TBOTE news

The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners **August 2026**

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*Previous newsletters, forms, and FAQs are available from the website: **ptot.texas.gov**.*

Next Board Meeting
*October 30, 2026**
** Subject to change*

TBOTE BOARD

Stephanie Johnston, OTR, Chair
Sally King, COTA, Vice Chair
Karen Gardner, OTR, Secretary
Estrella Barrera, OTR
Blanca Cardenas, Public Member
Chelsea Howell, Public Member
Eddie Jessie, Public Member
Erin Smith, OTR
Lynn Wilde, COTA

Notes from the Coordinator

Proposed and Adopted Rules

The Board did not propose or adopt rule changes at its last meeting.

New Licensing System Reminder and Tip

The Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) transitioned in March, 2025, to a new licensing system that allows for a greater integration of certain online and licensing functions, including concerning online renewal and initial licensure applications.

In order to access the system, any existing licensees will need to create an account in the new system and link their license to their online account.

This new system is different from the renewal portal on the ECPTOTE website that licensees renewing online must use to enter their CE activities and take the jurisprudence examination. Licensees still must complete these steps on the ECPTOTE website prior to submitting the online renewal application and fee in the new system.

Licensees must create an account in this new system in order to renew online and access other online features, such as online name change or replacement license applications, online license verification requests, etc.

Licensees may create an account for the new system and link their license to such at any time, though those approaching their three-month renewal window who are planning to renew online may wish to do so as soon as possible. These steps take some time and licensees are encouraged to not wait until the last minute in order to avoid unexpected issues, etc.

New System Tip:
On-Demand License Verification Request

Once you create an account in the new system, you may access a related form to request that a license verification be sent to another entity, such as a licensing board in another state. Using this feature streamlines the request process, allows the individual to remit payment online, and assists agency staff in saving time they may use to meet other licensee needs.

TBOTE Board Member Appointments

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Erin Smith as an OT and Lynn Wilde as an OTA professional member and reappointed Eddie Jessie as a public member of the TBOTE Board. Please see an excerpt from the Office of the Governor's press release, adapted below.

Erin Smith of Dallas is an occupational therapist and hand therapist with OrthoTexas. She is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Hand Therapy Academy and a former member of the Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) and the American Society of Hand Therapists. Additionally, she is a volunteer with Lake Highlands Church and Feed Lake Highlands. Smith received a Master of Occupational Therapy from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and a Doctor of Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman's University.

Lynn Wilde of Houston is a certified occupational therapy assistant with the Harris County Department of Education. She is a board member of the Lone Star College (LSC) Advisory Committee for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program and a former member of TOTA. Wilde received an Associate of Applied Sciences in Occupational Therapy Assistant at LSC - Tomball.

Eddie Jessie of Houston is an aftercare housing coordinator at The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD Services. He is the former co-chair of the Houston Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, an advisory board member for the Texas A&M University Center on Disability and Development, and a committee board member for Volunteers of America. Jessie received a Bachelor of Science in social work and criminal justice and a Master of Arts in sociology and counseling from Prairie View A&M University.

CE Reminder

With regard to the HHSC approved human trafficking prevention training requirement, the OT Rules do not require that licensees complete a specific number of hours of training as HB 2059 (86th Legislative Session), the related state legislation, does not set a specific number. To meet the requirement, licensees must complete an HHSC approved training course and retain the documentation of such as described in the OT Rules.

The OT Rules include that the completion of one training course per renewal period to meet the training requirement is pre-approved for continuing education credit up to a maximum of 2 contact hours. Additional continuing education credit may be earned for a training course exceeding 2 hours if the additional hours meet the requirements of Chapter 367 of the OT Rules.

Remember that unless otherwise specified in Chapter 367, 1 hour of continuing education is equal to 1 contact hour. For example, the completion of a 1-hour HHSC approved human trafficking course may be counted for a maximum of 1 contact hour of CE, which is pre-approved for CE credit.

Rule Reminder: Renewing On Time

If your license's expiration date is approaching, there is no need to wait until the last minute to renew. Once you have met renewal requirements, you may submit your renewal application starting approximately three months prior to your license's expiration date. Starting the renewal process early in your renewal window may help you avoid issues at the last minute. In fact, why not set/create calendar reminders for your next license renewal today in your calendar apps and paper calendars? Such alerts may prove themselves powerful tools, indeed.

With regard to renewal methods, renewing online may be convenient, but it does involve accessing both the Board's website, as well as its online licensing system, a different website for which licensees must set up an account and link their license. Either one of these sites might be unavailable occasionally due to scheduled and/or unscheduled maintenance, there may be internet browser issues, etc. If your renewal is delayed and you do not complete all requirements, including submitting payment, before your license expires, you will be subject to late fees. Such underscore the importance of not waiting until the last minute to renew.

You may, alternatively, renew by paper by submitting a paper renewal application form. Like for an online renewal, all required items must be postmarked before your license expires.

Note that those initiating or already on retired status must renew by paper with the Retired Status Application/Renewal form.

Please see the OT Forms page to access these documents.

Check the OT Renewal page for further information, including for further eligibility requirements to renew online or by paper and for related renewal links. For example, renewal requirements, except for a renewal involving moving to inactive status or renewing inactive status, include having completed the Board's fingerprinting requirement. Until this requirement has been met, a licensee may not renew. Note that many licensees have already met this requirement, for example, as part of initial license issuance or a previous renewal.

Remember that as per §370.1(a) of the OT Rules, "Licensee Renewal. Licensees are required to renew their licenses every two years by the end of their birth month. A licensee may not provide occupational therapy services without a current license. Licenses and license expiration dates should be verified on the Board's license verification web page."

Note that submitting the license renewal application and fee does not constitute renewal.

Once you have submitted all required materials and made payment, the renewal must be processed, and it will take approximately two to four business days for your license to show on our license verification page as being renewed.

If your license does not show as being current and unexpired on the license verification page of our website, you may not provide occupational therapy services.

Please also note that the following, excerpted from §374.2, Detrimental Practice, of the OT Rules, is included as detrimental practice.
(12) practicing occupational therapy without a valid license, including after the expiration, surrender, or revocation of the license, during the suspension of the license, or after the license is void;

The above is just a brief overview of the renewal process; see the full Act and Rules for further regulations.
See the OT Renewal page for further resources, including renewal instructions and renewal links.

AUGUST 7, 2026, BOARD MEETING
FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN

Rachel Babyak, OTA #216821 (Killeen) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Lisa Darnell, OT #112131 (Carthage) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Meredith Drake, OTA #211023 (Teague) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Rachel Griffin, OT #118102 (Whitewright) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Jeremy James, OTA #210177 (Brownsville) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Monique King, OT #121376 (Waxahachie) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Lisa Kuchler, OT #119618 (Austin) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Frankie Pennington, OTA #213931 (Galveston) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Dena Shugart, OT #109626 (Houston) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Adrienne Martinez, OT #114053 (McAllen) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 5 days.***

Eric Ratliff, OT #112739 (Texas City) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 5 days.***

Sean Iravani, OT #117319 (Leander) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 10 days.***

Kimberly Wright, OT #108626 (The Woodlands) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Shirley Simms, OT #101499 (Round Rock) - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 60 days.***

Justine Hitt, OTA #217555 (Conroe) - failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Anna Pollard, OT #122021 (San Antonio) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

AnneMarie Satariano, OTA #216993 (Kountze) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Megan Frazier, OT #113325 (Copperas Cove) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 15 days.***

Hailey Wilcox, OTA #217896 (Manor) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

James McKinney, OT #123414 (Garland) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Ursula Benton, OTA #210488 (Pearland) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 60 days.***

Christay Beya, OT #122046 (Rockwall) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 20 days.***

Lacey Holder, OT #113964 (Frisco) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Eryl Ragasa, OTA #217618 (Stafford) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Lydia Thompson, OT #124429 (Madison, MS) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 45 days.***

Samuel Colby, OT #126336 (Bryan) - failed to disclose criminal history on application for licensure. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapters 364 and 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 15 days.***

Elisabeth Hardin, OT #108629 (Conroe) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to provide sufficient prior written notice of resignation of employment resulting in the loss or delay of occupational therapy services. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Amber Hatton, OTA #216080 (Houston) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to provide sufficient prior written notice of resignation of employment resulting in the loss or delay of occupational therapy services. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Taylor Bean, OT #120410 (Katy) - failed to cooperate with the agency by not responding to agency correspondence addressed to the individual's designated address(es) within 90 days, failed to notify the Board in writing of changes in contact information within 30 days of such change, and failed to properly renew license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapters 367, 369, and 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Rebecca Mann, OTA #213727 (White Settlement) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice, including, harassing or intimidating a client either physically or verbally, causing or enabling physical or emotional injury to or the impairment of the dignity or safety of the client, and violating the principles or related standards of conduct. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

Christina Breadon, OT #118804 (Houston) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice, including, harassing or intimidating a client either physically or verbally, causing or enabling physical or emotional injury to or the impairment of the dignity or safety of the client, and violating the principles or related standards of conduct. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 20 days.***

Brittney Davidson, OTA #218207 (Paris) - violated ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics and other occupational therapy standards. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order to refrain from practice in the home health environment and random drug screenings at the Board's request for 36 months.***

Aida Flores-Marron, OTA #209518 (Magnolia) - imprisoned following a felony conviction. ***Board Order to revoke license per Tex. Occ. Code §§ 454.301 and 53.021(b); and 40 TAC § 374.5.***