



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2023
9:00 AM

This meeting was available virtually and in person at The Olympia Center, 222
Columbia St NW, Room 200, Olympia, WA 98501.

On April 14, 2023 the Occupational Therapy Practice Board met by webinar. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

MEMBERS PRESENT

MARY SPORES, OT, CHAIR
SHARI ROBERTS, PUBLIC MEMBER,
VICE CHAIR
WALTER GRUENWALD, OT
JOAQUIN OLIVAS, OTA
RYAN WILSON, OT

STAFF PRESENT

JAMES CHANEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KATHY WEED, PROGRAM MANAGER
CASSANDRA GERARD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 3
SIERRA MCWILLIAMS, AAG
HOPE KILBOURNE, HEALTH SERVICES CONSULTANT 4
SHANI HUE, BUDGET ANALYST 2
LYDIA KOROMA, STAFF ATTORNEY

OTHERS PRESENT

HEATHER FRITZ
VALERIE BEECHER
KRISTEN NEVILLE
JAMIE VALENZUELA
KATE WHITE
ANNE GESCHKE

Friday, April 14, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Spores, OT, at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Introductions

The board, staff and audience members introduced themselves.

1.2 Approval of agenda

A motion was made, seconded and the board voted to approve the agenda.

1.3 Approval of January 20, 2023, meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded and the board voted to approve the January 20, 2023, meeting minutes.

1.4 Public Comment Opportunity

Ms. Valenzuela asked for clarification on disclaimers used in evaluations conducted by a physical therapist and reviewed by an occupational therapist. Ms. McWilliams stated the board is not allowed to give individual legal advice. This comment will be noted for future consideration.

2. DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - The board discussed writing a guidance statement on the role of occupational therapy and behavioral health settings. Information provided by Kathy Weed, Program Manager.

Ms. Weed shared the current guidance on behavioral health in the scope of occupational therapy. The decision was made last year to add occupational therapist assistants to a list of behavioral health professions and facilities on the Department of Health's website. Ms. Weed also shared state legislature recently passed Senate Bill 5228 which allows managed care organizations and behavioral health administrative services organizations to provide occupational therapy services to clients and directs the Health Care Authority to expand coverage under the Medicaid program. Ms. Neville shared an update on the Occupational Therapy Mental Health Parity Act. The board discussed announcement options and collaborating with other organizations and agencies to disseminate a public statement on recent legislative changes. The board directed staff to draft an announcement for the board to review at the next meeting before distributing it to the public.

3. RULES WORKSHOP ON HEALTH EQUITY CE REQUIREMENTS— The board discussed the draft language for health equity continuing education hours to comply with ESSB 5229, Health Equity Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals. Information provided by Kathy Weed, Program Manager.

Ms. Weed shared the health equity continuing education hours language drafted by Ms. McWilliams to comply with ESSB 5229. Ms. Spores suggested including the new requirement start date of January 2024. A motion was made, seconded and the board voted in favor of accepting the language including the start date of January 2024.

4. **REVIEW OF SIGNATURE DELEGATIONS** – The board discussed delegating signature authority to the department for credentialing, disciplinary, compliance functions and others. Presentation by Assistant Attorney General, Sierra McWilliams.

Ms. McWilliams shared the revisions to the Department of Health delegation of signature authority and delegation of authority forms. A motion was made, seconded and the board voted in favor of approving the forms with the changes made.

5. **REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES** – The board reviewed, discussed, and updated existing policies. Presentation by Program Manager, Kathy Weed.

- 5.1 Policy 1.4 Telephone Contacts with Board Members - The board discussed the current policy and determined no changes were necessary.
- 5.2 Policy 2.2 Re-entry - Ms. Weed shared the grammatical changes made by Ms. McWilliams.
- 5.3 Policy 2.4 Limited Permit-Foreign Trained - Ms. Weed shared the foreign trained language recently added to this policy.
- 5.4 Policy 2.5 Exception Application Matrix - Ms. Weed reviewed the current guides used by credentialing.
- 5.5 Policy 2.6 Applicants from Unrecognized Educational Programs - Ms. Weed noted no changes were made to this policy.
- 5.6 Policy 3.5 Reviewing Board Member Disciplinary Case and Presentation - Ms. Weed shared the grammatical changes made by Ms. McWilliams.

A motion was made, seconded and the board voted in favor of updating and approving all policies as written.

6. **REVIEW OF LISTS AND LABELS REQUESTS** – The board reviewed lists and labels requests to determine if the request should be approved or denied.

6.1 CE Learning Systems, LLC – the board reviewed, discussed, and voted unanimously to approve this lists and labels request.

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – Presentation by James Chaney, Executive Director.

7.1 Budget report, including compact costs.

Mr. Chaney shared the budget report including an upcoming deduction for a healthcare enforcement and licensing modernization solution (HELMS). The board discussed and agreed to hold a fee analysis presentation during the October 20, 2023, meeting. Mr. Chaney also mentioned House Bill 1503 passed.

8. **PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT** – Presentation by Kathy Weed, Program Manager.
 - 8.1 Compact Commission update

Ms. Weed shared the compact is moving forward on a national level. The committee hired additional staff and will be working on their infrastructure for the next year. Ms. Weed also shared their plans for creating presentations that will be posted on their website.

8.2 Potential update to Code of ethics and standards of professional conduct rule section

Ms. Weed explained the increase in questions surrounding physical therapist and occupational therapist evaluations. Ms. Weed asked the board if additional language should be added to the code of ethics and standards of professional conduct for clarification. A motion was made, seconded and the board voted in favor of opening the rule to consider revising the language in the standards of professional conduct rule section.

8.3 Recruitment update

Ms. Weed introduced Mr. Wilson as a new board member and mentioned recruitment will resume later this year to fill Mr. Gruenwald's position.

8.4 Locations for remainder of 2023 meetings

The board suggested the July 14th and October 20th meetings be held in the Auburn or Tacoma areas.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – The board discussed agenda items for future meetings.

- Possibly aligning continuing education requirements with NBCOT
- Review announcement on SB 5228
- Business plan
- Budget forecast
- Open Public Meetings Act training
- Review confidentiality

10. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Neville mentioned she will be attending the American Occupational Therapy Association conference.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 10.58 a.m. The next regularly scheduled board meeting is July 14, 2023. Updated meeting information will be posted on the Occupational Therapy website.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Kathy Weed
Program Manager

Mary Spores, Chair
Occupational Therapy Practice Board