

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
APRIL 15, 2020
MINUTES**

REGULAR SESSION

Time and Place

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session via conference call April 15, 2020 at 10:00 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 10:05 a.m.

Conflict of Interest

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

Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 130

a. Review Section 3 – Increasing the Pool of Professional Health Care Workers

Board members reviewed and discussed Section 3 of Executive Order 130 which expands the pool of health care workers to respond to the rising demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The four sections discussed include:

- i. Allowing persons licensed in other states, but not licensed in North Carolina, to provide OT services
- ii. Allowing persons to provide OT services if they are retired

- or expired
- iii. Allowing skilled, but unlicensed volunteers to provide OT services
- iv. Allowing students to provide OT services

Upon review of the Executive Order, the Board agreed to allow OT practitioners licensed in other states to provide OT services in North Carolina so long as the OT practitioner completes the waiver form provided by the Board and is approved to practice in this state. The Board also agreed to allow OT practitioners that were once licensed in North Carolina, whose licenses have expired for less than four years, to provide OT services in North Carolina so long as the OT practitioner provides the Board with their plan for practicing. Furthermore, the Board agreed not to allow skilled, unlicensed volunteers or students to practice OT in this state.

b. Review follow-up email from Boards and Commissions regarding EO 130

Board members reviewed an email dated April 10, 2020 from Boards and Commission providing guidance on Executive Order 130.

Telehealth and HIPAA

a. Review emails from Bridgette LeCompte and Eva Dubuisson regarding telehealth and HIPAA compliant platforms in the school system

Board members reviewed several emails from Bridgette LeCompte and Eva Dubuisson regarding telehealth and HIPAA compliant platforms in the school system. The Board agreed to respond to Ms. LeCompte and Ms. Dubuisson stating that the OT practitioner is responsible to know best practices of mode of delivery and be aware of the privacy and confidentiality rules of their employer and should abide by the Board's Practice Act and Rules as well as the AOTA Code of Ethics. Furthermore, the Board is not responsible for determining what mode a practitioner should select to deliver therapy or the specific platform a practitioner should use if providing telehealth or other forms of remote delivery.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on

May 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Lynn Losada, Chair

Danielle Ward, Secretary/Treasurer