

Occupational Health Physical Therapy
Special Interest Group

Board of Directors Conference Call – Tuesday, April 30, 2013 - 12:00 MDT

Present: Lorena Pettet Payne, John Lowe, Jill Galper, Doug Flint, Nicole Matoushek, Pam Duffy (Ortho Board Liaison), Karen Jost (Invited guest, APTA)

The meeting was called to order by Lorena Payne at 12:01pm MDT

Meeting minutes from OHSIG Board meeting on January 21, 2013 were accepted

Minutes from the membership meeting on January 22, 2013 were accepted

1. Payment advocacy: Karen Jost, APTA, submitted a report as attached regarding workers compensation advocacy initiatives.
2. Clinical Specialist task force: John Lowe and the task force urge the OHSIG to finalize and send the survey assessing interest in specialization. It is suggested that the survey be sent to Hand Section, Orthopaedic Section, and Private Practice Section members. Nicole and Kevin worked on the introduction. Lorena will send the survey one last time to the board for feedback (see attached) and then submit to section office to be sent out by June 7, 2013.
3. Strategic Plan: The strategic plan has been updated and is attached. The strategic plan will continue to be used to guide the SIG in all activities. (The revised strategic plan will be in the “master hand book” compiled and distributed by July 29, 2013 - Lorena)
4. Job Descriptions: Job descriptions for President, Vice President, and Nominating committee are present and accounted for. Membership and communication committees were combined in January. There is not a work description for this committee. Research Chair is another job that is without a work description. The job descriptions will all be placed in the “master hand book” to be distributed to the board and committees by July 29, 2013. (Lorena responsible for compilation and distribution)
5. Professional development courses: the SIG has submitted authors and topics for a home study course that will be available in 2014. Regarding electronic / media platforms, Pam Duffy gave us this answer from Terri DeFlorian, ***“We are working with a consulting company who is finishing up the final information gathering on our agreement to assess our current educational offerings and make a recommendation on choosing an educational platform for offering our courses electronically. This will be presented and discussed at our July Board meeting. We will know more about the Section’s direction in this area in July.”***
6. Program Committee for CSM 2014: Doug Flint submitted proposals to Ortho. Program committee. One program was selected. A second topic has been submitted to fill the third hour. This will be followed by membership meeting. Doug requests proposals be submitted to him by September 1, 2013 for 2015 CSM preconference and conference sessions. He asks that topics and names of speakers be submitted to him as soon as possible.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 13:00 MDT

Submitted by Karen Jost:

With regard to the workers' compensation regulation summaries – we have 41 states done (a couple have yet to be uploaded but they are completed). They can be reviewed at

<http://www.apta.org/apta/workerscompensation/workerscompensationMap.aspx>

The states that I still need final review on are: Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

The remainder of the advocacy agenda that I originally developed has not moved forward much, primarily due to resource limitations here. There are some key issues that I think it would be helpful to get “talking points,” and perhaps some resources put together for the state chapters. These include:

1. Cost containment: implementation of fee schedules; implementation of provider networks; utilization review
2. Treatment guidelines: how to decide what position to take, what things need to be included in discussions if they are adopted, etc.
3. Demonstrating the value of physical therapist involvement EARLY in workers' compensation claims
4. Demonstrating the value of physical therapists in keeping workers at work and returning injured workers to the workplace
5. The role of physical therapists in determining disability
6. Positioning physical therapists on workers' compensation medical advisory committees
7. Increase visibility of workers' compensation PT experts in all jurisdictions (to members as well as to other stakeholders)
8. Educating PTs about effective management of workers' compensation cases, and their role in claims (ties to 3, 4 and 5, in particular); perhaps providing suggestions about appropriate data to capture to demonstrate their value.

I'm open to suggestions about what might be appropriate to take on. I think 1 and 2 are pressing needs, as these are strategies that I am seeing around the country in regulations and legislation. The others are the direction I believe we need to go, but I'm open to input.

If I can find the time, I'll put together a short summary of regulations that I have seen proposed and/or enacted so far this year with regard to workers' compensation. Submitted by Karen Jost

SURVEY FOR CLINICAL SPECIALTY PETITION:

Physical Therapists who are involved in preventing injury, returning workers to full productivity and minimizing the fiscal implication of injury on the job site need special expertise. The Physical Therapist who can show evidence of standardized proficiency in occupational health physical therapy assures quality and consistency in the provision of efficient and effective services to a variety of consumers.

Acknowledging this high level of proficiency, the Occupational Health Special Interest Group (OHSIG) of the APTA, Orthopaedic Section, has developed a proposal for specialty certification. **Prior to a petition for specialty to the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, it is necessary to quantify interest for this advanced certification.** Please take a moment to answer the following 2 question survey. Your feedback is crucial to advance the recognition of Physical Therapists working in occupational health.

To learn more about practice in occupational health contact the Occupational Health Special Interest Group at: lpettet@aol.com or http://www.orthopt.org/content/special_interest_groups/occupational_health

SURVEY:

- 1.) Specialty certification requires a written examination and proof of practice in the specialty area. If available, would you consider pursuing specialty designation in occupational health Physical Therapy? Yes No
- 2.) Occupational Health Physical Therapists perform functional capacity evaluations, job analysis, work rehab programs, consulting with employers, etc. What percentage of your professional time is devoted to Occupational Health Physical Therapy services? _____%

Occupational Health Special Interest Group Strategic Plan 2013-2016

1	Promote and support evidence-based practice in occupational health physical therapy including research, clinical judgment, and patient/client needs
1A	Disseminate information of occupational health related evidence-based practice in physical therapy
1B	Solicit manuscripts for OPTP
1C	Provide consultation on evidence-based practice in occupational health physical therapy
1D	Promote and support writing and dissemination of case reports in the practice of occupational health physical therapy
2	Promote the occupational health physical therapist as the practitioner of choice for illness and injuries that impact worker health and performance
2A	Establish and maintain liaison/relationships with state chapters (and ortho section) to share guidelines and other information
2B	Promote and update occupational health guidelines and position statements
2C	Promote awareness of Occupational Health Physical Therapists
2D	Present on occupational health related topics and payor forums (when scheduled)
2E	Continue to advocate for sharing information between members
2F	Develop new strategies to increase networking among members
3	Facilitate professional development and specialization in occupational health physical therapy
3A	Pursue specialization status for occupational Health through ABPTS petition
3B	Develop infrastructure for testing/examination and test review materials
3C	Provide educational sessions at CSM
3D	Provide targeted educational programming to support member needs and professional development outside of CSM
4	Advance, promote, and advocate for the practice of occupational health physical therapy
4A	Serve as a resource to chapters & APTA on issues related to legislation, practice and payment policy
4B	Serve as liaison to external groups
4C	Serve as an expert on occupational health for education/professional degree programs
4D	Support initiative to form a subgroup on occupational health within the WCPT
5	Develop a process to understand and meet the needs of our members while growing membership and attracting active OHSIG participants in volunteer/leadership roles
5a	Increase active participation & leadership in committees & special projects