

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
JANUARY 13, 2025  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Time and Place**

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session in the offices of the Board on January 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present**

Laura Echols, Nicole Blackwell, Sarah Rahman, Young Kim, Brad Myers 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. Blackwell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Brad Myers**

Ms. Blackwell administered the Oath of Office and Brad Myers was sworn in as a new member of the Board.

**Conflict of Interest**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The November 18, 2024, minutes were approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for November 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, was discussed 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 September through December 2024 for twenty-two (22) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 26.30 and the total fees were \$6,575. The Board closed eight disciplinary files following the September and November 2024 Board meetings and currently has 14 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. 2025 Meetings**

Board members were advised the 2025 Annual Meeting is in Chicago, Illinois on September 15-18, 2024. Mr. Myers and Ms. Ward may attend. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed to change the September 15, 2025 meeting date to September 22, 2025 so Board members can attend the CLEAR Annual Meeting.

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

**b. November and December 2024 CLEAR News**

Board members reviewed emails dated November 26, 2024 and December 19, 2024, respectively, regarding the November and December CLEAR news.

**AOTA 2025 Annual Conference & Expo**

Board members were advised the 2025 Annual Conference & Expo is meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 3-5, 2025. Mr. Kim agreed to attend and Ms. Blackwell and Ms. Rahman may attend.

**NCOTA 2025 Spring Conference**

Board members were advised there are more details to come regarding the NCOTA 2025 Spring Conference.

**FARB 2025 Annual Meeting**

Board members were advised the Annual Meeting is in Denver, Colorado on July 23-26, 2025. Ms. Echols agreed to attend.

**OT Compact Updates**

Ms. Ward provided an update to the Board on the progress of the OT compact and informed the Board that several rules are open for public comment. Board staff agreed to send to IT to post on the Board's website. The Board agreed to appoint a committee to review the rules and provide input, if needed. Ms. Blackwell appointed Mr. Kim, Mr. Myers and Ms. Ward to serve on the committee.

Board members also reviewed an email dated December 3, 2024 regarding the OT Compact Commission's 2024 Annual Report.

**Responses to emails regarding hurricane relief/EO 318**

Board members reviewed emails from Ms. Kirk regarding hurricane relief/EO 318.

**Response to Courtney Stallings regarding frequency and goals**

Board members reviewed an email dated November 19, 2024, from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Stallings regarding frequency and goals.

**Response to Susan Webb regarding OT expert**

Board members reviewed an email dated November 19, 2024, from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Webb regarding OT expert.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Email regarding April Heath regarding autism testing**

Board members reviewed an email dated November 22, 2024, from Ms. Heath regarding autism testing and agreed it is not within the scope of practice to diagnose autism but an OT practitioner may test for autism; provided, the OT practitioner shall be trained and competent to test for autism and the OT practitioner's competence shall be demonstrated and documented.

### **Email from Emily Gore regarding telehealth treatment**

Board members reviewed an email dated December 17, 2024, from Ms. Gore regarding telehealth treatment and agreed, pursuant to Rule .0103(21)(b), it is not permissible for an OTA to deliver treatment through unlicensed personnel through videoconferencing.

### **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 11:15 a.m.

### **Return to Open Session**

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:30 a.m.

### **Closed Session Report**

#### **Disciplinary Matters**

Mr. Wilkins reported the Board was advised in Closed Session that two disciplinary investigations resulted in Consent Orders, four resulted in dismissals and 10 cases are currently being investigated.

### **Adjournment**

The Open Session adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on March 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

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Nicole Blackwell, Chair

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Sarah Rahman, Secretary/Treasurer