integrative roles in sensory processing, structural dynamics, and the coordination of complex physiological systems.

**Track 8 – Classroom and Clinical Accommodations for OT programs & Empowering Practice: Transitioning from Clinical Accommodations to Workplace Accommodations**

**Speaker Qualifications:**

**Anna Domina OTD, OTR/L, Julia Shin, EdD, MS, OTR/L, BCP, Katie Wadas-Thalken, EdD, Anne Heimann, MS, & Angela Lampe, OTD, OTR/L and Becky Kinnison, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR Erin Young, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR Angela Lampe, OTD, OTR/L**

All speakers are from Creighton University with three faculty representatives from the OTD program, one student affairs representative, and one accessibility services representative. All have experience and expertise with supporting students in accommodations both in the classroom and in preparation for the clinical environment.

Becky, Erin and Angie are all employed by Creighton University working in the department of Occupational Therapy. Together, they have experience in assisting individuals with accommodations in the academic, clinical and workplace settings and are part of a team investigating best practices and employers knowledge, perception, and ability to implement common workplace accommodations for practitioners with a disability(s).

### **Course Description:**

This short course will review laws, policies, and evidence on accommodations in health professional programs and designing enhanced clinical experiences for students with disabilities. It will consist of a review of key concepts, discussions, and real-life examples of reasonable accommodations and success stories in the classroom and on clinical experiences.

This presentation will engage students, educators and employers in discussing the growing need for workplace accommodations for therapists with disabilities. With a significant increase in accommodation requests for fieldwork rotations, this presentation aims to address trends, impacts, and strategies that foster this transition and support collaborative workplace accommodations.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Participants will gain a general overview of laws, policies, and current evidence related to accommodations in health professional programs.
- Participants will be able to identify reasonable accommodations in the classroom and in clinical experiences from case examples.
- Participants will be able to apply concepts to classroom or clinical experiences based on individual context.
- Increase Awareness: To enhance understanding among occupational therapy students, educators, and employers regarding the types of reasonable accommodations available for practitioners with disabilities and the importance of implementing these accommodations for those transitioning from clinical rotations into the workforce.
- Discuss Trends: To analyze the trends in accommodation requests within occupational therapy and other health professions over the past five years, highlighting the significant increase in requests and the implications for those transitioning from clinical rotations into the workforce.
- Provide Strategies: To present effective strategies for initiating conversations about accommodations, including how to advocate for necessary supports in the workplace environment, from ensuring inclusive practices for all occupational therapy practitioners.

**Student Session: NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know  
(Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-8pm via zoom )**

### **Speaker:**

**Melissa Kimmerling, EdD, MOT, OTR/L, Nebraska Ambassador to NBCOT**

Dr. Melissa Kimmerling is the program director for Augustana's hybrid Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. Having served in academic roles since 2011, she comes to Augustana after 10 years as the founding program director for an occupational therapy program in Nebraska. As a practice leader, Kimmerling has served in a variety of professional roles, including representing Nebraska to the American Occupational Therapy Association (2016-19), as vice president of policy & advocacy for the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association (2019-23) and Nebraska ambassador to the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (2023-present). Kimmerling resides in Papillion, Nebraska with her husband, two sons, two dogs and two cats.

**Course Description:**

During this session, an NBCOT Ambassador will share valuable information about preparing and applying for the national OTR and COTA certification exams. Specific topics include exclusive details about the exams, study tool resources, test day information, data regarding exam questions, and advice from other students and recent certificants. This presentation will allow you to be better informed about the various aspects of the national certification exam experience.

**Course Objectives:**

- Understand the national certification examination application process
- Learn about exam preparation strategies and the NBCOT Aspire® Study Tools and StudyPack™
- Increase awareness of NBCOT and the importance of continuing competency

**Why Be a Part of NOTA with Candice Mullendore, MS, OTR/L (This will take place after our keynote and before the first sessions begin)**

**Speaker:**

**Candice Mullendore, MS, OTR/L**

Candice is a licensed occupational therapist with nearly three decades of experience spanning hospital, home health, school-based, and private practice settings. As an owner and President of Pediatric Therapy Center since 2008, she leads the largest multi-disciplinary pediatric private practice in Nebraska. Currently serving as Vice President of Policy and Advocacy for the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association and as an alternate to the American Occupational Therapy Association's RUC committee, she actively shapes the profession's future at both state and national levels.

In 2017, Candice co-founded a groundbreaking multidisciplinary advocacy group in Nebraska that has successfully reformed policies and legislation affecting occupational, physical, and speech therapy services for Nebraskans. The group's innovative approach has been featured at numerous state and national conferences, where they share strategies for transforming healthcare policy, reimbursement systems, and advocacy efforts to benefit both patients and providers.

Specializing in infant feeding and swallowing, along with orofacial myofunctional therapy, Candice combines her clinical expertise with her business acumen to serve as a consultant to private practices. She guides healthcare entrepreneurs through the complexities of insurance, billing, reimbursement, policy navigation, advocacy, and practice management to help them build sustainable and successful practices.

Questions about conference? Contact the NOTA assistant at [NOTAassistant@gmail.com](mailto:NOTAassistant@gmail.com).

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