

**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
MAY 18, 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 May 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Nicole Blackwell, Laura Echols, Dr. Surah Grumet, Sarah Rahman and Danielle Ward.

Others Present

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

Members Absent

Young Kim and Brad Myers.

Chairperson

Ms. Blackwell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:20 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 March 23, 2026, minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for March 1, 2026, through April 30, 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 March and April 2026 for 14 disciplinary proceedings. The total hours worked was 17.40 and the total fees were \$4,350. The Board closed two disciplinary files following the March 2026 Board meeting and currently has 21 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 as well as the periodic review of rules with the Rules Review Commission.

CLEAR

a. 2026 Annual Meeting

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

b. April 2026 Update

Board members reviewed an email dated April 28, 2026, regarding the CLEAR April 2026 update.

c. 2026-2027 Renewal Notice

Board members reviewed an email regarding the 2026-2027 renewal notice and agreed to renew its membership with CLEAR.

AOTA 2026 Annual Conference & Expo

a. 2026 Annual Conference & Expo

Board members were advised the 2026 Annual Conference & Expo met in Anaheim, California on April 23-25, 2026. Ms. Echols and Ms. Rahman attended and reported on the conference.

b. State Affairs Newsletter

Board members reviewed an email dated March 31, 2026, regarding the State Affairs Newsletter.

NBCOT

a. Outreach with Primary Board Administrators

Board members reviewed an email dated April 16, 2026, regarding outreach with board administrators.

b. State Regulatory Leadership Forum

Board members were advised the State Regulatory Leadership Forum is meeting virtually on September 22-23, 2026.

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.

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. Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the Board agreed to provide email addresses to AOTA and NCOTA for purposes of soliciting membership with the implementation of an "opt-in/opt-out" option through the initial application and renewal processes.

Response to Sarah Heath regarding dysphagia

Board members reviewed an email dated March 25, 2026, from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Heath regarding dysphagia.

Response to Ashley Arvay regarding evaluation

Board members reviewed an email dated March 25, 2026, from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Arvay regarding evaluations.

Responses to Allie Graebe regarding ethics questions

Board members reviewed emails to and from Mr. Wilkins and Ms. Graebe regarding ethics questions.

Response to Kourtney Kuykendall regarding injury prevention specialist

Board members reviewed an email dated March 25, 2026, from Ms. Kirk to Ms. Kuykendall regarding an OTA working as an injury prevention specialist.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on NCGS 90-270.68(b)

Board members discussed NCGS 90-270.68(b) and agreed it would be beneficial to change the language to allow a board member who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term to serve two additional 4-year terms.

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 10:30 a.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:15 a.m.

Closed Session Report

Disciplinary Matters

Mr. Wilkins reported he advised the Board in Closed Session that 21 cases are currently being investigated.

Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Session meeting will be held at the Board office on July 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Nicole Blackwell, Chair

Sarah Rahman, Secretary/Treasurer