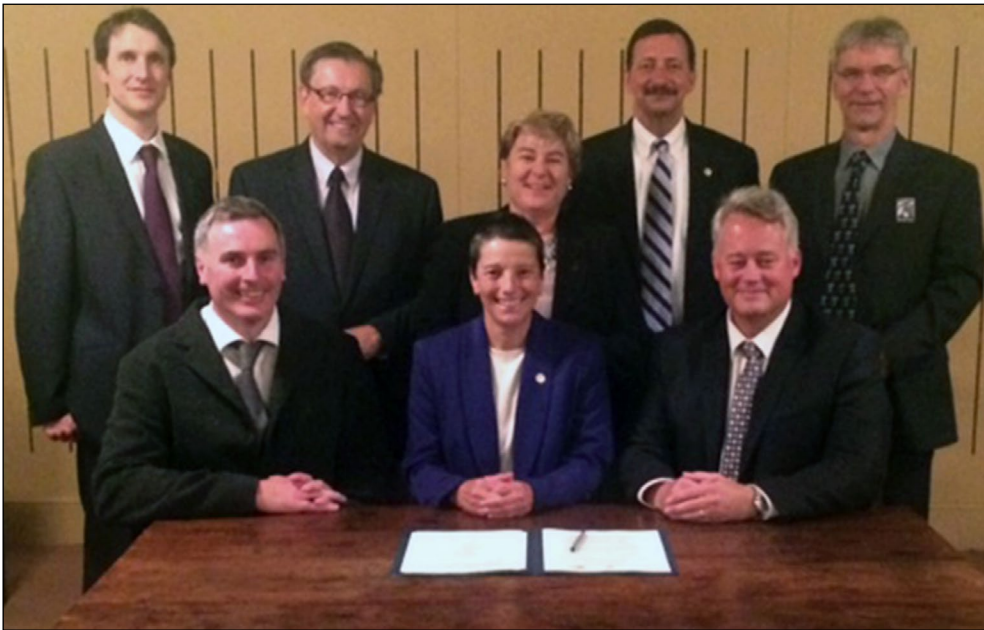




REGULATORY UPDATE

A PUBLICATION FROM
THE BOARD
OF CERTIFICATION

FALL 2014



Present for the signing of the mutual recognition agreement were, back row, from left, Enda Whyte of Dublin City University, Larry Leverenz of WFATT, Denise Fandel of the BOC, Mike Ferrara of iBOC, Glen Bergeron of CATA; and front row, Paul Berry of ARTI, Susan McGowen of the BOC and Richard DeMont of CATA.

ATs Expand International Reach

Athletic Trainers and Athletic Therapists from the US, Canada and Ireland will now be able to obtain credentials in each other's countries more easily, thanks to an agreement signed in September by the BOC and its Canadian and Irish peer organizations.

Representatives from the BOC, Canadian Athletic Therapy Association (CATA) and Athletic Rehabilitation Therapists of Ireland (ARTI) convened

at a Dublin conference to sign the international mutual recognition agreement (MRA) September 4, 2014. Under the agreement, the national certification bodies for athletic training and athletic therapy in all three countries will recognize each other's education and certification standards.

"We have very strict standards by which we certify our Athletic Trainers," said Susan McGowen, President of the

(Continued on Page 4)

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BOC News In Brief

Exam Reimbursement for Veterans

Do you know that veterans who have taken the BOC exam, or are planning to take it, could be reimbursed for their exam fees?

Since 2002, the BOC exam has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, veterans may be eligible for exam fee reimbursement. For more information, visit the [GI Bill website](#).

Continuing Education Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2014, Athletic Trainers (ATs) are required to submit 50 continuing education units (CEUs) every two years. Previously, the BOC used a 3-year reporting period.

The BOC added an Evidence Based Practice (EBP) continuing education category effective for the current reporting period. Out of the 50 required CEUs, at least 10 CEUs must be BOC approved in the EBP category. The next deadline for CEUs is December 31, 2015.

Certification Verification

Interested in receiving certification verifications electronically? Contact us or visit the [BOC website](#) to learn more.

Is It Time to Update Your Contact Information?

Visit the [State Regulatory Agencies](#) page of the BOC website, and click on your state to view contact information and links to your agency.

If you find an error, please contact our office immediately with the correct information by emailing Stacy Arrington, StacyA@bocatc.org.

Need to Reach ATs?

The BOC can help you get important information to ATs. We can share your announcements using one or more of the following communication tools:

- [BOC website](#) - Updated frequently
- BOC social media – Includes [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#)
- [Cert Update](#) - Published twice a year and distributed to more than 40,000 ATs. Contact our office for deadlines
- District e-blasts - Sent following each district meeting. Contact our office for deadlines

Questions? Need help?

Please contact Stacy Arrington or Shannon Leftwich if you have questions or need assistance. Our toll-free number is (877) 262-3926 ext. 113 or ext. 114, respectively, and our email addresses are StacyA@bocatc.org and ShannonL@bocatc.org.



Calendar of Events

Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Annual Forum

January 22-25, 2015

Tucson, Arizona

www.farb.org

National Athletic Trainers' Association 66th Clinical Symposia & AT Expo

June 23-June 26, 2015

St. Louis, Missouri

<http://www.nata.org/annual-meeting>

BOC Athletic Trainer Regulatory Conference

July 10-11, 2015

Omaha, Nebraska

<http://www.bocatc.org/state-regulation/state-regulatory-conference>

Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) 2015 Annual Educational Conference

September 17-19, 2015

Boston, Massachusetts

<http://www.clearhq.org/event-799422>

State Regulatory News

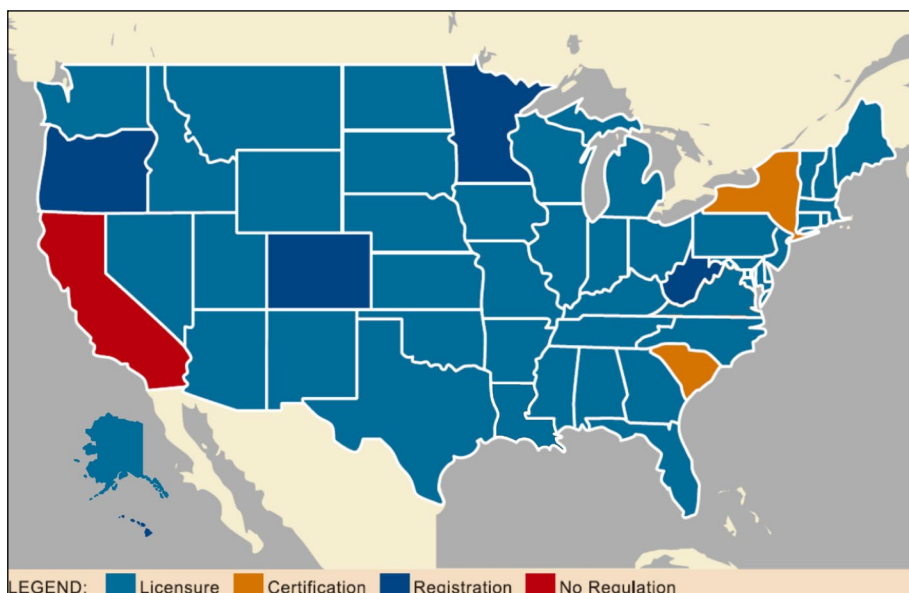
There was good news and bad news last summer for Athletic Trainer regulation. Good news came out of the Alaska and Louisiana legislatures, while California's governor was the bearer of bad news for the profession.

Louisiana

On June 4, 2014, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal signed into law Act No. 418, which requires that Athletic Trainers be licensed by the state. This was the first major revision to the state's 1985 athletic training practice act. Prior to the passage of Act No. 418, ATs were required to be certified, rather than licensed, by the state of Louisiana. The new law took effect August 1st.

Alaska

Alaska law now recognizes Athletic Trainers as healthcare providers, thanks to the passage of a new licensure bill. HB 160, signed by Gov. Sean Parnell on June 18, 2014, requires ATs to be licensed in order to practice. Alaska is the 49th state to regulate ATs. State licensure establishes ATs as recognized healthcare



professionals who provide outreach, education and care. Alaska is currently working to draft rules and regulations.

California

California's Athletic Trainer title protection legislation, passed by the Assembly and Senate, was vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown on July 18, 2014. AB 1890 had broad support from both legislators and the public.

Following the passage of Alaska's licensure bill, California remains the only state to not regulate athletic training practice. The BOC looks forward to future efforts in California to successfully implement regulation.

2013/2014 Exam Report Available on BOC Website

The BOC publishes its Annual Exam Report each spring. As stated in the 2013/2014 Exam Report, statistics concerning the quality of the BOC exam as a measurement instrument indicate that the exam complies with psychometric requirements that pertain to certification and licensure tests. Notably, estimates of reliability and equivalence across forms for the various parts of the exam are strong. Likewise, candidate performance on all parts of the examination is consistent with the public protection mission of the BOC.

The BOC administers the exam **five times a year**. The BOC exam year begins with the March/April exam administration and ends with the January/February exam administration the following year. Exam reports for 1996-2013 are available on the **BOC website**. The 2014/2015 report will be published in Spring 2015.

Continuing Education Requirements Include Evidence Based Practice

Effective this year, all BOC Certified ATs are required to complete a minimum number of continuing education units (CEUs) in the BOC Approved Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Category. Programming in this category is intended to promote EBP within the profession by enhancing clinicians' ability to find and evaluate evidence, as well as apply it to their practice.

ATs must complete a predetermined number of CEUs during the certification maintenance period. The current period ends December 31, 2015.

- ATs certified in 2013 or before must complete 50 CEUs, which must include at least 10 EBP CEUs
- ATs certified in 2014 must complete 25 CEUs, which must include at least 5 EBP CEUs

All EBP category events, including live events and home study courses, undergo review for BOC pre-approval. Approved EBP programs are listed on the [BOC website](#).

For more information about the new EBP requirements, visit the [BOC website](#).

BOC State Regulatory Conference Set for July 2015

Planning is underway for the 2015 BOC Athletic Trainer Regulatory Conference (ATRC), a biannual event designed to connect leaders and other members of the athletic training and regulatory communities. The conference will be July 10-11, 2015, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The ATRC Advisory Panel began planning at a July meeting in Omaha. Panel members chose a theme and reviewed outcomes and evaluations from the last conference. The chosen theme for 2015, "Making Regulation Work," will guide conversation about current state regulatory trends and issues. During the July meeting, organizers discussed possible session topics for the 2015 conference, including the following:

- Updates from the major Athletic Trainer organizations, including the BOC, CAATE and NATA
- Board operations
- External relationships
- Scope of practice
- Statutory interaction
- Fine tuning statutes and rules/regulations
- Ethics
- Impaired practitioners
- Reinstatement

A preliminary program will be available in February or March 2015. Anyone with an interest in state Athletic Trainer regulation is encouraged to attend the conference.

International Reach *(Continued from Page One)*

the BOC. "ATs' skills are in demand worldwide and this just makes it easier for them to work where they want to go. We are working collaboratively by removing barriers for qualified professionals to reach the top of their profession."

The MRA, signed at the Joint Ireland Faculty of Sports Exercise Medicine and World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy (WFATT) Conference, allows for a certified professional in one country to practice in another signatory nation following the successful completion of the respective nation's examination.

Expanding upon a mutual recognition agreement signed in 2005 by the BOC and the CATA, this new agreement ensures common recognition among those organizations and ARTI, their peer organization in Ireland.

"As standards continue to align globally, the Board of Certification, in cooperation with our current partners and the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy, look forward to future agreements with other organizations of like-minded professionals around the world dedicated to the prevention and care of injuries to the physically active individual," McGowen said.

Connect through the BOC State Regulatory Network

The BOC recently launched an online network to serve state athletic training regulatory leaders and regulatory agency personnel.

The **BOC State Regulatory Network** keeps members informed of the latest developments in athletic training regulation, while fostering communication across the states.



The purpose of the BOC State Regulatory Network is to:

- Provide a platform for athletic training regulators to share best practices
- Assist board staff and regulators in developing working relationships
- Obtain guidance and direction from athletic training regulators in the development of model language
- Facilitate the sharing of disciplinary actions taken by state athletic training boards and the BOC

Contact Shannon Leftwich, ShannonL@bocatc.org, if you would like to join the network.

Online Tool Lets States Submit AT Disciplinary Actions

States can now share disciplinary actions in a single online location, thanks to a new BOC tool dedicated to public protection.

The **Disciplinary Action Exchange (DAE)** allows states to submit disciplinary actions to be displayed on the BOC website. The tool then helps states, consumers and the BOC find all public disciplinary actions against ATs – in an efficient, easy-to-use manner. Members of the State Regulatory Network can submit disciplinary actions to the exchange.

How does the Disciplinary Action Exchange work?

1. The submitter uses a link on the State Regulatory Network to submit a disciplinary action
2. The link contains a form and the ability to upload a supporting document, such as a final order or consent agreement
3. The BOC must accept the submission
4. The submitter receives an email asking for final approval of the submission
5. A link in the email allows the submitter to review and approve the submission
6. Once approved, the submission is posted to the BOC website



Name	BOC #	State License #	Home State	Action Taken By	Action Taken	Date Action Taken	File
Brittany Schreppel	2000004352		PA	Board of Certification (BOC)	Suspension	02/10/2014	

Preview of Disciplinary Action Exchange

BOC to Raise the Bar for Continuing Education in 2016

BOC Approved Providers will be held to a higher standard for their continuing education programs beginning in 2016.

The BOC Board of Directors recently approved the new *Standards for BOC Approved Providers*, following modifications that resulted from a public comment period in the fall of 2013. The new standards require BOC Approved Providers to enhance aspects of administration, business practices, content, development and instruction, assessment, and review and evaluation – all to advance the BOC mission of assuring protection of the public.

“The purpose of the new standards is to ensure consistency and promote the highest quality programming for ATs,” said BOC Executive Director Denise Fandel. “By holding Approved Providers more accountable, we are raising the bar for the athletic training profession.”



The new standards will not affect ATs' certification maintenance requirements. Rather, ATs may notice some changes in the CE programs themselves. For example, ATs will notice greater transparency in the programs they take. Providers will be required to publish objectives and to provide assessments that focus on how programming affects athletic training practice in a way that benefits patients/athletes.

BOC Approved Providers will be required to demonstrate that their educational materials are appropriate for their objectives and that program outcomes are accomplished. In addition, providers will assess participants and give feedback based on the assessment.

The new standards take effect January 1, 2016. For complete information, visit the [BOC website](#).

BOC Staff Members Attend CLEAR Conference

As a certifying body recognized by 49 state regulatory agencies, the BOC strives to stay at the forefront of the regulatory industry. One way staff members keep up with developments in the regulatory community is by attending professional conferences with their peers.

In September, BOC staff members Anne Minton, Associate Executive Director, and Shannon Leftwich, Director of Credentialing Services, attended the CLEAR Annual Education Conference in New Orleans. CLEAR is the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation.

The conference focused on four areas of inquiry: compliance and discipline; testing and examination; entry to practice; and administration, legislation and policy. CLEAR is an international association of individuals and organizations involved with professional and occupational regulation. As such, representatives from a variety of professions were in attendance, ranging from Athletic Trainer boards to occupational therapy and dietetic agencies.

Leftwich said building relationships with others in the regulatory community helps the BOC stay informed on current topics and learn more about regulators' concerns. Some discussions can help the BOC enhance its own programs. For example, Leftwich said topics like self-assessment activities resonate with the BOC's current work.

She and Minton attended conference sessions that included topics such as:

- Expanding scope of practice
- Practice competencies
- Interprofessional collaborations
- Standards of good regulation
- Unlicensed practitioners
- Re-entry to practice
- Transparency and accountability

The 2015 CLEAR Annual Educational Conference will be September 17-19 in Boston. For more information about CLEAR, visit www.clearhq.org.