

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
MARCH 23, 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 March 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Nicole Blackwell, Laura Echols, Young Kim, Dr. Surah Grumet, Brad Myers, Sarah Rahman 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 past Board Chair, currently on the faculty of the OT Department at ECU, attended the meeting along with five of her doctoral program students.

Members Absent

None.

Chairperson

Ms. Blackwell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Surah Grumet, MD

Ms. Blackwell administered the Oath of Office and Dr. Surah Grumet was sworn in as a new member of the Board.

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 January 12, 2026, minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for January 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026, 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 2026 for 14 disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 13.10 and the total fees were \$3,275. The Board closed five disciplinary files following the November 2025 Board meeting and currently has 18 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

a. 2026 Annual Meeting

Board members were advised the 2026 Annual Meeting is meeting in Portland, Oregon on September 14-17, 2026.

b. February 2026 Update

Board members reviewed an email dated February 24, 2026, regarding the CLEAR February 2026 update.

AOTA 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.

NBCOT

a. Outreach with Primary Board Administrators

Board members reviewed an email dated January 15, 2026, regarding outreach with board administrators.

b. State Regulatory E-newsletter

Board members reviewed an email dated March 13, 2026, regarding the OT State Regulatory E-newsletter.

FARB

a. 2026 Summit

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

b. Membership renewal

Board members agreed to renew their membership with FARB.

OT Compact Updates

Ms. Ward provided an update on the progress of the OT compact.

Response to Deborah Dorsett regarding ABA/OT scope of practice; review draft email to other Boards

Board members reviewed an email dated January 14, 2026, from Mr. Wilkins to Ms. Dorsett regarding ABA and the OT scope of practice. Board members also reviewed a draft email to be sent to other Boards and agreed to send the email to the Boards listed as well as to the CDSA and NC ITP.

Response from Cindy Miller regarding discharges

Board members reviewed an email dated January 13, 2026, from Ms. Miller to Ms. Kirk stating the issue had been resolved.

Email from Skylar Little/AOTA regarding request for email addresses

Board members reviewed an email from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Little as well as a memorandum and statutes provided by Mr. Wilkins for the Board's consideration regarding selling email addresses for the purpose of soliciting membership. Mr. Wilkins agreed to research further on the legality of this issue and check with IT on an option for licensees to "opt in or out" of this request.

Periodic Review of Rules

Board members reviewed the timeline and rules chart provided by Board staff for the periodic review of rules required by House Bill 74. Ms. Kirk informed the Board there were no public comments received on the rules of the Board. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board approved the final classifications for the report and Board staff agreed to file the information with the Rules Review Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from Sara Heath regarding dysphagia

Board members reviewed an email dated January 9, 2026, from Ms. Heath regarding dysphagia and agreed occupational therapists may (1) address functional components related to feeding and swallowing as part of ADLs, (2) provide interventions related to self-feeding, positioning, adaptive equipment, and environmental modifications for patients with dysphagia, and (3) participate in screening or observation related to swallowing function, and refer to speech-language pathology as required.

Email from Ashley Arvay regarding evaluation

Board members reviewed an email dated March 6, 2026, from Ms. Arvay regarding evaluations and agreed an OT may initiate an evaluation virtually.

Email from Allie Graebe regarding ethics questions

Board members reviewed an email dated March 11, 2026, from Ms. Graebe regarding ethics questions and agreed her concerns should be addressed with hospital management and she should ask them to recommend and provide a solution to her concerns.

Email from Kourtney Kuykendall regarding injury prevention specialist

Board members reviewed an email dated March 13, 2026, from Ms. Kuykendall regarding an OTA working as an injury prevention specialist and agreed an OTA working as an injury prevention specialist is required to be supervised by an OT.

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 12:35 p.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:00 p.m.

Closed Session Report

Disciplinary Matters

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

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the office of the Board on May 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Nicole Blackwell, Chair

Sarah Rahman, Secretary/Treasurer