



From L to R: Whitney Pike, Valerie Adams, Nancy Mayr, Sue Hussey, Nancy Currey, Christine Wondergem, Julie Ozbun-Moe, Barbara Rodrigues, Stephanie Foster, Shari Curtis, Susan Fisher McClure (partially pictured). Not pictured: Jackie Mardirossian

OTAC Advisory Council Meets at Conference

Patricia Nagaishi, Ph.D., OTR/L
Vice-President, OTAC

The second OTAC Advisory Council meeting was held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to advise the Board of Directors regarding issues of importance affecting occupational therapy practice in California, and to make recommendations to the Board regarding actions and directions to take to address these issues.

The Advisory Council is chaired by the OTAC Vice President, Patricia Nagaishi, Ph.D., OTR/L, and each region is represented by up to three delegates appointed by the regional directors. The 2007-2008 Advisory Council is comprised of the following delegates:

- Region 1 Susan Fisher McClure, OTR/L
Early intervention, adult home health, developmental disabilities
- Region 2 Jackie Mardirossian, COTA/C
Education, wellness
Valerie Adams, MA, OTR/L
School-based practice, pediatrics
Whitney Pike, OTR/L
Adult physical disabilities, acute care, clinical education
- Region 3 Stephanie Foster, MS, OTR/L
Private practice – pediatrics, sensory processing disorders
Barbara Rodrigues, OTR/L
Psychosocial – acute inpatient
Shari Curtis, MHS, OTR/L
Early intervention, school-based practice

- Region 4 Julie Ozbun-Moe, OTR/L
School-based practice
Christine Wondergem, OTR/L
Early intervention
- Region 5 Nancy Currey, COTA/C
School-based practice
Nancy Mayr, OTR/L
Acute, inpatient rehab acute, outpatient, behavioral health
Sue Hussey, MS, OTR/L
Education

The Vice President facilitated the discussion, beginning with introductions of new and returning delegates and a review of the OTAC vision, mission, and core values. The delegates were eager, enthusiastic and ready to tackle the agenda. They engaged in stimulating discussions that focused on several issues including California alignment with the AOTA Centennial Vision; occupational therapy workforce shortage; issues affecting occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy aides; membership recruitment; professional development and competency; OT education; and clarification of the roles of OTAC and CBOT. The delegates shared input and feedback they received from practitioners in their regions, offered their insight and expertise regarding factors contributing to the issues practitioners face, as well as proposed ideas and recommended strategies to address these issues. Priorities and key recommendations were identified to present to the Board.

Minutes of the meeting were taken by the OTAC Secretary, Suzanne Olah-Macek, COTA/C, and a summary of the discussion and recommendations of the Advisory Council is in preparation and will be presented to the Board at the next Board of Directors meeting in January. Look for a follow-up article in a subsequent issue of the newsletter for a summary of the report and recommendations.