

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Board Teleconference Minutes
March 28, 2016 - 08:30 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy met via teleconference on Monday, March 28, 2016. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Rachele Branson, OTR/L, President
Melissa Thurlow, OTR/L, Vice President
Mary Louise Austin, Consumer Member
Robert McClellan, OTR/L
Rafael Salazar, OTR/L
Susan Stallings-Sahler, OTR/L

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor

Attorney General's Office

Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

No visitors present

Call to Order

Ms. Branson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Ms. Price informed the Board that newly appointed Board Member, Mr. Rafael Salazar, was sworn in at the Board offices by Division Director Lisa Durden on Friday, March 25, 2016 and is on the call this morning.

Ms. Branson began the meeting by introducing herself to Mr. Salazar and welcoming him to the Board. She also apologized for their first meeting having to be on a conference call. The other board members on the call said words of welcome to Mr. Salazar as well.

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously to proceed with the agenda as posted.

Discussion - Rule Variance Request – Amber Frick

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of Board Rule 671-3-.08 which will allow the licensee to submit 24 hours of online continuing education courses for the renewal cycle ending March 31, 2016 all of which are to be audited and flag for CE audit during the next renewal cycle.

Discussion - Rule Variance Request – Suzanne Mink

Ms. Stallings-Sahler motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to table a decision on the petition for variance of Board Rule 671-3-.08(3)(f) pending the following conditions:

- 1) the Cognizant Board Members receipt and review of additional information from the petitioner's physician to include the medical diagnosis, prognosis, a statement regarding the petitioner's ability to work with reasonable skill and safety as well as if there should be any limitations on practice and a statement as to whether or not the respondent is presently working in any capacity;
- 2) The additional documentation must be received and reviewed prior to April 11, 2016; and,
- 3) If the petitioner is not working and the additional documentation supports the request, grant the variance and audit the continuing education for the current and the next renewal cycles; or,
- 4) If the petitioner is working and/or the additional documentation does not support the request, deny the variance based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a hardship.

Discussion - Rule Variance Request – Michelle Graham

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for waiver of Board Rule 671-3-.08(3) for this renewal cycle only and flag for audit during the next renewal cycle.

Miscellaneous Discussions

Ms. Austin inquired as to the status of the letter that the Board was going to send to the legislature regarding HB 952. Ms .Price remarked that the legislation has passed and since the purpose of the letter was for the Board to express their opposition to the legislation, to send it at this juncture may be moot; however, it is up to the Board to decide. Ms. Branson stated that she agreed that it is now moot and that no letter is to be sent regarding the legislations. Assistant Attorney General Janet Jackson remarked that if the Board has any rules or policies pending consideration, it may want to review them soon as the process for review will change on July 1, 2016.

Ms. Austin requested that Ms. Jackson explain the differences between the laws, rules and policies to help her understanding. Ms. Jackson stated that laws or statutes are introduced and enacted via the legislature while rules are promulgated by the Boards in order to help the public interpret those laws and board policies are generated by the Board to give the staff procedural understanding about how the Board would like things to be processed. Ms. Jackson stated that if it was the pleasure of the Board President, she would be happy to provide the Board with some orientation information during the next meeting regarding this topic since the Board has some new Board Members. Ms. Branson accepted that offer and indicated that it would be most helpful.

Ms. Branson stated that in light of the passing of HB 952 and based on recent discussions the Board has had about the rules, she indicated that it would be a good exercise at this point if each Board Member took a section of the rules on the website, reviewed them to see which rules are no longer relevant and require updating and bring that information to the next meeting so that the Board as a whole may consider making some amendments. She asked if the Board Members would be amenable to conducting the review. It was the consensus of the Board Members that they are willing to undertake the exercise. Based on the response, Ms. Branson assigned the rule sections as follows:

- 1) Organization and Definitions – Melissa Thurlow
- 2) License Requirements – Susan Stallings-Sahler
- 3) Standards of Professional Conduct – Mary Louise Austin
- 4) Procedural Rules – Robert McClellan
- 5) Certification of PAMs – Rachele Branson

Ms. Branson stated that since Mr. Salazar is new to the Board, she suggests that he take the time to review all of the current laws, rules and policies in order to become familiar with them.

Ms. Thurlow remarked that she feels that the remaining Board Members should introduce themselves to Mr. Salazar. Ms. Branson agreed and each member said a personal hello to Mr. Salazar.

The Board did not vote to enter into Executive Session for any discussion.

Adjournment There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:	Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes reviewed and edited by:	Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor
Minutes approved on:	May 13, 2016

RACHELE BRANSON
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR