

Snell Elected to Chair State Licensure Board

In ceremonies at the capitol this summer, Frank Snell, CPO, FAAOP was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to the Arkansas Orthotic-Prosthetic-Pedorthic Licensure Board. Subsequently, Snell's fellow board members elected him as Chairman.

The Board, a division of the Arkansas Department of Health, Health Facility Services, met for the first time on October 4 in the Governor's Conference Room of the Arkansas State Capitol Building. The seven board members are comprised of 5 practitioners and 2 citizens who are consumers of orthotics or prosthetics devices.

The Board is tasked with two immediate issues, said Snell: 1) The formation and adoption of the administrative rules for the O&P Licensure Act (Act 174), and 2) the grandfathering of all eligible current practitioners in orthotics, prosthetics, and pedorthics who currently serve clients in Arkansas. The crafting of the administrative rules was scheduled for completion in November, when it was expected to be presented to the Arkansas Department of Health for adoption.

"The window through which practitioners may grandfather in will close forever at midnight on December 31, 2007," said Snell, "so we will begin reviewing the documentation for grandfathering with a December 6 meeting, following by additional meetings later in the month." The process needs to move quickly, Snell added, since, in accordance with the terms of Act 174, the law becomes effective January 1, 2008.