

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**  
**Board Teleconference Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy met via teleconference on Thursday, March 19, 2020. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

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

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Attorney General's Office**

Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

Marla Marlowe, OTR/L, Board Member

**Administrative Staff Absent**

Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

**Visitors Present**

Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
Irma Alvarada  
Jennifer Allison  
Amy Schaefer

**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**

**Board Meeting Agenda**

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

**Open Session Board Minutes**

**1. February 28, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. Salazar seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 28, 2020 open session Board minutes as presented.

**Petition for Rule Variance – Rule 678-3-.08(4) – Kim, Cynthia OT007322**

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Ms. Austin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to vary BR 678-3-.08(4) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship. Allow the petitioner until June 30, 2020 to obtain the board approved CE required for license renewal. May petition the Board if an additional hardship prevents her from completing the hours within the stated period.

**Discussion – Board Response to Declared Public Health Emergency – Live CE Requirements**

After discussing legal options and the economic impact of each and that the cost on any licensee or business to comply cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative and ensure public safety, Ms. Riddick-Collins motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the following motion:

Upon finding that the coronavirus pandemic is of imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare; and, upon Governor Kemp's executive order declaring a public health emergency in the state of Georgia; the Board adopts the amended version of Board Rule 671-3-.08 to allow OT and OTAs who apply to renew licenses expiring March 31, 2020, in accordance with the established renewal periods, the duration of the

state of emergency and up to 120 days thereafter to complete the CE requirements outlined within the rule; and, promptly refer the amendment to the Governor's Office for review.

Ms. Austin motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for staff to notify CE Broker to allow the transfer of CE hours taken in the 2020-2022 biennium to the 2018-2020 biennium for the purposes of ensuring that the requirements for the renewal cycle ending March 31, 2020 are complete before any CE hours can be applied to the renewal cycle ending March 31, 2022.

**Executive Session Board Minutes**

**1. February 28, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 28, 2020 executive session Board minutes as presented.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

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| <b>Minutes recorded by:</b>            | Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist |
| <b>Minutes reviewed and edited by:</b> | Adrienne Price, Executive Director          |
| <b>Minutes approved on:</b>            | March 31, 2020                              |

**RACHELE BRANSON**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**