

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
MAY 18, 2020  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Time and Place**

The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy met in Regular Session via Webex conference call on May 18, 2020 at 9:00 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 9:05 a.m.

**Conflict of Interest**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The March 9 and April 15, 2020 minutes were approved.

**To-Do List**

The March 9, 2020 to do-list was approved as submitted and reviewed.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for March 1, 2020 through April 30, 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 March and April 2020 for three (3) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 6.20 and the total fees are \$1,550. The Board closed 2 disciplinary files following the March 2020 Board meeting and currently has 3 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 proposed bills pending in the North Carolina General Assembly.

### **CLEAR**

#### **a. 2020 Annual Meeting**

Board members were advised the 2020 Annual Meeting is meeting in Seattle, Washington on September 23-26, 2020. Ms. Blackwell and Ms. Ward agreed to attend.

#### **b. 2020-2021 Membership**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 3, 2020 regarding 2020-2021 membership. Upon motion made, seconded and agreed to renew the CLEAR membership for the year 2020-2021.

## **AOTA 2020 Annual Conference**

### **a. Updates following Annual Conference**

Board members reviewed an email dated March 18, 2020 regarding updates following the cancellation of AOTA's Annual Conference & Expo

### **b. ACOTE March 2020 Actions**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 27, 2020 regarding ACOTE's March 2020 Actions.

## **NCOTA Fall Conference**

Board members were also advised the 2020 NCOTA fall conference is meeting in New Bern, North Carolina on October 2-4, 2020.

## **NBCOT**

### **a. AOTA/NBCOT OT Licensure Compact Progress**

Board members reviewed an email dated March 10, 2020 regarding progress made on the joint AOTA/NBCOT Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Initiative.

### **b. Orientation for New OT Regulators Cancellation**

Board members were advised the Orientation for New OT Regulators on April 3, 2020 was cancelled.

### **c. State Regulatory Leadership Forum Cancellation**

Board members were advised the State Regulatory Leadership Forum on May 12-13, 2020 was cancelled.

### **d. Testing Contractor Closes Test Centers**

Board members reviewed an email dated March 17, 2020 regarding Prometric closing all testing centers in the US and Canada per guidance by the CDC.

### **e. ACVF Update**

Board members reviewed an email dated March 19, 2020 regarding the potential for misuse of the ACVF, resulting in suspending the processing and acceptance of the ACVF until further notice.

### **f. Prometric Closures Update**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 13, 2020 regarding the extended closure of test centers until May 1, 2020.

**g. Request to attend future Board meeting**

Board members reviewed a follow-up email dated April 21, 2020 from Shaun Conway, Senior Director, External & Regulatory Affairs for NBCOT regarding making a visit to a future Board meeting. Ms. Kirk responded regarding the possibility of allowing them to visit during the July 2020 Board meeting.

**h. Regulatory E-Newsletter April 2020**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 22, 2020 regarding the April 2020 Regulatory E-Newsletter.

**i. Testing to Resume May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 22, 2020 regarding an announcement that delivery of the NBCOT OTR and COTA examinations would resume May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**j. Email regarding updates**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 23, 2020 regarding important updates on exam applications, ATT letters, testing and mail service for NBCOT.

**k. Implications of Governor Issued Executive Orders**

Board members reviewed emails dated May 5 and 14, 2020, respectively, regarding COVID-19 Governor issued Executive Orders affecting occupational therapy state licensure.

**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 Rebekah Martin regarding MCR maintenance therapy benefit**

Board members reviewed an email dated March 9, 2020 from Mr. Wilkins to Rebekah Martin regarding MCR maintenance therapy benefit.

**Response to Rebecca Hurst regarding evaluation bathing score**

Board members reviewed emails dated March 16, 2020 from Mr. Wilkins to Rebecca Hurst regarding evaluation bathing score.

**Response to Bridgette LeCompte regarding guidance on telehealth**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 16, 2020 from Mr. Wilkins to Bridgette LeCompte regarding guidance on telehealth in the school system.

**Response to Eva Dubuisson regarding HIPAA compliant platforms in the school system**

Board members reviewed an email dated April 16, 2020 from Mr. Wilkins to Eva Dubuisson regarding HIPAA compliant platforms in the school system.

**Executive Order 130**

**a. Review Waiver Notice and Form**

Board members reviewed the waiver notice and form developed following the April 2020 Special Board meeting.

**b. Review and Approve Waiver Form submissions**

Board members reviewed several waiver form submissions following the waiver notice posted on the Board's website pursuant to Executive Order 130. The Board agreed to send a few follow-up questions to the individuals that submitted the waiver forms and agreed that Leonard Trujillo will assist Board staff in reviewing and approving the forms.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Letter requesting approval to treat patients with dry needling**

Board members reviewed a letter from Gard Erlandsson along with signatures from several other healthcare practitioners requesting an approval by the Board for OT Certified Hand Therapists to treat patients with dry needling. The Board agreed to request guidance from AOTA on this topic and respond to Mr. Erlandsson.

**Email from Carol Bishop regarding CMS waiver**

Board members reviewed an email dated May 12, 2020 from Carol Bishop regarding a recent CMS waiver for OT to perform initial and comprehensive assessments. The Board agreed this is a decision for each facility based on their policies and procedures.

**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 10:10 a.m.

### **Return to Open Session**

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:20 a.m.

### **Closed Session Report**

#### **Disciplinary Matters**

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

#### **Adjournment**

The Open Session adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on July 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

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Lynn Losada, Chair

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Danielle Ward, Secretary/Treasurer