**Important Dates for WV Legislature 2021**

In 2021, the West Virginia State Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 13 and adjourn on April 10. The legislators serving in this session took office following the 2020 elections. Republicans won a 23-11 majority in the Senate and a 76-24 majority in the House.

First Day - February 10, 2021: First day of session. (WV Const. Art. VI, §18) Twentieth Day - March 1, 2021: Submission of Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due. (WV Code §29A-3-12) Thirty-fifth Day - March 16, 2021: Last day to introduce bills in the House.

Extra

I have requested a zoom meeting with Mr. Morrisey for February 16, 2021.

1. OT in mental health

“Achieving health, well-being, and participation in life through engagement in occupation” (AOTA, 2014, p S4). Self-management:

Relaxation interventions, coping strategies and training on stress reduction

Questions to think about: What is Occupational Therapy’s Role in Functional Goal Setting

What is Occupational Therapy’s Role in Addressing the Public Health Crisis:

In an older article from 2018:

“Occupational therapy practitioners are trained in facilitating individual education, group education, and using multimodal learning strategies that improve active engagement and enhance learning. This leads to an opportunity to advocate for occupational therapy’s distinct value in addressing opioid use.” https://www.aota.org/~/media/Corporate/Files/Publications/CE-Articles/CE-Article-August-2018.pdf

1. School based px

Workload verses Caseload

Look into different counties for example…

Currently Randolph County WV has the largest population as a county in West Virginia.

The West Virginia **House** of delegates **Cody Thompson**: Health and Human Resources committee as well the Committee on Health

The most recent posting from Randolph county schools 2014-2015 (this may be different now) http://boe.rand.k12.wv.us/occupational-therapy.html

List Debbie Vigh as the only OT for this county. 13 schools are listed

Question? How does this example effect the students who need specialized intervention, to be successful within the learning environment?

1. Licensure portability

#### **AOTA is working on creating an interstate professional licensing compact for occupational therapy to address licensure portability. The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact legislation must be passed into law in each state where it will apply. The goal for this multi-year initiative is to begin state participation by 2024. An interstate licensing compact would:**

* Allow licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to practice across state lines (e.g., telehealth)
* Improve consumer access to occupational therapy
* Enhance mobility of occupational therapy practitioners (e.g., spouses of relocating military families, staff of travel therapy companies)
* Improve continuity of care
* Address competition issues raised by the Federal Trade Commission and others
* Preserve and strengthen the state licensure system
* Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigatory, and disciplinary information between member states.

An interstate licensing compact would not change state occupational therapy practice acts or the scope of practice. See the Council of State Governments for more information about licensure compacts.

(cut and pasted from AOTA) https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/State-Policy/Licensure/Interstate-Professional-Licensing-Compact.aspx

**September 23 2019 -**AOTA® and NBCOT® announce that they will collaborate over the next 4 years to create an interstate licensure compact for the occupational therapy profession. Major funding from NBCOT will support the licensure compact initiative; AOTA and state associations will lead advocacy efforts to enact compact legislation in the states. Read the AOTA NBCOT joint statement.

1. OTA for waivers

https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8508.pdf

Article from Nov 2019 from information from 2014

https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/11/27/more-kids-on-medicaid-to-get-health-care-in-school

https://www.medicaidforeducation.org/2019\_HIPAA\_FERPA\_Joint\_Guidance\_508.pdf