

MiOTA Newsletter

Fall 2014

Michigan
Occupational
Therapy
Association, Inc.

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See you at
the MiOTA
Fall
Conference
At the Grand
Traverse
Resort
October 11 –
12, 2015

Grow by 1!

I pledge to grow MiOTA!

What an exciting, positive, and energetic MiOTA conference in Lansing this year! As some of you know, the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee implemented the +1 Campaign. This campaign highlighted the importance of bringing in one of your colleagues into the MiOTA circle.

Over the past year, we have analyzed the feedback and implemented change to highlight the value of membership to each and every Occupational Therapy practitioner here in Michigan! By increasing our reach in continuing education, advocacy, networking, amongst other areas of value, we believe that the direction of MiOTA has never been more important to our membership base.

While at conference, we were delighted to see almost 100% of our attendees commit to bringing 1 additional member into MiOTA. By making this commitment, we all have the ability to DOUBLE our membership and strengthening our collective voice for OT in Michigan!

Whether you are student, COTA or OT, commit today to bring in 1 additional member to MiOTA! Changes in healthcare are happening in Michigan and we want to make sure that OT has a loud voice to advocate for our role in patient care! Join your colleagues today and commit to the +1 Campaign!

Best regards,

Nathan R. Clinton-Barnett MSOT, OTRL nbarnett@functional-innovation.com

Current Membership Numbers

10.29.14	
Member Type	Active Members
Honorary	1
Associate	9
OT	309
OTA	26
Retired	19
Student	167
TOTAL	531

Attention MiOTA Members,

The executive committee has been faced with making some difficult financial decisions due to decreased membership. One of the decisions made at the most recent board meeting on November 9, 2014 was to eliminate printed copies of the newsletter. This will save MiOTA in printing and postage. This change will take effect beginning 2015. All newsletters will be available on-line and via email. If you have questions or concerns regarding this decision or special circumstances that require continued printed mailings please contact the MiOTA office via email miota.website@gmail.com at or by telephone at 517-267-3918.

Thank you for your understanding.
The Executive Committee

2014 Advocacy Action by Denise Hoffman, MSOT, OTR/L

From collaborations to cohesiveness, MiOTA Advocacy has fostered a foundation of education and change moving into 2015. Starting last spring Shelly Bania, an independent advocate, began consulting with the advocacy team to increase understanding and utilization of the Autism bill. Her actions led to collaboration with the Autism Society, who joined MiOTA at 2014 Advocacy Capitol Hill Day. The event was successful gaining media coverage, dialogue with numerous representatives, and a clear action moving forward. The event will be annually starting in the spring, 2015, look for more details to come on our web site. We are seeking volunteers that are interested in joining the advocacy team to work on topics such as a new web page design proposal for the state of Michigan regarding autism services and accessibility and Capitol Hill Day.

Moving into 2015, MiOTA advocacy will continue to address the Autism bill's understanding and utilization. There has been beginning reimbursement success with the Autism bill for commercial payers which is outlined in the attached letter. Another legislative area of focus is the national mental health initiative, supported by Michigan representative Debbie Stabenow. The impact including OT practitioners in the phraseology as a coverable service is one of the talking points being addressed. Anyone interested in volunteering for MiOTA to support mental health should contact the advocacy team.

Please continue to reach out with any legislative concerns or comments as they are all being addressed. It is your voice that makes change so reach out and make things happen. 2014 has demonstrated many changes with ACA and our profession. It is vital to continue our legislative measures to advocate for our profession. The following are ways to advocate and make a difference for your profession.

- Attend Michigan Occupational Therapy Board Meeting: November 18 at 10 am
- Write your representative ([www.aota.org/Advocacy - Policy/ Congressional - Affairs/ Tips-and-Tools.aspx](http://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Tips-and-Tools.aspx))

Thank you to everyone who attended the Advocacy Capitol Hill Day and the numerous volunteers who contributed to the success of the day and those who have relentlessly advocated for our profession.

"The future belongs to those who prepare for today"

Malcolm X

From the Director of Membership – Cathleen C. Johnson, MS OTRL

Members thank you for your continued involvement and engagement in the profession and the advocating for the role of occupational therapy in the state of Michigan.

Below are our membership numbers – such an opportunity to grow by +1 – our mantra for 2014-2015~!

You have a GREAT Retention, Activation and Recruitment Committee working towards growing membership - Katie Garvey, Eric Checkley, Sonny Grendel and Nathan Barnett.

2014 -2015 Focus from your Membership crew!

- Continue to enhance membership benefits via members only website access information and free continuing education / PDU events for members
- Being present at YOUR event – big or small! We will have lunch with your group, plan a conference call, attend an event – we want to be present and communicate the value of membership
- Grow our OTA members! Especially because of rule changes and the importance of OT and OTA supervision needs – OTA's need to be involved to ensure they have the right levels of supervision and are meeting state requirements

Navigating Billing Waters: Successfully billing for OT with an ASD diagnosis

-Shelly Bania and Timika Eason, Sensory Systems Clinic, St. Clair Shores, MI

The GOOD news – it CAN happen!

Sensory Systems Clinic (SSC) located near the shoreline of Lake St. Clair has been providing occupational therapy, sensory integration, and other related treatment modalities to individuals with a variety of diagnoses since 1982. Over the past year, we've invested in billing resources adding one full time and one part-time medical billing professionals. This has greatly increased our treatment capacity. Of course, reducing out-of-pocket costs for patients and their families is always a great goal to achieve.

This past April marked the 2 year point for the Autism Insurance Reform Bill, opening doors for children and young adults through the age of 18 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to receive treatments that are covered through their private insurance plans.

1 SSC's primary insurance contract is with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). We wanted to know if BCBSM would cover OT treatments for a patient that has the ASD diagnostic code 299.0. Verbally, they confirmed that submitting billing for treatments with that diagnostic code was possible. We wanted to test it out and inform OT practitioners across the state what we've learned. One of the most helpful resources in navigating insurance as it relates to the Autism Reform Bill is the Autism Alliance of Michigan (AOM) Insurance Portal found by following this link,) <https://sites.google.com/site/aaominscollaborative/insurers/insurance-billing-code-information>. The Insurance Portal indicates which procedure codes can be used for the ASD diagnostic code 299.0. It is important to note that just because a treatment has a procedure code, it may or may not be reimbursed by insurance providers. All treatment codes are reviewable. SSC has had success in billing for procedure codes 97112 – neuromuscular re-education, and 97530 –therapeutic activities. We encourage each patient to review his/her individual plan and investigate coverage to reduce "surprise" out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, in looking through the AOM website, it became apparent that parents, individuals, and families will need to work closely with their insurance provider for the diagnostic evaluation process. While the reform legislation calls for a medical diagnosis of Autism to be conducted by a physician or licensed psychologist, insurance providers like BCBSM may require a comprehensive autism evaluation conducted by an approved provider and/or an Autism Assessment Education Center (AAEC). Lastly, self-funded insurance plans are exempt from the Autism Insurance Reform Law. However, they may choose to self-adopt and cover services.

Bottom line – TRY it. We urge fellow OT practitioners across the state to bill for treatment for children and young adults diagnosed with ASD and share your learned lessons through this venue, MiOTA newsletter.

Owner Sandy and Office Manager Timika can be reached at the Sensory Systems Clinic by phone, (586) 293 – 1234 or via email, sensorysystemsclinic@gmail.com

1 Medicaid coverage for ASD (Autism Benefit Waiver) is a separate public act. Sensory System clinic is a Macomb County Community Mental Health contracted service provider.

Appendix

Autism Alliance of Michigan - Insurance Portal Billing Codes

NOTE: 1) For Private Insurance (e.g. BCBS); 2) Must have Diagnosis 299.0

<https://sites.google.com/site/aaominscollaborative/insurers/insurance-billing-code-information>

Continued on page 4

CPT/HCPCS Codes to Bill in ECHO (current Procedural Terminology/Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System)
Effective April 1, 2012

Billing Code CPT/HCPCS/ Revenue Modifier	Component #1	Component #2	Billing Description
97003	A000	B000	Occupational Therapy Evaluation
97004	A000	B00	Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation
97110	A000	B000	Therapeutic Procedure
97112	A000	B000	Neuromuscular Re-education
97113	A000	B000	Aquatic Therapy
97116	A000	B000	Gait Training
97124	A000	B000	Massage
97140	A000	B000	Manual Therapy Techniques
97150	A000	B000	Therapeutic Procedure, Group
97530	A000	B000	Therapeutic Activities, Direct
97532	A000	B000	Development of Cognitive Skills
97533	A000	B000	Sensory Integrative Techniques
97535	A000	B000	Self-care/Home Management Training
97537	A000	B000	Community/Work Reintegration Training
97750	A000	B000	Physical Performance Test or Measurement, each 15 minutes
97755	A000	B000	Assistive Technology Assessment
97802	A000	B000	Medical Nutrition Therapy, Initial Assessment & Intervention
97803	A000	B000	Medical Nutrition Therapy, Re-Assessment & Intervention
97804	A000	B000	Medical Nutrition Therapy, Group

Communications Update
 Coordinator: Nancy Vandewiele Milligan
 Nancyv-m@wayne.edu
 Website

The new website was launched on October 10, 2104. The new features include: Membership registration and renewal on-line, On-line registration for conferences, and a Members only section. Thanks to our Website Coordinator Claudette Stork Reid, and support from Fred Sammons. Check it out at <http://www.miota.org/>

If you have questions about the website you can contact Claudette at: Email address: MiOTA.website@gmail.com

Chapters

Our local chapters continue to grow and become more active. Below is a list of current active current chapters. If you are interested in starting a chapter in your area please contact Nancy Milligan.

Huron Valley Chapter Board:

- Chair: Marie Miller
 Phone: 1 (734) 255-0119
 Email: mmille82@emich.edu
- Next meeting: January 5, 2015

Southwest Chapter Board

Deb Lindstrom, PhD, OTRL
 Christine Vlietstra, MS, OTRL
 SW Chapter Michigan OT Association: swmichot@hotmail.com

Upper Peninsula Chapter Board

- Mary Jo Vaughn
- Kirsten Matthews email: kirstenmatthews@charter.net

Lansing Chapter Board

Mary Jo Moore
 Contact info: 989-494 8552

Detroit Chapter Board

Chairperson- Seeking a chapter chair. If interested contact:
Nancy Vandewiele Milligan: nancyv-m@wayne.edu

Special Interest Sections

Work Special Interest Section

- William Sisco, Chair
- email: siscow@gvs.edu

Hand Special Interest Section -

- Rasa Poorman, OTR/L, CHT
- (248) 543-4886

MASPO: The Michigan Alliance of School Physical and Occupational Therapists
 Contact Information:

- Becky Boyd - Chair
- Amy Stier - Co chair
- Carolyn Rhodes - Treasurer
- Tina Mickelson - Corresponding Secretary
- Link: <http://www.maspot.org/>

FALL 2014 Finance Report

by Denise Justice Finance Director

The conference was a success! Our budget was close to the original projected expense however we are still awaiting final invoices. At conference we did issue a college scholarship award to Chet LaFave.

September/October Financial Status

Income to Date:	\$48,913.61
	(Projected for year \$92,920.00)
Expenses to Date:	\$57,773.07
	(Projected for year \$92,815.00)
Income versus Expense to Date:	\$8,859.46
	(Income Loss)
Checking Account Balance:	\$10,643.61
Money Market (Savings) Balance:	\$3,505.07
Scholarship Fund:	\$24,531.49

Income through membership dues, conference and advertisements allows MiOTA to provide continued services to our members such as legislative representation. We appreciate your membership and encourage you to continue your membership. Consider encouraging your co-workers to join we need to strengthen our profession. Let's "GROW BY 1"!

2014 MiOTA Annual Conference Summary

Our conference this year was held at the beautiful Lansing Convention Center. This years' conference provided new opportunities.

1. Prior to conference there was a "Capitol Hill Day". OT's from around the state of Michigan met with various State and House Representatives to discuss the issues that OT's encounter while in serving patients with Autism and Mental Health.
2. MiOTA offered TWO pre-conference institutes; one on Torticollis and the other on OT management. Practical Assessment and Treatment Strategies for Torticollis was presented by Anne Pleva, PT, PCS. Rehabilitation Management was presented by Cathleen Johnson, MS, TRS, OTRL and Marianne Hassen, MA, OTRL.

Over 117 therapists attended the regular 2-day conference which included 23 exhibitors, 10 poster sessions, 33 break-out sessions, a wine and cheese ceremony (where awards were presented), and a Key Note address from Lt. Governor Brian Calley. The Lt. Governor discussed the importance of Occupational Therapy and shared stories of his experiences with his son who is Autistic.

Our conference next year will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, MI on Sunday, October 11th and Monday, October 12th, 2015. NEW for next year; a 5K run, which will probably be held the day prior to the annual conference. We cannot wait to see you next year!



For those of you who attended the MiOTA conference this Fall, you already know the significance of the 16:1 ratio you see above.

Statistically speaking - based on numbers that were pulled for the 2014 Fall Conference, for every 16 licensed practitioners in the state of Michigan, there only 1 who is a member.

So that means, every ONE member essentially supports and pays for a lobbyist that watches all the legislation, monitors insurance and Medicaid bulletins and represents the profession of OT in the state of Michigan anytime there is legislations coming into play that may impact or does impact our ability to practice; something that benefits an additional 16 licensed practitioners WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS.

Members pay a higher fee, but we like to give our new grads and students a chance to be members at a reduced rate since they are not working yet. But those students are also EACH SUPPORTING 16 LICENSED PRACTITIONERS who are not members of MiOTA.

Some people say to me, "oh, I didn't know what I was getting out of MiOTA, so I let my membership go" or say "I'll join again if there is something pressing legislatively that needs to be take care of" or "I don't have the money right now."

But the problem with that is multifold. People expect tangible things, is being licensed, able to practice as an independent practitioners, protecting our scope of practice and knowing we are fighting a battle to keep OT at the forefront of being a reimbursable entity not tangible enough? Certainly, if my paycheck stopped coming because you I longer had a job because of any of these reasons I would see that as tangible? When big issues happen, we have to act NOW. We don't generally have time OR resources to launch a huge membership drive. We certainly as an organization cannot afford to pay postage and mailings to send information to the other 16 people who aren't a member of MiOTA to ensure they are aware of the issue at hand. Yet, all too often, that is what we must do, because the voice of MiOTA is small, and we need the masses to be listened to. As for the cost, if everyone in the state of Michigan that was licensed to practice was a member, our annual dues would be able support our lobbyist and management firm on around \$10-\$15 a year. Our dues are high because every 1 person supports 16 who are not members. We easily throw away \$30 here and there eating out or \$ every week for fancy coffee. I know that both my husband and I are members. It is a simple way we can support our profession. To us, it means that we will go out for a movie 2 on a date night with a babysitter for our son 2 times less a year. We will gladly make that sacrifice because we have our jobs because of the things MiOTA does for us on a state level.

Membership is the most simple, yet most meaningful gesture we can make. And we believe it is our professional responsibility.

We always say that we are preaching to the choir. If you are reading this, you are getting it because you are a member. **So, this time, I challenge you to be our voices to the non-members.** Find out who of your colleagues are and are not members. Talk to them about MiOTA. Tell them what MiOTA has done for you. Ask them to join MiOTA. Ask them why they are not a member. If they have reasons or concerns, ask them to send an email or give the office a call and talk to us. Tell them to be a part of the solution and VOLUNTEER. If they just chose to criticize, perhaps remind them what is RIGHT about what we do. Remind them that AOTA has federal jurisdiction. Although they help us and we support them, they do NOT have the power in the states that the state associations have and THIS is where the ultimate policies affecting your job in Michigan will be determined.

Membership in BOTH state and federal organizations is essential. I certainly hope it won't have to get to the point that this organization does not exist anymore before people will see what it is doing for them.

We have been battling this issue for over a decade. We are running this organization on as bare bones budget as we are able to do without just cutting our lobbyist or office manager. **We are going to get as tight as we can because we need to survive, but we are NOT going to survive if we continue at we have for the past 15 years.**

So, starting in 2015, newsletters will go to electronic only unless we receive a special request in writing for a print copy (that saves over \$1200 a year in postage alone). We have already switched our phone conferencing which is saving us hundreds of dollars. We are trying to give more tangible benefits of membership by providing free webinars to members so they can keep up on new info and continuing education. We provide our fall conference so we can make money in addition to membership to help support the organizations fiscal well-being.

We still have a dedicated group of volunteers who in addition to their full-time jobs sacrifice time with their families after their work day is done to keep this organization alive.

Please remember that every time you give your coworkers and friends who are non-members information that MiOTA has paid to get or do or that volunteers have worked to achieve for the paying members, the cycle unfortunately continues. As the saying goes, why buy the cow when you get the milk for free? Instead, tell them "hey - did you know that MiOTA is doing this for us right now?" and tell them to BECOME A MEMBER so they can learn the details and stay up-to-date on licensure, billing, reimbursement, continuing education, and more.

And, finally - **LET'S GROW BY ONE EVERY MEMBER, BRING ONE NEW MEMBER TO MIOTA THIS YEAR**

Thank you, as always, for your support. We could not do it without you. Sincerely,
Kirsten Matthews, Leader of the Executive Committee, Michigan OT Association.

Look for us on the web
Mi-ota.com

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The MiOTA Newsletter is always looking for article ideas or sharing from you what works in your practice area. If you have an idea to share contact Donna Case at casedo@northvilleschools.org

Deadlines for MiOTA Newsletter

Issue Deadlines:

Winter	February 01, 2015
Spring	May 01, 2015
Summer	August 01, 2015
Fall	November 01, 2015