

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
March 10, 2014
MINUTES**

REGULAR SESSION

Time and Place

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session in the offices of the Board March 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Melanee Mills, Russ Stephenson, Ron Taylor, Dr. Stephen Lang and Denise Donica.

Others Present

Charles P. Wilkins, Legal Counsel to the Board and Elizabeth Kirk, Board Administrator.

Members Absent

Bill Walsh

Chairperson

Mr. Taylor, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Conflict of Interest

Mr. Taylor called for any conflicts of interest with the meeting agenda. There were no conflicts or potential conflicts.

Approval of Minutes

The January 20, 2014 minutes were approved as submitted.

To-Do List

The January 20, 2014 to-list was approved as submitted and reviewed.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for January 1, 2014 through February 28, 2014 was

discussed and approved as submitted.

Administrator's Report

The administrator's report was reviewed and approved as submitted.

Legal Services Committee

Mr. Stephenson reported the Committee reviewed a bill from Broughton Wilkins Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for the months of January and February 2014 for fourteen (14) disciplinary proceedings and were of the opinion the bill was in order. The Board authorized the bill to be paid.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed correspondence and general information received following the last Board meeting.

Strategic Planning Retreat

The agreed upon date for the retreat has been set for June 6-8, 2014. Mr. Wilkins reported Ms. Cathy Lees is available to be the facilitator. The Board needs to clarify the days for the retreat. The Board agreed to finalize the retreat agenda prior to the May Board meeting and provide a copy to the facilitator. Discussions included arriving Friday and working Saturday with no Sunday meeting or including a Sunday meeting day. The Board discussed contacting the new potential Board members to advise them of the retreat dates. Ms. Donica suggested the issue of a therapist taking a leave of absence from practicing occupational therapy be added as a topic for the retreat, and if the Board should change the requirements for either renewing or reapplying for a license.

Documentation of Supervision

Mr. Wilkins provided the Board with a redrafted explanation from IT services on a how supervision documentation will be facilitated. The licensee will be required to enter in the supervisor or supervisee's license number, name and supervision start and end date which will be separated into three columns. The chart will populate a list of supervisors and supervisees based on the therapist's designation.

NC Legislature

Mr. Wilkins reported that HB 74, which passed the legislature in 2013, provides for a study regarding licensing boards being placed under an

“umbrella” and a “sunset provision”. The study is in progress. The legislature is also requiring that the Board’s rules be reviewed by the Rules Review Commission by May 2016.

2013 CCA Audit results

The Board reviewed the pending 2013 CCA audit results from the previous meeting. Board staff indicated five audit results that were deemed incomplete and the Board advised Board staff on how to handle the incomplete CCA audits.

AOTA Conference

Board members were advised the AOTA Conference is meeting in Baltimore, MD on April 3-6, 2014. Ms. Donica and Mr. Walsh indicated they will be attending.

Board Member Disciplinary Rotation

The Board agreed to appoint Ms. Donica as the next therapist member to review disciplinary actions with Mr. Wilkins.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed correspondence and general information received following the last Board meeting as set forth in the agenda.

Nikki Collins’ hearing

The Board conducted a hearing on whether Ms. Collins had violated the Practice Act or Rules of the Board by documenting for obtaining or attempting to obtain payment by fraud or deceit and for billing for services or treatments not rendered. Ms. Collins did not appear for the hearing.

Closed Session

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) and (6) as well as NCGS 143-318.18(6), the Board went into Closed Session at 11:30 a.m.

Closed Session Report

Mr. Wilkins reported the Board was advised in Closed Session that he is investigating one pending complaint and four new complaints. Four complaints were finalized with Consent Orders. Three complaints were

dismissed.

The Board reported it had reviewed the evidence presented in Ms. Collins' hearing. The evidence presented showed Ms. Collins had violated the Practice Act and Rules of the Board by providing improper documentation of occupational therapy services to patients, failing to obtain MD signatures, and failing to provide complete progress notes and discharge summaries resulting in improper billings to third party payors for occupational therapy services, and obtaining or attempting to obtain payment by fraud or deceit and for billing for services or treatments not performed.

The Board entered an Order that: (1) Ms. Collins' license to practice occupational therapy be revoked; and (2) she shall pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and disciplinary costs of \$500.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on May 19, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Ron Taylor, Vice Chair

Russ Stephenson, Secretary/Treasurer