

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
JULY 15, 2024
MINUTES**

REGULAR SESSION

Time and Place

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session in the offices of the Board on July 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Laura Echols, Young Kim, Nicole Blackwell, Erica Dolan, Sarah Rahman and Danielle Ward.

Others Present

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

Members Absent

Dr. Kevin Coates.

Chairperson

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

Conflict of Interest

Ms. Echols called for any conflicts of interest with the meeting agenda. Mr. Wilkins reminded the Board that pursuant to the State Government Ethics Act ("the Act"), N.C.G.S. Chapter 138A when an actual or potential conflict of interest is cited by the Commission under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e) with regard to a public servant sitting on a board, the conflict shall be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and duly brought to the attention of the membership by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c). There were no conflicts with the agenda. However, there are potential conflicts for any OT practitioner sitting on the Board and they are reminded to recuse themselves from any item that results in an actual conflict of interest.

Approval of Minutes

The May 13, 2024, minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for May 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, was discussed and approved as submitted.

Approval of 2024-2025 Budget

The 2024-2025 budget was reviewed and approved as submitted.

Administrator's Report

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

Legal Services Committee

Mr. Kim reported the Committee reviewed a bill from Broughton Wilkins Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for the months of May and June 2024 for seventeen (17) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 26.30 and the total fees were \$6,575. The Board closed six disciplinary files following the May 2024 Board meeting and currently has fifteen 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. 2024/2025 Meetings

Board members were advised the 2024 Annual Meeting is meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on September 16-19, 2024. Ms. Echols and Ms.

Ward mentioned they may attend.

Board members were also advised that the 2025 International Congress is meeting in Wellington, New Zealand on December 3-5, 2025.

b. May and June 2024 CLEAR News

Board members reviewed emails dated May 28, 2024 and June 25, 2024, respectively, regarding the May and June CLEAR news.

AOTA

a. 2024 Annual Conference & Expo

Board members were advised the 2025 Annual Conference & Expo is meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 3-5, 2025.

b. Summer 2024 State Affairs Newsletter

Board members reviewed an email dated June 28, 2024, regarding the Summer 2024 State Affairs Newsletter.

NCOTA 2024 Fall Conference

Board members were advised the NCOTA 2024 Fall Conference is meeting in Fayetteville, North Carolina on November 1-3, 2024. Ms. Echols appointed Ms. Dolan, Ms. Rahman and herself to serve on a committee to discuss having a booth at the conference.

NBCOT

a. State Regulatory Leadership Forum

Board members were advised the State Regulatory Leadership Forum is meeting virtually on September 10-11, 2024.

b. Important News

Board members reviewed an email dated June 27, 2024, regarding important news from NBCOT announcing a new President and CEO.

FARB

a. 2024/2025 Conferences

Board members were advised the Innovation of Competency Conference is meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on September 19-21, 2024. Board members were advised the Annual Meeting is meeting in Denver, Colorado on July 23-26, 2025.

b. 2024-2025 Membership invoice

Board members reviewed the 2024-2025 membership notice. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed to renew its

membership.

OT Compact Updates

Ms. Ward provided an update to the Board on the progress of the OT compact.

Response to Ellen Roeber regarding vision therapy

Board members reviewed an email dated May 15, 2024, from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Roeber regarding vision therapy.

Response to Caroline Co regarding soft tissue mobilization

Board members reviewed an email dated May 14, 2024, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Co regarding soft tissue mobilization.

Response to Alyssa Pittman regarding splinting

Board members reviewed an email dated May 14, 2024, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Pittman regarding splinting.

Response to Bambi Alley regarding scope of practice

Board members reviewed an email dated May 14, 2024, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Alley regarding scope of practice.

Response to Megan Jackson regarding manipulations/manual therapy technique

Board members reviewed an email dated May 14, 2024, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Jackson regarding manipulations/manual therapy technique.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from Jenn Workman regarding fieldwork

Board members reviewed an email dated April 25, 2024, from Ms. Workman requesting a face-to-face meeting to discuss options for implementing requirements for OT practitioners to serve as fieldwork educators. Ms. Workman attended the meeting and discussed various options with the Board and agreed to send a draft email to Board staff for the full Board to consider at its September meeting.

2025 Board meeting dates

The Board discussed and approved the 2025 Board meeting dates: January 13, 2025, March 17, 2025, May 19, 2025, July 21, 2025, September 15, 2025 and November 17, 2025.

Elections of Board officers

Board members were nominated and officers were elected: Nicole Blackwell was elected Chair, Young Kim was elected Vice Chair and Sarah Rahman was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Julie Moser

The Board conducted a hearing on whether Ms. Moser violated the Practice Act or Rules of the Board specifically NCGS 90-270.76(a)(2), (a)(5) and (a)(7) as well as Rules .0304(a)(7) and .0308, Principle 2 C, D, E and G by engaging in unprofessional and inappropriate sexual relationships with patients while employed at UNC Department of Psychiatry.

Nikki Rudd

The Board conducted a hearing on whether Ms. Rudd violated the Practice Act or Rules of the Board specifically NCGS 90-270.76(a)(2) and (4) as well as Rule .0304(a)(5) and (12) for documenting services not rendered.

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.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:40 p.m.

Closed Session Report

Disciplinary Matters

Mr. Wilkins reported the Board was advised in Closed Session that two disciplinary investigations resulted in dismissals and fifteen cases are currently being investigated.

Julie Moser

The Board reviewed the evidence presented in Ms. Moser's hearing and was

of the opinion Ms. Moser violated the Practice Act or Rules of the Board specifically NCGS 90-270.76(a)(2), (a)(5) and (a)(7) and Rules .0304(a)(7) and .0308, Principle 2 C, D, E and G by engaging in unprofessional and inappropriate sexual relationships with patients while employed at UNC Department of Psychiatry. The Board agreed that her license to practice occupational therapy shall not be renewed and is revoked. The Board also required that she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and disciplinary costs of \$1000.

Nikki Rudd

The Board reviewed the testimony and evidence presented in Ms. Rudd’s hearing and was of the opinion Ms. Rudd violated the Practice Act or Rules of the Board specifically NCGS 90-270.76(a)(2) and (7) and Rules .0304(a)(5), (a)(9) and (a)(21) for failing to document her services properly, failing to provide occupational therapy services to patients in need of services and violating an Order of the Board while on probation. The Board agreed that her license to practice occupational therapy shall be suspended for one year beginning August 15, 2024; she shall be on supervised probation for one year beginning August 15, 2025; and she shall pay a civil penalty of \$500 and disciplinary costs of \$250 on or before October 15, 2024.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on September 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Laura Echols, Chair

Nicole Blackwell, Secretary/Treasurer