



# FACT SHEET

## An Occupational Therapy Grassroots Advocacy Initiative

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### OTAC Vision & Mission

#### VISION STATEMENT:

A world where all people participate in meaningful occupations to optimize their life experience.

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

OTAC is the collective voice that serves, promotes, and supports the profession of occupational therapy and its practitioners.



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### 1. WHAT

Go-To-OT is a grassroots advocacy initiative designed to support the occupational therapy profession in building collaborative and positive relationships with elected officials affording opportunities to educate them about how occupational therapy provides critical services to their California constituents including as well as on OTAC legislative and regulatory positions.

### 2. HOW

- a. Each local legislator will have at least one Go-To-OT. Ideally, there will be a local Go-To-OT Team with a designated Team Leader to ensure that the Team is appropriately responsive and has varying degrees of practice area knowledge and experience.
- b. The Team Leader will be the primary communication conduit with the OTAC Advocacy and Government Affairs Chair.
- c. Participate in OTAC advocacy training. Topics will include: Advocacy 101, How a Bill Becomes a Law, Tips on How to Speak with Legislators, How to Read and Analyze a Legislative Bill, etc.

### 3. GO-TO-OT EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. General knowledge regarding current legislative and regulatory issues (local, state, national) (training provided).
- b. Familiarity with OTAC legislative and regulatory agenda and positions on bills (gained through OTAC communications and teleconference meetings).
- c. Interactions with elected officials/legislator
  - i. Notify them of your role as a Go-To-OT; what they can expect
  - ii. Subscribe to their electronic newsletters via their website (if they have one)



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### 3. GO-TO-OT EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES, cont.

- iii. Attend/schedule local meetings with elected officials to educate them about OT, provide them with information/perspective on current OTAC bills of interest, and establish rapport
  1. Determine with elected official the most effective/preferred form of communication regarding legislative issues of common concern
- iv. Remain in regular contact with the elected officials via e-mail/phone call/in-person visit; determine frequency
  1. Ask elected official to support or oppose bills when appropriate/asked to do so by OTAC
- v. Attend elected official's hosted community events (e.g., Christmas party, picnics)
- vi. Attend local and state level events as appropriate (e.g., OTAC State Advocacy Day in Sacramento; OTAC In-District Advocacy Day)
  1. Coordinate member in-district advocacy activities in your local area
  2. Be prepared to make presentations as may be requested
- vii. Be a local resource, identifying issues of local concern and report to AGAC
- viii. Attend meetings, including but not limited to, AGAC meetings, town hall meetings, fundraisers, OTAC meetings regarding particular legislative bills

### 4. GO-TO-OT ELIGIBILITY

- a. Submit application/biographical statement
  - i. Interest in legislative/political action/future of OT
  - ii. Prior connection/experience with legislator (not required), encouraged to participate if already have a current relationship
  - iii. Years of experience as a practitioner
  - iv. Primary practice area
  - v. Years of engagement in community involvement
  - vi. Description of OTAC volunteer experience/years
  - vii. OTAC membership (required)
- b. Go-To-OT terms are on the calendar year and are a one-year commitment with additional terms applicable upon mutual agreement.