

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**  
**Board Teleconference Minutes**  
**Friday, November 15, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy met via teleconference on Friday, November 15, 2019. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Rachele Branson, OTR/L, Chairperson  
Robert McClellan, OTR/L, Vice Chair  
Melissa Thurlow, OTR/L, Board Member  
Pamela Reddick-Collins, OTR/L, Board Member  
Mary Louise Austin, Consumer Board Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

**Attorney General's Office**

Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

Rafael Salazar, OTR/L, Board Member

**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 9:05 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Board Meeting Agenda**

Ms. Austin motioned, Ms. Thurlow seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Board Minutes**

**1. October 7, 2019 Board Teleconference Minutes**

Mr. McClellan motioned, Ms. Thurlow seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the May 10, 2019 open session Board teleconference minutes as presented.

**Ratification Lists August 2, 2019 – November 8, 2019 Reinstatements and PAMs**

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the list of licenses issued from August 2, 2019 – November 8, 2019, licenses issued by reinstatement, the Physical Agent Modalities certifications, and limited permits issued between Board meetings.

**Correspondence – Telehealth Therapy, Tameka Wilson, OTR/L**

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy and its administrative staff may not provide advice to any third party relevant to scope of practice questions due to potential legal ramifications for providing such advice. As a result, it is suggested that the writer review O.C.G.A. §§ 43-28-3(6); 43-28-13 regarding telehealth or seek guidance from their personal legal counsel on the matter.

**Correspondence – Licensure Eligibility for Program Graduates – Heather Burnham, Director of Compliance, Eastern Virginia Career College**

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Ms. Austin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that that the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy and its administrative staff may not provide advice to any third party relevant to scope of practice questions due to potential legal ramifications for providing such advice. In general if the program is accredited by ACOTE, it may be accepted; however, the Board reviews each application on a case by case basis to determine if all other criteria is met, to include educational requirements. It is suggested that the writer review the Georgia Occupational Therapy Practice Act or seek guidance from their personal legal counsel on the matter.

**Discussion – American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)**

1. AOTA STATE LEGISLATIVE MONITORING REPORT 08.26.19
2. AOTA STATE REGULATORY MONITORING REPORT 08.26.19
3. Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association (NOTA) Letter of Support LR244 (Reimbursement and MPPR Discrepancies)

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Ms. Reddick-Collins seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Mr. McClellan to forward this notification to GOTA.

4. AOTA – Prepping for Patient Driven Payment Model Presentation (09-17-19)
5. AOTA – State Affairs Newsletter – Fall 2019
6. AOTA – Webinar Recording – Interstate Licensure Compact for the Occupational Therapy Profession

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to AOTA as information.

**Discussion – National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) – OT Action Exchange**

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to respond to NBCOT with a request that they notify the Board when security concerns are resolved.

**Discussion – Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council (GORRC) House Bill 704 Recreational Therapy Final Report**

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Ms. Austin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Mr. McClellan to act as the Board’s liaison for the purpose of contacting GOTA regarding the Board’s concerns on HB 704.

**Discussion – Physical Agent Modalities (PAMS)**

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Ms. Thurlow seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Mr. McClellan and Ms. Thurlow to develop a subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing and simplifying PAMS applications and be prepared to discuss any recommended changes during the February 28, 2020 meeting.

**Board Member Elections**

**1. Board Chairperson**

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Rachele Branson as the Board’s Chair.

**2. Vice Chairperson**

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Robert McClellan as the Board’s Vice Chairperson.

**3. Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant**

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Melissa Thurlow as the Board’s Complaint/Disciplinary Cognizant.

**4. Rules Committee**

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Robert McClellan as the Rules Committee Chairperson and Rachele Branson as the Rules Committee Vice Chair with Melissa Thurlow as an alternate Rules Committee Member.

**Board Chair’s Report – R. Branson**

Ms. Branson recognized Mr. McClellan for his work in composing the letter to GORRC which expressed the Board’s concerns regarding the licensing of recreational therapists as a license subtype under the occupational therapy board.

**Executive Director’s Report – A. Price**

Executive Director's report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, and complaints/compliance matters and the status of renewal applications. In addition, she addressed the following topic with the Board:

- CE Broker Registrations
- PAMs Applications
- GOTA Liaison to the Board

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

**Mr. McClellan motioned, Ms. Thurlow seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to deliberate on applications, to receive the Attorney General's Report, Enforcement and Cognizant Reports, and to conduct Applicant Interviews. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board Members: Rachele Branson, Robert McClellan, Melissa Thurlow, Pamela Reddick-Collins and Mary Lou Austin.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, November 15, 2019, Ms. Branson declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during Executive Session.**

## OPEN SESSION

### Executive Session Board Minutes

#### **1. October 7, 2019 Executive Board Teleconference Minutes**

Ms. Austin motioned, Ms. Thurlow seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the October 7, 2019 executive session Board teleconference minutes as presented.

### Attorney General's Report – B. Cohen

Mr. McClellan motioned, Ms. Reddick-Collins seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

### Miscellaneous Executive Discussion

#### **1. OT190007**

Mr. McClellan motioned, Ms. Austin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the CE hours and close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding compliance with the terms of the order.

#### **2. OT180003**

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Ms. Thurlow seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to close the case, no jurisdiction.

#### **3. OT170002**

Ms. Thurlow motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to the Attorney General's Office for a Voluntary Surrender or Public Consent Order with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

### Applications for Board Review

**Applicant 2824378** Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding disciplinary action in another jurisdiction, if all terms have been satisfied. Flag for CE audit. If the terms of the disciplinary action have not been satisfied, table.

**Applicant 2830629** Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Ms. Austin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve PAMS.

- Applicant 2824370** Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve PAMS.
- Applicant 2777538** Mr. McClellan motioned, Ms. Reddick-Collins seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to schedule an applicant interview.
- Applicant 2785468** Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to reissue the temporary permit and notify the applicant that the 260 hours must be completed within 90 days as extensions are not permitted by law [43-28-12(c)].

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** February 28, 2020

RACHELE BRANSON  
**BOARD CHAIR**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**