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To whom it may concern:

I have read, with interest, the new recommendations for continued Occupational Therapist competency in the state of Pennsylvania, and certainly recognize a concerted effort to increase the professional contributions of individual therapists in order to maintain their licensure.

As I am personally very active in the profession, I don't feel I will have any difficulty meeting these new requirements, and embrace their structure for appealing to AOTA's Centennial Vision. I have heard other occupational therapists, however, voice concern regarding their perceived inability to meet the competency requirements that are not continuing education-based. These tend to be therapists who work part time or casually, who may be raising small children...or may be semi-retired.

In reading 49PA.CODE.CH.42: Continuing Competency, it appears that mentoring (or being mentored), providing fieldwork supervision, writing an article in a non-peer-reviewed journal (OT Practice?), and providing professional (peer-reviewed or invited) presentations would be the easiest methods for these practitioners to achieve their 6 biennial credits not related to continuing education. Are there any limitations for how many practitioners can be involved in writing the same article, or in developing the same professional presentation? Would it, perhaps, be that 2-3 authors could co-present (or collaboratively write) and all receive some credits?

Could you give some examples of where the non-peer-reviewed articles could be published? Could they be in Penn Point, for example? Could they be within an organization's (Genesis, for example) clinical reference database? Could presentations at annual POTA conferences be either traditional sessions or poster sessions? Could presentations be at an organization's discipline-specific quarterly professional update meetings (if attendees provided written reviews of the presentations)? Could presentations include practice-related offerings in community settings (more educationally than marketing-focused), with sufficient written reviews from audience members (and syllabus of presentation)?

Thanks for your assistance with these questions, and for your efforts in keeping Occupational Therapy practitioners current and competent in their skills.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Stuart, OTD, OTR/L
astuart1@earthlink.net

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2011 MAY -3 P 2:08