

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
JULY 13, 2020
MINUTES**

REGULAR SESSION

Time and Place

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session via Webex conference call on July 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

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

Others Present

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

Members Absent

None

Chairperson

Ms. Losada, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Conflict of Interest

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

Approval of Minutes

The May 18, 2020 minutes were approved as amended.

To-Do List

The May 18, 2020 to do-list was approved as submitted and reviewed. It was agreed the To-Do List is primarily for staff and will not be included in future agenda items.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for May 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 was discussed and approved as submitted.

Approval of 2020-21 Budget

The 2020-21 budget was discussed and approved as submitted.

Administrator's Report

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

Legal Services Committee

Ms. Donica reported the Committee reviewed a bill from Broughton Wilkins Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for the months of May and June 2020 for four (4) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 5.20 and the total fees are \$1,300. The Board did not close any disciplinary files following the May 2020 Board meeting and currently has 5 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 bills pending in the North Carolina General Assembly.

CLEAR

a. 2020 Annual Meeting

Board members were advised the 2020 Annual Meeting is meeting virtually on September 21-25, 2020. Ms. Blackwell and Ms. Ward agreed to attend.

b. 2021 International Congress

Board members were advised the 2021 International Congress is meeting in Dublin, Ireland on June 23-25, 2021.

AOTA 2020 Correspondence

a. Approved Provider Program Re-Launch

Board members reviewed an email and attachment from Kristen Neville, representing the AOTA, dated May 21, 2020 regarding the re-launch of the AOTA Approved Provider Program on June 1, 2020.

b. ACOTE April and May 2020 Actions

Board members reviewed an email dated June 22, 2020 regarding ACOTE's April and May 2020 Actions.

NCOTA Fall Conference

Board members were advised the 2020 NCOTA fall conference is meeting virtually on October 2-4, 2020. Ms. Losada agreed to contact NCOTA regarding a scavenger hunt provided by the NCBOT for the conference.

NBCOT

a. AOTA/NBCOT OT Licensure Compact Progress

Board members reviewed an email dated June 3, 2020 regarding progress made by the Council of State Governments on the joint AOTA/NBCOT Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Initiative. Board members considered the Key Provisions and expressed their support. If a Compact is adopted, it is anticipated the North Carolina Legislature would be involved in 2021 or 2022.

b. NBCOT Launches Navigator App

Board members reviewed an email dated June 10, 2020 regarding the launch of the NBCOT Navigator App on Apple and Samsung tablets.

c. Request to attend future Board meeting

Board members reviewed a follow-up email dated July 2, 2020 from Shaun Conway, Senior Director, External & Regulatory Affairs for NBCOT regarding a visit to a future Board meeting. Ms. Kirk agreed to respond to Mr. Conway stating that the Board would be interested in their attendance at an in-person 2021 Board meeting.

FARB 2020 and 2021 Annual Forums

Board members were advised the FARB Regulatory Law Seminar is meeting in Reston, Virginia on October 2-4, 2020 and the FARB Forum is meeting in Fort Worth, Texas on January 29-31, 2021.

Response to Gard Erlandsson regarding dry needling

Board members reviewed an email dated May 27, 2020 from Ms. Kirk to Gard Erlandsson regarding a request for approval for OT CHTs to treat patients with dry needling.

Response to Carol Bishop regarding CMS waiver

Board members reviewed emails dated May 27, 2020 from Ms. Kirk to Carol Bishop regarding a recent CMS waiver allowing OTs to perform initial and comprehensive assessments.

Executive Order 130

Ms. Kirk informed the Board that Mr. Trujillo, Mr. Wilkins and Ms. Kirk have reviewed several waiver requests for OT practitioners to provide telehealth services to clients either moving or visiting North Carolina from other states without having to be licensed. As of July 2020, nineteen waivers have been approved and eight waivers have expired.

CCA Reminder Email

Board members discussed the decision to waive CCAs for the 2020 renewal period and agreed a reminder email needs to be sent to all OT practitioners notifying them that any incomplete CCAs for the 2020 renewal period will be added on to their 2021 CCA requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from Alisha Singh regarding speaking with students at Wingate University

Board members reviewed an email dated June 25, 2020 from Alisha Singh requesting a Board member speak to her students about state regulation of occupational therapy. The Board agreed not to attend one of the classes but Ms. Singh may email the Board with any questions and those questions and answers may be presented to her class. Also, Ms. Singh will be made aware that she can bring her students to a future Board meeting.

2021 Board meeting dates

The Board discussed and approved the 2021 Board meeting dates: January 11, 2021, March 15, 2021, May 17, 2021, July 12, 2021, September 20, 2021 and November 8, 2021.

Election of Board officers

The Board agreed to delay election of Board officers until a future in-person meeting.

Discussion on racism/diversity issues

Ms. Dorfman informed the Board that some NCOTA members have been discussing racism and diversity issues within the occupational therapy profession. The Board agreed it would investigate a complaint involving racism and/or diversity issues but has never received a complaint on these issues.

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 10:50 a.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:10 a.m.

Closed Session Report

Disciplinary Matters

Mr. Wilkins reported the Board was advised in Closed Session that five cases are currently being investigated and that two of those will be dismissed.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on September 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Lynn Losada, Chair

Danielle Ward, Secretary/Treasurer