

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
July 22, 2019  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Time and Place**

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session in the offices of the Board July 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present**

Denise Donica, Dr. Stephen Lang, Ron Taylor, Leonard Trujillo, Laura Echols, Lynn Losada and Danielle Ward.

**Others Present**

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

**Members Absent**

None

**Chairperson**

Ms. Donica, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Conflict of Interest**

Ms. Donica called for any conflicts of interest with the meeting agenda. There were no additional conflicts or potential conflicts.

**Approval of Minutes**

The May 20, 2019 minutes were approved.

**To-Do List**

The May 20, 2019 to do-list was approved as submitted and reviewed.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for May 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 was discussed

and approved as submitted.

### **Approval of 2019-20 Budget**

The 2019-20 budget was discussed and approved as submitted.

### **Administrator's Report**

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

### **Legal Services Committee**

Mr. Taylor reported the Committee reviewed a bill from Broughton Wilkins Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for the months of May and June 2019 for seven (7) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 14.90 and the total fees are \$3,725. The Board closed 0 disciplinary files following the May 2019 Board meeting and currently has 10 disciplinary files pending. Upon motion made and seconded, the bill was approved for payment.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

### **Strategic Planning Retreat**

The Board held a retreat on June 14-16, 2019 at the Rizzo Conference Center in Chapel Hill, NC. The Board reviewed the retreat to-do list developed by Board staff and agreed to continue working on the to-do list.

### **NC Legislature**

Mr. Wilkins reported on proposed bills pending in the North Carolina General Assembly.

### **CLEAR 2019 Annual Meeting**

Board members were advised the 2019 Annual Meeting is meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 18-21, 2019. Mr. Trujillo agreed to attend.

### **AOTA**

#### **a. 2020 Annual Conference**

Board members were advised the AOTA Annual Conference is

meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on March 26-29, 2020. Ms. Ward, Ms. Donica, Ms. Losada and Mr. Trujillo agreed to attend.

**b. State Affairs newsletter Spring 2019**

Board members reviewed an email dated June 17, 2019 from Kristen Neville regarding the state affairs newsletter for June 2019.

**NCOTA Fall Conference**

Board members were advised the NCOTA fall conference is meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina on November 1-3, 2019.

**NBCOT Regulatory Leadership Forum**

**a. Regulatory E-Newsletter June 2019**

Board members reviewed an email dated June 18, 2019 regarding the E-Newsletter for June 2019.

**b. OT Action Exchange**

Board members reviewed an email dated May 22, 2019 regarding the OT Action Exchange portal developed to review disciplinary actions issued to licensees.

**FARB 2019 Regulatory Law Seminar**

Board members were advised the FARB Regulatory Law Seminar is meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on October 3-6, 2019.

**Fifth Annual Occupational Licensing Agencies Best Practices Seminar**

Board members were advised the Fifth Annual Occupational Licensing Agencies Best Practices Seminar met in Raleigh, North Carolina on May 30, 2019. Ms. Ward and Ms. Kirk reported on the seminar.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 Board meeting dates**

The Board discussed and approved the 2020 Board meeting dates: January 13, 2020, March 9, 2020, May 18, 2020, July 13, 2020, September 21, 2020 and November 16, 2020.

**Election of Board officers**

Elections held: Board members were nominated and elected as follows: Lynn

Losada was elected Chair, Denise Donica was elected Vice Chair and Danielle Ward was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

### **Review and approve rules changes - .0801, .0804, .0805**

The Board reviewed, revised and approved amendments to Rules .0801, .0804 and .0805 and will continue with the rules review process.

### **Discussion and Board position on dry needling**

After review and discussion regarding the technique, concept and value, and pursuant to the NC Occupational Therapy Practice Act, the Board considered the usefulness and applicability of Dry Needling to the practice of Occupational Therapy in North Carolina. Upon motion, seconded and passed, the Board agreed dry needling is not within the scope of practice of occupational therapy in North Carolina at this time.

### **Discussion and Board position on lasers**

The Board reviewed and discussed the use of lasers by occupational therapy practitioners in North Carolina. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed that pursuant to Rule .0103(15)(c)(xiii), Class III and Class IV lasers designed and approved for therapeutic procedures may be used by an occupational therapy practitioner to enhance the patient's occupational performance skills so long as the OT practitioner has been trained to do so, is competent to do so, and the training and competence of the OT practitioner have been demonstrated and documented.

### **Discussion and Board position on integrated and therapeutic listening**

The Board reviewed and discussed the use of integrated and therapeutic listening by occupational therapy practitioners. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed that integrated and therapeutic listening is within the scope of practice of occupational therapy and can only be used in conjunction with other occupational therapy interventions so long as the OT practitioner has been trained to do so, is competent to do so, and the training and competence of the OT practitioner has been demonstrated and documented.

### **Designated Funds**

Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed to increase its Designated Funds by a transfer of funds from its checking account to a Certificate of Deposit.

**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 1:25 p.m.

**Return to Open Session**

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:50 p.m.

**Closed Session Report**

**Disciplinary Matters**

Mr. Wilkins reported the Board was advised in Closed Session that ten cases are currently being investigated.

**Adjournment**

The Open Session adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on September 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

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Denise Donica, Chair

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Danielle Ward, Secretary/Treasurer