

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
MINUTES**

REGULAR SESSION

Time and Place

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session in the offices of the Board and via Webex conference call on September 21, 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 10:00 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 July 13, 2020 minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for July 1, 2020 through August 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. Donica reported the Committee reviewed a bill from Broughton Wilkins Sugg & Thompson, PLLC for the months of July and August 2020 for five (5) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 8.10 and the total fees are \$2,025. The Board closed two disciplinary files following the July 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

a. Email regarding Choosing Wisely® Recommendations

Board members reviewed an email from Kristen Neville, representing the AOTA, dated September 14, 2020 regarding AOTA's request for feedback of the Choosing Wisely® recommendations. Board

members agreed to provide feedback.

b. ACOTE Summer 2020 Actions

Board members reviewed an email dated September 14, 2020 regarding ACOTE's Summer 2020 Actions.

NCOTA Fall Conference

Board members were advised the 2020 NCOTA fall conference is meeting virtually on October 2-4, 2020. Ms. Losada informed the Board she contacted NCOTA and provided information for a scavenger hunt provided by the NCBOT for the conference.

NBCOT

a. Regulatory E-Newsletter July 2020

Board members reviewed an email dated July 14, 2020 regarding the Regulatory E-Newsletter July 2020.

b. NBCOT to attend 2021 Board meeting

Board members reviewed a follow-up email dated July 13, 2020 from Shaun Conway, Senior Director, External & Regulatory Affairs for NBCOT regarding a visit to a future Board meeting in 2021.

c. 2020 State Regulatory Virtual Leadership Forum

Board members reviewed an email dated September 14, 2020 regarding registration for the virtual presentations for the 2020 Occupational Therapy State Regulatory Leadership Forum.

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 Alisha Singh regarding speaking with students at Wingate University

Board members reviewed an email dated July 16, 2020 from Ms. Kirk to Alisha Singh regarding speaking with students at Wingate University.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from Rucha Bhatt regarding telehealth in a group format

Board members reviewed several emails between Ms. Kirk and Ms. Bhatt regarding telehealth in a group format and agreed it is acceptable to conduct telehealth sessions in a group format.

Request from NCOTA to provide email addresses for the call for nominations

Board members reviewed emails between NCOTA and Board staff requesting that the Board consider disseminating the call for nominations to all currently licensed OT practitioners in North Carolina or providing email addresses for all currently licensed OT practitioners to NCOTA. Mr. Wilkins agreed to review the authority of the Board to disseminate this information on behalf of the NCOTA and will report to the Board in November.

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 September 2020, twenty-four waivers have been approved. The Board agreed to continue accepting waiver requests from OT practitioners licensed in other states due to the pandemic.

Election of Board officers

Board members were nominated and officers were elected as follows: Laura Echols was elected Chair, Leonard Trujillo was elected Vice Chair and Nicole Blackwell was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

CE Broker

Ms. Donica informed the Board that she was provided information from the SC OT Board regarding CE Broker and its services. Ms. Kirk informed the Board that Board staff met with representatives from CE Broker several years ago and determined the CE system created by the Board is appropriate and sufficient and there is no need to change to CE Broker. The Board agreed.

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 12:00 p.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:15 p.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 one of those will be dismissed.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 12:15 p.m. to attend a Board luncheon honoring Ms. Donica and Dr. Lang for their years of service on the Board.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on November 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Lynn Losada, Chair

Danielle Ward, Secretary/Treasurer