

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
MARCH 24, 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 March 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Laura Echols, Sarah Rahman, Young Kim, Brad Myers and Danielle Ward.

Others Present

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

Dr. Denise D. Donica, past Board member and Board Chair, currently on the faculty of the OT Department at ECU, attended the meeting along with 5 of her doctoral program students.

Members Absent

Nicole Blackwell and Dr. Kevin Coates.

Chairperson

Mr. Kim, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Conflict of Interest

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

Approval of Minutes

The January 13, 2025, minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for January 1, 2025, through February 28, 2025, 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 January and February 2025 for five (5) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 5.80 and the total fees were \$1,450. The Board closed six disciplinary files following the January 2025 Board meeting and currently has 11 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 Conference

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. The Board also agreed to consider a conference in August 2025 to discuss the OT compact.

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.

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

b. January 2025 CLEAR Update

Board members reviewed an email dated January 28, 2025, regarding the January 2025 CLEAR update.

AOTA

a. 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 and Ms. Rahman agreed to attend and Ms. Blackwell may attend. The Board also agreed for attendees to get some information on presenting a course at a future AOTA conference.

b. December 2024 ACOTE Actions

Board members reviewed an email dated January 17, 2025 regarding the December 2024 ACOTE Actions.

NBCOT

a. State Regulatory E-newsletter

Board members reviewed an email dated March 12, 2025 regarding the State Regulatory E-newsletter.

b. Presentation Request

Board members reviewed an email dated March 12, 2025 regarding a request for NBCOT to present virtually at a future Board meeting. The Board agreed for Board staff to respond with future Board meetings and put this on a future agenda.

c. Outreach with Primary Board Administrators

Board members reviewed an email dated March 12, 2025 regarding outreach with primary board administrators.

d. Important News

Board members reviewed an email dated March 13, 2024 regarding important news from NBCOT.

NCOTA 2025 Fall Conference

Board members were advised there are more details to come regarding the NCOTA 2025 Fall 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 on the progress of the OT compact. The Board

also reviewed the minutes from the OTCC Rules Committee as well as an email dated March 18, 2025 regarding implementation with the state licensing system.

Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed to only share information with the Compact for licensees applying for a compact license and to require a fee for Compact licensing. Board staff agreed to contact the NC SBI regarding the background check process and meet with IT to get feedback on how this process can be implemented with the current database system.

Response to April Heath regarding autism testing

Board members reviewed an email dated March 20, 2024, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Heath regarding autism testing.

Response to Emily Gore regarding telehealth treatment

Board members reviewed an email dated March 20, 2025, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Gore regarding telehealth treatment.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from John Elam regarding extracorporeal shockwave therapy

Board members reviewed an email dated February 28, 2025, from Mr. Elam regarding extracorporeal shockwave therapy and agreed it is within the scope of practice to administer extracorporeal shockwave therapy provided, the OT practitioner shall be trained and competent to administer extracorporeal shockwave therapy and the OT practitioner's competence shall be demonstrated and documented.

Email from Eunice Nirmal regarding OT in primary care

Board members reviewed an email dated February 20, 2025, from Ms. Nirmal regarding OT in primary care and agreed OT is involved in primary in NC but there is no specified role that OT practitioners play in the delivery of primary services. It was recommended that she review information from AOTA and the World Federation of OTs regarding this information.

Email from Jillian Todero regarding consent for screening

Board members reviewed an email dated February 3, 2025, from Ms. Todero regarding consent for screening and agreed there is no set rule that OT practitioners obtain consent for screening from the parent and only screen areas indicated on the forms. It is up to the specific setting to establish its

own policies and procedures for screening.

Denise Nesbitt

The Board conducted a hearing on whether Ms. Nesbitt violated the Practice Act or Rules of the Board specifically NCGS 90-270.76(a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(5) and (a)(7) as well as Rules .0304(12) and (21) and Rules .0304(b) for failing to provide timely, accurate and complete documentation of her occupational therapy services and 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 12:20 p.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:45 p.m.

Closed Session Report

Disciplinary Matters

Mr. Wilkins reported the Board was advised in Closed Session that two disciplinary investigations resulted in Consent Orders, one resulted in a Letter of Reprimand, two resulted in dismissals and 11 cases are currently being investigated.

Denise Nesbitt

The Board reviewed the evidence presented in Ms. Nesbitt's hearing and was of the opinion that Ms. Nesbitt violated the Practice Act and Rules of the Board specifically NCGS 90-270.76(a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(5) and (a)(7) as well as Rules .0304(12) and (21) and Rules .0304(b) for failing to provide timely, accurate and complete documentation of her occupational therapy services and documenting services not rendered. The Board agreed that her license to practice occupational therapy be revoked and she pay a civil penalty of \$1000 and disciplinary costs of \$500.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on May 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Young Kim, Vice Chair

Sarah Rahman, Secretary/Treasurer