

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
JANUARY 12, 2026
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 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Nicole Blackwell, Laura Echols, Young Kim, Brad Myers, Sarah Rahman 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 9:30 a.m.

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 17, 2025, minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for November 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, was discussed and approved as submitted.

2024-2025 Financial Audit

The 2024-2025 Financial Audit 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 November and December 2025 for nineteen (19) disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 22.60 and the total fees were \$5,650. The Board closed five disciplinary files following the November 2025 Board meeting 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.

NC Legislature

Mr. Wilkins reported on bills pending in the North Carolina General Assembly.

CLEAR December 2025 Update

Board members reviewed an email dated October 18, 2025, regarding the CLEAR December 2025 update.

AOTA 2026 Annual Conference & Expo

a. 2026 Annual Conference & Expo

Board members were advised the 2026 Annual Conference & Expo is meeting in Anaheim, California on April 23-25, 2026. Ms. Echols and Ms. Rahman are attending and Mr. Kim may attend.

b. Winter 2025 State Affairs Newsletter

Board members reviewed an email dated December 16, 2025, regarding the Winter 2025 State Affairs Newsletter.

c. 2025 Code of Ethics

Board members reviewed the 2025 Code of Ethics.

NBCOT

a. State Regulatory E-newsletter

Board members reviewed an email dated December 10, 2025, regarding the OT State Regulatory E-newsletter.

b. Important News

Board members reviewed an email dated December 17, 2025, regarding important news.

FARB 2026 Summit

Board members were advised the 2026 Summit is meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 23-25, 2026.

OT Compact Updates

Ms. Ward provided an update on the progress of the OT compact. Board staff agreed to contact the NC SBI for an update on the statute regarding a background check.

Response to Bryce Bartlett regarding reassessment documentation

Board members reviewed an email dated November 17, 2025, from Ms. Kirk to Mr. Bartlett regarding reassessment documentation.

Response to Charley Cross regarding NCOTA's suggestions to Practice Act/Rule changes

Board members reviewed an email dated November 17, 2025, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Cross regarding recommendations to changes in the Board's Practice Act and Rules.

Email from Skylar Little/AOTA regarding request for email addresses

Board members reviewed emails from Ms. Little from AOTA regarding a request for email addresses. The Board reviewed its previous contract and agreement with NCOTA for a similar request. Mr. Wilkins agreed to draft contracts for the Board's review at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from Deborah Dorsett regarding ABA/OT scope of practice

Board members reviewed an email dated January 12, 2026, from Deborah

Dorsett regarding ABA and the OT scope of practice. Ms. Dorsett also attended the meeting virtually and presented information to the Board. The Board agreed to review her questions further and to reach out to other boards about the issues presented.

Email from Cindy Miller regarding discharges

Board members reviewed an email dated December 16, 2025, from Ms. Miller regarding insurance companies and facilities dictating when occupational therapy practitioners can discharge a patient. The Board agreed to request more information on the specific scenario.

March 2026 Board meeting

The Board agreed to change its March 16, 2026, meeting to March 23, 2026. The meeting will be held virtually unless the conference room becomes available on that day.

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 12:05 p.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:20 p.m.

Closed Session Report

Disciplinary Matters

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

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on March 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Nicole Blackwell, Chair

Sarah Rahman, Secretary/Treasurer