MSOTA MESSENGER NEWLETTER



MSOTA Messenger Summer 2015 E Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- MSOTA Pediatric Summit is scheduled for August 21st
- MSOTA's second annual 5K is scheduled for September 19, 2015 at Holmes Community College
- Summary of points from meeting with MS Medicaid representatives

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The MSOTA Pediatric Summit will be held **Friday, August 21, 2015** from **9:00am-3:00pm** at the **UMMC Student Union** (2500 N. State St., Jackson Mississippi 39216). MSOTA members earn 4.5 FREE CEUs!**

See the next page for a flyer with more details to print and share with your colleagues!

REGISTRATION:

STEP 1
Join MSOTA. If you're already a member, go to STEP 2.
STEP 2
Email ghux25@gmail.com to register. Subject: Pediatric Summit Registration
Provide your name, email address and OT license number.
Register by August 18, 2015. There will be no registration at the door.

**Non-MSOTA members are welcome to attend because we believe this summit will cover information every pediatric OT must know! However, they must still follow Step 2 above to register. Unfortunately, the CEU hours have been approved for MSOTA members only. Joining MSOTA prior to the Peds Summit means taking advantage this free 4.5 CEU offering and others in the future!



Message from the President – Glenda Hux

I'm honored to serve as your new MSOTA President. Someone asked me once why I volunteer for MSOTA, my response: because I get it. I've lived it. I've experienced it. My fam-

ily has had to adjust to it. As your MSOTA President, I understand the pressure to prove our distinct value, the difficulties meeting productivity requirements, the challenges we face working with very limited resources. The torn emotions between loving patient care and attempting to understand the business demands placed on us within an ethical context. It leaves us feeling like there's little time and emotional energy to delve into state policies, or read research based articles, or truly hone our craft by networking and seeking amazing continuing education opportunities. I get it. That's why along with the Board of Directors, I volunteer to work diligently bridging the gap between your everyday practice, your struggle to achieve work-family balance, and your quest for professional excellence.

If you get it and you are ready to lend a helping hand by volunteering in an unofficial manner, we'll take it! (mississippiota@gmail.com) If you get it and you have a little more time to serve on the board or committees, let me know! (ghux25@gmail.com) If you get it and you're too overwhelmed but as a member you wish to promote the benefits of membership, please do!

I want to encourage you to take advantage of our Pediatric Summit on 8/21, register for our 5K fundraiser on 9/19, attend our Legislative Appreciation Day on Feb 3, 2016 and our Annual Continuing Education Conference on Feb 27, 2016, sign up to assist with our Membership Drive 9/2015-3/2016, and purchase a T-shirt. These events and initiatives were designed just for you!

Our efforts and proceeds go directly to help you become a better trained, more informed, and in-demand occupational therapy practitioner in Mississippi. We strive to make it easy, beneficial and fun to be a member.

Join us!

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If you are not currently a member of MSOTA, this is a great time to become a member!





2015 MSOTA Pediatric summit

Friday, August 21 Location: **UMMC Student Union**

2500 N. State St., Jackson, Mississippi 39216

Topics:

- The future and role of pediatric occupational therapy throughout MS
- ABA and OT: A client centered collaborative approach to treatment
- Individualized Education Plans... Help! Basic steps to guide you
- Pediatric Evidenced Based Treatment: Where is the evidence? Arm yourself to prove your distinct value.
- Round Table Discussions: Answers to anything and everything you've been afraid to ask.



Register today!

Email: ghux25@gmail.com Online:www.mississippiota.org *There will be no registration at the door

MSOTA

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

Lunch on your own

members earn 4.5 <u>FREE</u> CEUs!

Why should YOU attend?

- To gain knowledge in evidencebased treatment techniques
- To be informed on current changes and trends in pediatric occupational therapy
- To network with fellow pediatric OTs

News from the MSOTA Reimbursement Chair Amanda Jordan, OTR/L



We have received some good news from the MS Division of Medicaid regarding the Requests for Information (RFI) that were submitted by MSOTA earlier this year. As a recap, the first request was for MS Medicaid to open CPT code 97535 (self-care or ADL training) for reimbursement. Currently this code is not reimbursed by Medicaid in any setting (unless bundled into hospital billing {i.e. a DRG}). The second request was for MS Medicaid to allow Occupational Therapy Assistants to treat and bill for their services in any and all settings. Currently, Occupation-

al Therapy Assistants can treat and bill Medicaid patients in hospital settings only.

Our first request for the reimbursement of CPT code 97535 was denied. The denial stated, "The recommendation of eQHealth Solutions (Medicaid's clinical review contractor), and Division of Medicaid review staff, is for CPT Code 97535 to remain closed for coverage. Alternative CPT codes are open for reimbursement allowing beneficiaries access to care. We regret that we will not be able to make this proposed coverage change. However, we will continue to take your recommendation under advisement as we plan and develop new initiatives. We appreciate MSOTA for helping to improve the healthcare delivery needs of our Medicaid beneficiaries." No, this is not good news, however; we were able to discuss this issue further with the panel of experts from the MS of Division of Medicaid who presented for us at the Central District Mini-Conference on July 23, 2015. They suggested that we submit an appeal with supporting documentation of our stance and request that the appeal be automatically sent to those who were in attendance of our conference since they were, now, more familiar with the topic. I feel really good about the prospect of this request moving up the chain of approval.

The second request for MS Medicaid to allow Occupational Therapy Assistants to treat and bill for patient care in all settings was not denied. The response from the Division of Medicaid was, "The Division of Medicaid (DOM) is in the process of amending the Administrative Code for therapy services and will take your request into consideration. Once the proposed filing is done according to the Administrative Procedures Act, DOM will notify you of the filing." I didn't really understand what all of this meant, so I asked for further explanation from our panel at the mini-conference. We were told that the request is currently at the highest level before going to the desk of the Secretary of State. In fact, I received an additional email from the MS DOM on July 30, 2015 that this request is under review by the Office of Executive Services and MSOTA would be notified when the proposed filing is complete. This is very encouraging.

It has been explained to me that the RFI process is lengthy. It can take six months to one year before a proposed change can be approved and then enacted. I feel very confident about both of these issues and would like to thank those members who brought this to my attention and those who have helped me put the information together to get the requests processed! Membership makes all the difference! I'll keep you posted.

Ethics Corner

AOTA Advisory Opinion regarding Productivity

The American Occupational Therapy Association has published an advisory opinion for its Ethics Commission in response to the ever increasing use of productivity management as a cost saving tool in health care institutions. The Opinion paper which includes a discussion of issues surrounding productivity and an ethical analysis of a case scenario and can be found at <u>this site</u>. Challenges that may cause ethical distress related to productivity and reimbursement might include being encouraged by an employer to treat patients in groups when reimbursement guidelines don't allow for it, charge for services not rendered or not medically necessary, score functional performance as better or worse than it truly is, or meet productivity standards that are not realistic. Each could lead to committing an act of fraud.

The scenario presented in the AOTA Opinion paper involves an OT, Juan, who observes a co-worker, Nancy, consistently treating up to five children during a one hour session, having them participate in various activities around a table. Combining her treatments in this way helps Nancy meet the high productivity standards at her facility. Nancy bills and documents for 4 CPT codes/15 minute charge codes per child, i.e., for the one hour session, she bills for 20 units of direct 1:1 time. Juan believes this is an inaccurate billing procedure. What process should Juan use to analyze the ethical dilemma? How would principles from the OT Code of Ethics apply, such as veracity, procedural justice, beneficence, and fidelity? What do you think he should do?

For more detail, be sure to click on the AOTA link. http://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Practice/Ethics/Advisory/reimbursement-productivity.PDF



1. CAREERS! Under this tab, check out the JOBS page, where employment opportunities are posted for OTs and CO-TAs. If you know of a job opening, have the contact person email <u>mississippiota@gmail.com</u> to advertise their opportunity on our website!

2. CONTINUING EDUCATION! Check this tab for a schedule of continuing education events across our districts. MSO-TA also provides information about other conferences based on the requests of members! If you would like to promote a continuing education event on our website, e-mail your request to mississippiota@gmail.com.

3. NEWS! For the latest information from MSOTA and the OT/OTA Schools look no further! If you serve on the MSOTA board in any capacity or are a School Representative and would like to provide photos and/or information about membership drives/fundraising/school events etc, e-mail your blurbs to meganelysewood@gmail.com!

4. RESEARCH! Also under the NEWS tab, you can find information about OT research projects. If you are looking for participants for your research project, please send information about your project and applicable links to <u>meganelyse-wood@gmail.com</u>.



5. WHO'S WHO! Check out the Officers page under ABOUT to see who represents you! Find photos and e-mails for your Officers, District Chairs, Student Representatives, and so many more! Also, check out the current vacancies! If you are an active member of MSOTA and would like to serve on the Board in a direct or indirect (committees, task force, volunteer for any activities) capacity, please send an email of your interest to ghux25@gmail.com.



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What do I owe to my family?

What is it to live a good life?

Those are questions which we face as individuals.

Peter Singer



Megan Wood Public Relations Website Admin

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This is a new feature in our newsletter where we will select OT practitioners from around the state to spotlight in each newsletter. If you have an idea for someone who should be "spotlighted" by MSOTA please contact Debbie Goldberg.

The MSOTA Spotlight is on...

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BECKY HOPPER, COTA/L

<u>How long have you been in the OT field?</u> I began working as a COTA/L in February of this year, so I'm still new to the field but I'm loving every minute of it.

Why do you love being in OT? This is such a wonderful and rewarding career to be in. I get to help others in a very personal way and make a positive difference in their lives everyday. For as far back as high school l've had a strong desire to help people and have especially been drawn to helping the elderly. I ended up pursuing my Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Mississippi State University and went on to work for NASA a little over 7 years. While I loved the work I was doing, I kept feeling in the back of my mind that I was called to be doing something else. My last year there, I felt like God laid a burden on my heart

that I wasn't where I needed to be and my passion to work with the elderly kept growing stronger. So I visited a local nursing home and shadowed an Occupational Therapist. I researched this career field more, and after much prayer and deliberation, I began my journey in pursuing a degree as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. Now, I feel like I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be and am overwhelmingly thankful for the unique opportunity to help others, improve their quality of life, and help them live life to its fullest... which is so fulfilling and beyond awesome. It's amazing to think about how many lives we'll touch over the span of our careers, and in the same way that I have an impact on patients, so many of them end up having just as much of an impact on me. I'm so thankful for every opportunity I have to make someone else's life better.

What has been your most memorable experience? During one of my fieldwork rotations, I worked with a patient who was recovering from Guillain-Barré syndrome. After several weeks of working very hard on regaining his strength, fine motor coordination, and endurance, his spouse brought their 6 month old baby in for a child care treatment session. We worked on holding him, feeding him, changing his diaper and snapping his clothes, all tasks that were still challenging at that point and took extra time and lots of rest breaks, but at the end of the session, he felt more confident about returning home. This experience was heart-grabbing, and I wanted to tear up with joy seeing his sense of accomplishment while holding his baby, something that was impossible just weeks before. It's moments like these that make me so thankful to be in this career field and play a part in making a difference in other people's lives.

<u>Where are you from?</u> I was born in New Orleans, moved around to several states, graduated high school in Tylertown, MS, and have settled in Long Beach, MS.

<u>Tell us about your family?</u> My husband, Jason, is a rocket test engineer for NASA. We met in the marching band at Mississippi State University (yes, we're band nerds) and we'll celebrate our 7th wedding anniversary this year. We have two cats, Penny and Ozzie, who pretty much rule the house.

What are your hobbies? Skiing, rock climbing, kayaking, camping, pretty much anything outdoors.

If you could go anywhere, where would it be? I would love to visit Ireland one day. The landscape is absolutely breathtaking.

<u>What is one piece of advice or words of wisdom you have found helpful?</u> Don't let the "busyness" of your job and day to day things that go along with it get in the way of being a blessing and touching others in the process.



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

Now is the time to be a part of MSO-TA! The **Central district** is excitedly preparing for our 2nd Annual MSOTA Run, Walk, and Roll. This year's event will have a 5K run/walk, a 10K run, and a one mile fun run, so there is something for EVERYONE.

It will be held on **September 19**, **2015** on the beautiful campus of Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, MS. We will have many prizes, so sign up today! You can sign up by going to

https://www.racesonline.com/events/ msota-run-walk-and-roll

We would be grateful for some race

volunteers, so please let us know if you can help out. We are also in need of corporate sponsors-Ask your boss! Ask your friends! The race will directly support our efforts for advocacy of occupational therapy in the state of Mississippi.

For more information you can contact:

Coastal District Meeting

NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

My name is Mandy Pounds, and I work at the North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford,

MS. I am looking forward to being a part of the

new direction MSOTA is moving as the North

District Chair. If anyone needs to contact me,

my email address is mandypounds@gmail.com

Mandy Pounds

Northern District Chair

mandypounds@gmail.com

Kelly Crawford <u>kellyccrawford@gmail.com</u> or Jennifer Donahue <u>jennifer@performancerehab.net</u> Central District CoChairs



The Coastal District continues to gain momentum with meetings scheduled for August, September, and October! The next meeting is scheduled for September 3rd at the Biloxi VA! Please contact Julie LeBlanc, the Coastal District chair, for more information.

Central District Meeting with MS Medicaid Leaders

Julie LeBlanc jal7093@cableone.net

DELTA DISTRICT NEWS

No report submitted. SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

Please join me in welcoming Jessica Cornett, MS, OTR/L, as our new South Central District Chair. Jessica is excited about serving our board as District Chair by increasing memberships, assisting with promotion of our events, providing value in membership to our current members by offering local continuing education opportunities, and assisting with fulfilling our goals serving Mississippi's occupational therapy practitioners.



Get your running shoes on and meet us at:

Holmes Community College

Saturday September 19

MSOTA's

2nd ANNUAL RUN WALK AND ROLL



SCHOOL NEWS

Pearl River Community College MSOTA Messenger – E Issue 3

PRCC's Occupational Therapy Assistant program is currently preparing our self-study and we are expecting our site visit from ACOTE in the Spring of 2016. We are also excited to welcome our incoming freshman class this fall as our sophomores begin Level I fieldwork rotations with the most amazing fieldwork educators in MS and LA.



PRCC OTA sophomores at Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp.



Ittawamba Community College

Dee Dee Lomenick has been named as interim program director of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Ittawamba Community College. The new Academic Fieldwork Coordinator will soon be named. ICC's 9th class of students will be beginning the program this fall. We are working on our self-study which is due in December, with our site visit scheduled for March of 2016. As you can see we are busy, busy, busy, but very excited as we gear up for a new school year.

Holmes Community College (No Update Submitted)

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SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

The UMMC MOT program is busy as always with three levels of classes.

We miss our recent graduates who are all busy securing first OT jobs and passing boards! They did a great job presenting their Masters research projects at MSOTA's spring conference.

May 26, 2015, the UMMC MOT Program welcomed 40 incoming students. The new Class of 2018 has



Class of 2015 research poster presentations at MSOTA spring conference.

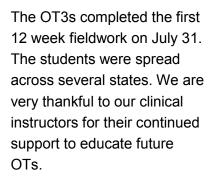


After 50 years of tradition, UMMC held its last Taste of the U event this sping. The OT2 Class received 1st runner up for overall showmanship.

had a busy summer adjusting to the great adventures of being a student at SHRP.

The OT2 class participated in the last Taste of the U during the spring semester and brought home an award. See photo. The OT2 class also had several students who had the opportunity to participate in a new horticulture club with Dr. Steve Watson and Officer Marcus

Blanton.



Fall semester will began with a bang on August 10th with all

three OT classes on campus.

OT students participating in SHRP Horticulture Club





Group Hug–therapy for the mind, body, and soul! The OT1 Class terminates their first semester Group Process having bonded as true friends. They look forward to a short break before heading into the second semester.

SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

UMMC Faculty News

Megan Ladner joined our faculty full time August 1. Dr. Tonia Taylor is partnering with the School of Nursing in a large HRSA grant which focuses on psychosocial needs of clients-our students will be directly involved in this interprofessional effort which includes a focus on telehealth. Dr. Penny Rogers completed her doctorate degree in health administration in July, and Robin Davis begins pursuing an Educational Doctorate this fall. Carol Tubbs is planning a return trip to Haiti to continue

providing OT and much love to children in a special needs orphanage there. Dr. Peter Giroux continues to travel the country and world to present on handwriting. The Christy Morgan, was named as the 2014 SHRP Alumni of the Year as well as Mississippi College's Distinguished Alumni of the Year for the Masters in Health Services Administration. Robin Parish was chosen for induction to the distinguished Nelson Order for teaching excellence in the spring of 2015. Sadly, Dr. Dona Lee Andrew will be retiring from UMMC December 31 after 25 years of dedicated and accomplished service—she will be missed by faculty and

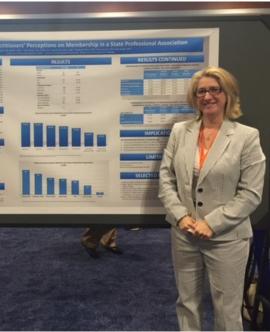
students alike.



Dr. Dona Lee Andrew We will miss you!



UMMC OT Faculty in Nashville Tonia Taylor, Carol Tubbs, Christy Morgan, Lorraine Street, Robin Parish



Several faculty members presented at AOTA Conference in Nashville. Robin Parish pictured above with poster on membership in state OT organizations.

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NISSISSIPPI ONAL THERAPY ASSO

MSOTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

One of the main goals of the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association (MSOTA) is to be a voice for our profession. This means being advocates for favorable public policy, protecting our scope of practice, and supporting members with specific issues affecting their work setting. The way MSOTA has done this in the past is through a "grassroots" method. We have exhausted our ability to create change at this level. The best way to make sure our voices are heard within legislation is to hire a lobbyist. MSOTA is the only organization in Mississippi that promotes and advocates to protect OT/OTA practice and reimbursement in Mississippi.

| What do we need to do this? | We need more members. The more members that we have the more represen- tation we have when legislative issues come along that could limit our scope of practice. Not only would more members mean we would have the funds that we need to hire a lobbyist, but it would also mean that we have more seats at the table during legislative discussions. | |
|--|---|--|
| What are we (MSOTA) doing to get more members? | We are kicking off a membership drive from September through March. We want our members, past members, and potential members to know where their money is going, what MSOTA does for them, and what MSOTA plans to do for them in the future. | |
| What are the facts about membership? | Only 162 out of 1,450 currently licensed OT/OTAs are members of MSOTA – that is 11 %. To hire a lobbyist we need at least 200 more members. | |
| What do your dues provide? | Discounted prices for continuing education opportunities with nationally recog- nized speakers. Free continuing education conferences throughout the year specific to your practice area. Purchase technology to enable more peer to peer collaboration during everyday practice. Membership provides legislative advocacy and protection on a volunteer basis from membership leaders. | |
| What could dues provide with increased membership? | A lobbyist who can have immediate and unrestrained access to our legislators during critical times. Means to financial solvency leading to the opportunity to seek a self-regulated professional governing body. | |
| What can you do to help? | We need members from all over the state who are willing to hand out infor- mation or application forms, get the word out, and assist us with adding and retaining members. | |

If we are not fighting for our profession, no one else will.

If you would like to help with the membership drive, please contact your district chair or Heather Calnan, h_calnan@bellsouth.net (if emailed out, possibly add tag to FB, Twitter, Instagram, and website)

New Membership Chair—Heather Calnan



I have a BS from Mississippi State University in Kinesiology. I graduated from the University of Mississippi Medical Center this year (2015). I am from Vicksburg, MS where I enjoy participating in the local community theatre, teaching dance, and engaging in community service. I am very excited to be a part of the MSOTA board. I plan to be an advocate and promote our wonderful profession. See details on our MSOTA membership drive below:



| Schedule of Events: | 7:00 – 7:45 am | Race Day registration and packet pick-up |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| | 8:00 am | 5K/10K begins |
| | 9:30 | 1 Mile Fun Run begins |

Location / Directions: The race will take place on the campus of the Holmes Community College 412 West Ridgeland Avenue Ridgeland, MS 39157

Online Registration*: Racesonline.com

Feel free to wear your favorite "Rock N Roll" themed running outfit!

AWARDS

Awards will be given to the overall Male/Female winners in Open, Masters (40-49), Grand Masters (50+) divisions in each Run/Walk/Roll category.

First, Second and Third Place will be awarded in the following age groups:

Male/Female 5K Run Age Groups

14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

Male/Female 5K Walk Age Groups 19 & under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

Male/Female 10K Run Age Groups 14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

All participants in the 1 mile Fun Run that pre-registers will receive a commemorative token. Awards will be given to First and Second place winners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Crawford kellyccrawford@gmail.com

Proceeds from this race will go directly to MSOTA for the promotion and advocacy of Occupational Therapy in the state of Mississippi.

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W REGISTRATION FORM



2nd Annual Run, Walk, and Roll 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run Saturday, September 19, 2015 Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, MS

SPONSOR FORM

Name of Business: _____ Business Address: _____ Contact Name & Phone No.: _

I wish to participate as a: (please circle below)

- PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$1,000)
 - You will be provided an area adjacent to the registration tent for your business to set up a table and/or tent to distribute promotional items.
 - o Your business name/logo/link MOST PROMINENTLY displayed on our website.
 - Your business name/logo MOST PROMINENTLY displayed on the race day banner.
 - One corporate team sponsorship (a total of 10 runners at no additional cost, t-shirts included).
 - o Business name MOST PROMINENTLY placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.

GOLD SPONSOR (\$500)

- Your business name/logo/link prominently displayed on our website.
- Your business name/logo prominently displayed on the race day banner.
- One corporate team sponsorship (a total of 5 runners at no additional cost, t-shirts included).
- o Your business name prominently placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.

SILVER SPONSOR (\$250)

- Your business name/logo displayed on our website.
- Your business name/logo placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.
- BRONZE SPONSOR (\$100)
 - Your business name placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.
- I would <u>not</u> like to be a main sponsor, however; I would like to donate \$_____.

If you would like to donate any items for the race bags (cups, pens, key chains, etc.), please contact Jennifer Donahue, MSOTA 5K Sponsorships Chair, at <u>iennifer@performancerehab.net</u>. Items must be received no later than August 15th!

Please make checks payable to MSOTA, P. O. Box 2188 in Brandon, MS 39043. Sponsorships must be received no later than August 1, 2015 for promotional deadlines. For any questions, please contact Jennifer Donahue at <u>iennifer@performancerehab.net</u> or at 601-331-3045.

Thanks for your support of occupational therapy in Mississippi!



CONTACT US

P. O. Box 2188 Brandon, MS 39043

E-mail: mississippiota@gmail.com Phone: 601-853-9564 E-Fax: 601-500-5757



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