

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
JANUARY 11, 2021  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Time and Place**

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session via Webex conference call on January 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present**

Laura Echols, Leonard Trujillo, Nicole Blackwell, Lynn Losada, Danielle Ward, Young Kim and Dr. Kevin Coates.

**Others Present**

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

**Members Absent**

None

**Chairperson**

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

**Kevin Coates, MD and Young Kim**

Ms. Echols administered the Oath of Office and Dr. Kevin Coates and Young Kim were sworn in as new members of the Board.

**Conflict of Interest**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The November 16, 2020 minutes were approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 was discussed and approved as submitted.

### **Administrator's Report**

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

### **Legal Services Committee**

Ms. Blackwell reported the Committee reviewed a bill from Broughton Wilkins Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for the months of November and December 2020 for twelve (12) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 20.90 and the total fees are \$5,225. The Board closed two disciplinary files following the November 2020 Board meeting and currently has nine 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. 2021 Winter Symposium**

Board members were advised the 2021 Winter Symposium met virtually on January 5, 2020.

#### **b. 2021 International Congress**

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

#### **c. 2021 Annual Meeting**

Board members were advised the 2021 Annual Meeting is meeting

either virtually or in a hybrid format in September 2021.

## **AOTA**

### **a. Email regarding definition of OT Practice**

Board members reviewed an email from Kristen Neville dated December 18, 2020 regarding the definition of occupational therapy practice for the AOTA Model Practice Act. Ms. Kirk forwarded the email to the Board to provide feedback.

### **b. Guidelines for Reentry Into the Field of OT**

Board members reviewed the new document from AOTA regarding guidelines for reentry into the field of occupational therapy and agreed there was nothing that needed to be added or amended to the Board's Practice Act or Rules regarding this topic.

### **c. 2021 Conference**

Board members were advised the 2021 Annual Conference is meeting in San Diego, California on April 8-11, 2021. The Board agreed to present at the conference, if their presentation is accepted.

### **d. December 2020 ACOTE Actions**

Board members reviewed an email dated January 7, 2021 regarding the December 2020 ACOTE Actions.

## **FARB 2021 Annual Forum**

Board members were advised the FARB Forum is meeting virtually on January 27-29, 2021.

## **Email from Dan Logsdon regarding discussing the OT Compact with the Board**

Board members reviewed an email dated November 18, 2020 from Ms. Kirk to Dan Logsdon with the Council of State Governments regarding the OT Compact. The subcommittee plans to meet prior to the March 2021 Board meeting and will contact Mr. Logsdon with any questions regarding the OT compact.

## **Response to Meredith Gronski regarding providing email addresses for the call for nominations**

Board members reviewed an email dated January 8, 2021 from Mr. Wilkins to Meredith Gronski regarding providing email addresses for the call for nominations. The Board agreed to draft an agreement between the Board and

NCOTA to allow the use of email addresses solely for Board member nomination purposes. Mr. Wilkins agreed to draft an agreement for review by the Board and NCOTA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Email from Mike Kachman regarding topical anesthetics**

Board members reviewed an email dated January 5, 2021 from Mike Kachman regarding use by OT practitioners of topical anesthetics (Voltaren and Lidocaine, e.g.) for treating neuropathic pain and whether OT practitioners can recommend topical anesthetics for use by patients with neuropathic pain. The Board agreed it is up to the OT practitioner whether to use topical anesthetics in their practice. However, OT practitioners should not recommend (or prescribe) topical anesthetics for use by patients to manage their neuropathic pain. Neither the prescribing of medications nor the recommendation of use of medications, prescription or over the counter, is within the scope of practice of OT in North Carolina.

### **Jane Rourk's obituary**

Mr. Wilkins informed the Board that Jane Rourk, OT/L #0001, passed away January 3, 2021. Ms. Rourk was a tireless leader of the OT profession as President of the NC Occupational Therapy Association and as the first Chair of the NC Board of Occupational Therapy. She was instrumental in establishing licensure for occupational therapy practitioners in NC. Board members spoke on behalf of Ms. Rourk's contribution to the occupational therapy profession. Mr. Wilkins agreed to send a card to her family to express their condolences.

### **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 10:35 a.m.

### **Return to Open Session**

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:55 a.m.

### **Closed Session Report**

### **Disciplinary Matters**

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

**Adjournment**

The Open Session adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on March 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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Laura Echols, Chair

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Nicole Blackwell, Secretary/Treasurer