



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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## **Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (OBCE)**

### **Public Notice & E-Newsletter Update**

Summer 2022

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## **President's Report**



### **CPR/BLS/AED Continuing Education Requirement**

OBCE recently voted for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Basic Life Support (BLS), and Automated External Device (AED) courses to be a part of our mandatory continuing education. After hearing from public comment, we moved forward with adopting this into rule at our May 2022 Board Meeting.

The requirement was put into effect immediately. Those who were renewing for June 2022 have a grace period but should complete this requirement as soon as possible. No one should be waiting to have this completed until their next renewal.

Just like any other continuing education for licensure, these courses can be taken online, with virtual completion and check offs available. An in-person component is not required by OBCE to meet the rule. Many reputable companies offer these courses combined or alone for between \$20-\$40. The courses are often less than an hour and offer multiple re-takes of the final test, if needed. These certifications are good for two years. The OBCE will ask these certifications to be maintained and it only needs to be sent in upon a CE audit.

Chiropractic students are required by law to have CPR/AED training and it's not required once matriculated. The goal of this rule is to keep everyone updated with the latest American Heart Association guidelines around AED, CPR, and BLS certification.

Statistics from the American Heart Association indicate that 70% of Americans do not help in cardiac-related emergencies because they do not know how to perform CPR or their training has significantly lapsed. There are over 300,000 out-of-hospital heart-related emergencies every year. Effective CPR from a bystander can double or triple the victim's chance of survival.

As healthcare providers, it is important for us to stay up to date with the latest life-saving techniques, not only for our patients but even for loved ones at home. Four out of five emergency cardiac events happen at home.

Other boards in the state of Oregon are moving towards requiring CPR/BLS/AED as part of the license requirements or continuing education. These ideals also fall in line with the OBCE mission to protect the public.

If this requirement has placed a hardship on any of our licensees, we encourage you to reach out to the OBCE via e-mail at [info@obce.oregon.gov](mailto:info@obce.oregon.gov).

If anyone is struggling to find an online course, please reach out as we are working on a resource list of companies that offer affordable classes.

#### References

American Heart Association 2019 from <https://cprblog.heart.org/cpr-statistics/>

### **Age of Minor Consent**

The Board recently made permanent our [Minor Consent](#) Rule, OAR 811-015-0011, that allows treatment to minors aged 15 years or older without consent of a parent or guardian under certain circumstances.

Because there are often circumstances when older teenage minors seek care from chiropractic physicians outside of their parent or guardian's company (being dropped off at the clinic, going to a clinic after school on their own, etc.), the Board is pursuing a legislative concept within the regular 2023 legislative session to change ORS 109.640 to include chiropractic physicians within the list of healthcare professionals who can provide care to those 15 and older without parental or guardian consent. That list currently includes: medical physicians, physician assistants, naturopaths, nurse practitioners, dentists, and optometrists. This inclusion will alleviate the conundrum faced by both practitioner and minor patient when an older minor seeks care without their parent or guardian present.

*Francesca Vermillion, DC*  
President, OBCE



## **Executive Director's Report**

### **OBCE Welcomes Investigator Gina Sullivan**

The OBCE is pleased to announce that Gina Sullivan has joined the agency as its Investigator. Ms. Sullivan hails from New York, where she graduated from Columbia University before entering a life of public service as an EMT in New York City. Gina also held a New York State Massage Therapy License and specialized in athletic and geriatric populations. Since moving to Oregon in 2018, Gina served as an investigator for Adult Protective Services in Clackamas County before joining OBCE.

WELCOME, Gina!

## **Temporary versus Permanent Administrative Rules**

It seems there is some confusion as to what constitutes a temporary administrative rule, a permanent administrative rule, and the process an agency and board goes through to implement each. Administrative and regulatory agencies within Oregon abide by the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 183 of Oregon Revised Statutes) and the Oregon Attorney General's Model Rules. There are major distinctions between temporary and permanent rules: 1) Permanent rules have particular notice requirements and timelines that are not required for temporary rules; 2) Permanent rules have no end date unless a sunset clause is included; 3) Permanent rules can be amended through the public rulemaking process; 4) Temporary rules, once finalized, are only in effect for 180 days and cannot be renewed in that current form; and 5) Temporary rules are generally not amended due to the short time they exist.

Temporary rules are often created by a board and agency in response to an emergency or some time-sensitive need and can be proposed, deliberated on, and approved the same day, without prior notice to the public. Permanent rules can also address an emergency or time-sensitive need but require a longer timeline in order for the public to be noticed and to allow for the agency to receive public comment.

## **OBCE Seeks Members for Board Membership**

The OBCE is seeking one (1) member of the public and one (1) chiropractic physician to fill open seats on the Board. The Board consists of five (5) chiropractic physicians and two (2) members of the public who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for up to two (2) three (3) year terms. Please share this information with your colleagues. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, are submitted electronically, and are valid of two years. See this website for further information as to that process: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/board-list.aspx>

*Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.*  
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## **DC Program**

### **DC Renewal Certificates and Licensee Lookup**

We receive many emails from doctors who need their renewal certificate for insurance purposes or to show an up-to-date status to an employer. Please know that when you renew your license, it may take up to 2 weeks for you to receive it in the mail. We do not email out renewal DC certificates to anyone. Our website updates any renewal information within 24 hours. If you need your updated renewal information, please visit our website under the Licensee Lookup. Here you can search by your last name or license number. Once you see your last name, click on it and you will see the most updated license information. You can print or save the information produced and provide it to any third party requesting it.

The Licensee Lookup is our electronic system that provides primary-source, real-time public licensing and discipline information 24 hours a day, free of charge. The licensing and discipline

information can be scanned and forwarded, or the Licensee Lookup link provided, to any entity that requires the verification of licensure.

The Licensee Lookup is found here: <https://obce.alcsoftware.com/liclookup.php>

## Online Renewals

The online renewal site is used for you to renew your DC license every year, by the end of your birth month. Our office emails you a notice to renew 45 days prior to your license expiration date pursuant to OAR 811-010-0086(1). As a courtesy, you also receive a 2nd and 3rd final notice. It is your responsibility to make sure you are renewing every year, that your license is up to date, and that the email we have on file is up to date. We recently had a situation where a DC did not renew in 2021 and then tried to renew for 2022. The site charged late fees and renewal fees that were incorrect. If you realize you did not renew for a previous year, please contact our office before going forward and making any payments on the renewal site. We will help you get your license back up to date. If, for whatever reason, you don't renew your license and you continue to practice, it is considered practicing without a license. You will be investigated and the Board may seek disciplinary action. Reminder: You need to update any address or emails by logging in to the online renewal site.

*Miriam Lara*

DC Program, [miriam.lara@obce.oregon.gov](mailto:miriam.lara@obce.oregon.gov)

## Rules Updates and Policy Changes

## REMINDERS

### Rule Hearings held during January's Board meeting

1. **OAR 811-035-0007** [Facial Covering Requirements](#). No Board action, rule to remain in place.
2. **OAR 811-015-0025** [Continuing Chiropractic Education](#). The Board voted to review section three of the rule and minor typos during March's meeting.

### Rule Hearings held during March's Board meeting

1. **OAR 811-010-XXXX** Compliance with the Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Requirements. The Board voted to let the temporary rule sunset in May.
2. **OAR 811-015-0011** [Minor Consent](#). The Board voted to approve and make the rule permanent.
3. **OAR 811-015-0023** BLS Certificate Requirement. The Board voted against approving the rule as permanent.
4. **OAR 811-015-0025** [Continuing Chiropractic Education](#). The Board voted to adopt the rule as amended and to bring the rule back in May to allow for further public comment.

### Rule Hearings held during May's Board meeting

1. **OAR 811-015-0025 [Continuing Chiropractic Education](#)**. The Board voted to approve the rule as amended.
2. **OAR 811-035-0015 [Unprofessional Conduct in the Chiropractic Profession](#)**. The Board voted to approve the rule as amended.

## **InLumon/CE Submission**

The OBCE is in the process of implementing a new licensing software system which will provide fully online DC/CA applications, online renewals, and a continuing education log. With the ability to upload continuing education throughout the year, licensees will have the ability to store CE certificates of completion to simplify the renewal process. When licensees are audited, the OBCE staff will be able to review the uploaded CE certificates through the software.

The OBCE will send out further information and instruction once the software is ready to go live.

## **Initial CA Applicant Process**

Doctors, applicants, and clinic staff have recently asked about “expediting” the CA application process. Please be aware that all applications are reviewed within a few days after being received. Some applications arrive incomplete or without proof of payment which significantly delays the process. To shorten the initial timeline, please include a receipt of payment and a completed training form with the initial submission. Applicants should be encouraged to fully read the instructions on our website and on the application. When fingerprint and exam instructions are sent to the applicant via email, please encourage applicants to schedule a fingerprint appointment and pay for the exam as soon as possible.

If applicants disclose any arrests/charges/convictions, it is in their best interest to provide documentation with their initial application rather than waiting until the background check is received by OBCE staff. These court/police documents are required for a complete application and OBCE staff will be in communication with the applicant. This is the best way for a chiropractic office or applicant to advance the application. If the applicant has these types of issues in their background, doesn't disclose such issues, and the background check reveals them, the follow up can be extensive and time consuming.

*Mackenzie Purnell*  
CA Program, [mackenzie.g.purnell@obce.oregon.gov](mailto:mackenzie.g.purnell@obce.oregon.gov)

## **From Our Investigators**

### **SCAM ALERT -- Watch Your Back!**

Many of us are aware of the modern prevalence of scam activity. Maybe we know someone who has fallen victim to a scam, or even have experienced that ourselves. By phone, email, online apps, regular mail, in virtually any way you can think of, scammers work to infiltrate our trust, with one goal in mind: to turn *our* money into *their* money.

The scam industry is astonishingly successful: it earns increasing billions per year from Americans alone. Scam call centers are complex enterprises with staff trained in the art of manipulation, and scams can be very sophisticated and difficult to recognize.

Scammers are quick to exploit possible avenues to earn our trust. We've probably all heard of scam callers claiming to be from the IRS or Social Security Administration, or from a law enforcement agency or other familiar entity. Unfortunately, here at the OBCE, we learned that scammers recently targeted one of our Licensees by claiming to be from *our* agency!

This particular scam involved a caller claiming to be an investigator from our agency, advising the Licensee that his license was being suspended due to allegations of money laundering and drug trafficking. To "confirm" his identity, the scammer told the Licensee to pick up a fax from the local UPS store. The Licensee did so and saw what looked to be a legitimate OBCE fax. It included our letterhead, a seal, lots of official-looking numbers, and even a fraudulent copy of our Executive Director's signature! As the scam continued, the original caller brought in a female pretending to be an OBCE receptionist and a male acting as an FBI agent.

All scams prey on our natural human emotions to get the better of us. In this case, the scammer preyed on an innocent person's desire to be cleared of an accusation, fear of losing one's livelihood, and the anxiety these predicaments produce. With just a little bit of information, scammers can trick us into giving them the rest of what they want to know, such as bank account numbers or personal identifying information.

Thankfully, the Licensee called the genuine OBCE to verify the identities of the individuals involved in the scam and learned of the attempted fraud before further harm ensued.

So how do we protect ourselves?

- The names of all seven Board members and all six staff are listed on our website, so please verify the identity of anyone claiming to be from our agency.
- We do not cold call Licensees to tell them their licenses are suspended or that discipline is pending. We follow a standard process of communication via email/regular mail to arrange a phone call, if needed.
- No government agency will call to ask for personal or financial information. When in doubt, hang up the call and then call the agency directly at their official number.
- Scam callers are adept at creating a sense of urgency and secrecy. Beware any call that insists on taking quick action or warns you not to tell anyone about what is taking place.

The best scam prevention is knowledge beforehand. Please share this information with your colleagues and communities. For more tips, see: [How To Avoid a Scam | Consumer Advice \(ftc.gov\)](#)

If you find yourself victim of a scam, please call the Attorney General Consumer Protection Hotline at 877-877-9392 to report the incident. Note that few law enforcement agencies have the resources to investigate crimes of this nature. Once money is lost, it is often gone for good. [Consumer Protection - Oregon Department of Justice : Consumer Protection \(state.or.us\)](#)

However, despite how crafty and opportunistic these scammers are, they are not invincible. Not long ago, a couple of scam call centers were pranked, outed, and shut down by a prominent YouTuber: <https://youtu.be/xsLJZyih3Ac>

*Gina Sullivan*

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