

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 14, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Friday, May 14, 2021. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Rachele Branson, OTR/L, Chairperson
Robert McClellan, OTR/L, Vice Chair
Rafael Salazar, OTR/L, Board Member
Pamela Reddick-Collins, OTR/L, Board Member
Marla Marlowe, OTR/L, Board Member
Casey Vance, Consumer Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Meagan Doss, Compliance/Compliance Analyst

Attorney General's Office

Mary Brannen, Assistant Attorney General

Board Members Absent

No members absent.

Visitors Present

Michaela Burke
Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
Unidentified caller (1)

Call to Order

Ms. Branson established that a quorum of the Board was present, and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Board Meeting Agenda

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

Open Session Minutes – February 26, 2021 Open Session Zoom Meeting Minutes

Mr. Vance motioned, Mr. Salazar seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 26, 2021 open session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Open Session Minutes – April 22, 2021 Open Session Zoom Meeting Minutes

Mr. Vance motioned, Ms. Reddick-Collins seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the April 22, 2021 open session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Ratification List: February 19, 2021 – May 7, 2021 Licenses, Reinstatements and PAMs

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. Vance seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the list of licenses issued from February 19, 2021 – May 7, 2021, licenses issued by reinstatement, the Physical Agent Modalities certifications, and limited permits issued between Board meetings.

Correspondence – Thank you to the Board - National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. – Shaun Conway, OTR, Senior Director, External & Regulatory Affairs

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

Correspondence - Georgia State University Occupational Therapy Master's Program Inactive

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to GSU OTM as information.

Correspondence – AOTA Request for letter from Georgia OT Board, Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. Vance seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that courses are accepted if they meet all of the requirements of the Board Rules, specifically BR 671- 3-.08(8)(a)(2).

Discussion – Board Policy A1 – Policy for Applications for Licensure Amended

Mr. Vance motioned, Ms. Marlowe seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the amendment to Board Policy A1 – Policy for Applications for Licensure, discussed during the February 26, 2021 Zoom meeting, to the Attorney General’s Office for a Memorandum of Authority, and if no objections, refer to the Governor’s office for approval.

POLICY A1

Category: Applications Policy: ■
Title: Policy for Applications for Licensure Procedure: ■

Statutory Basis: OCGA §§ 43-28-7; 43-28-8; 43-28-8.1; 43-28-9; 43-28-10; 43-28-11; 43-28-12; 43-28-14

Rule Basis:

- Administrative Authority has been granted to the staff to issue licenses and Limited Permits where answers to the conviction question is “No” and the applicant has met all licensure requirements subject to board final approval. If an applicant can demonstrate licensed practice in another jurisdiction within the past 5 years, a 320-hour supervised clinical experience is not required.
- Staff has been granted Administrative Authority to accept the NBCOT Online Certification Report as a Primary Source Verification of Certification.
- Physical Agent Modalities: applicants for certification to use Physical Agent Modalities may apply count hours of modalities related instruction in from their academic programs. Occupational therapists may check the paragraph on the application form and receive 54 general hours towards certification. In addition they may receive credit for additional modality specific hours if the required documentation is submitted, i.e. may grant up to 12 additional hours for a specific PAMs course which is integrated into an applicant’s curriculum (1 credit hour = 16 hrs). Documentation for specific modality coursework must include dates, session start and stop times, topics, instruction and course or session objectives. Proof of attendance may be a signed statement of attendance by the instructor for each course submitted, a copy of the official grade report or a copy of the transcript. Additional in-service training must be obtained by attendance at a live presentation recorded on the PAM reporting form in increments greater than or equal to 30 minutes but less than or equal to 3 hours.
- 37 hours are granted from attending a PAMPCO course.
- Practicing and/or instruction of modalities cannot be performed on a client even under supervision of a PAMS certified therapist.
- Anyone who holds a Certified Hand Therapy (CHT) credential is considered by the Board to have met the requirements for Physical Agent Modalities (PAM) certification and may be administratively approved upon submission of application.

- Anyone who holds a dual degree of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy credentials is considered by the Board to have met the requirements for Physical Agent Modalities (PAM) certification and may be administratively approved upon submission of application.

HISTORY: Policy revised at the February 7, 2014 meeting; Policy revised at the May 15, 2015 meeting; Policy revised at the August 7, 2015 meeting; Policy revised at the February 19, 2016 meeting; Policy revised at the May 2016 meeting.

Discussion – American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

1. Legislative & Regulatory Actions, Meghan Pudeler, Manager of State Affairs

Dry needling was discussed by the Board and it was a consensus that this would need to be brought before GOTA. Mr. Vance motioned, Ms. Reddick-Collins seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to appoint Mr. McClellan as Board liaison to GOTA to request that they lobby to amend the practice act to include dry needling within the scope of practice for occupational therapists.

- 2. Anthem AIM – Site of Care Service Reviews, Julie Lenhardt, Manager of Reimbursement & Regulatory Policy**
- 3. State Legislative Monitoring Report 05.03.21**
- 4. State Regulatory Monitoring Report 05.03.21**
- 5. April 2021 Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Actions**

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

Discussion – Compact Fee Schedule – R. McClellan

As Board appointed liaison regarding the OT Licensure Compact, Mr. McClellan reported on his discussions with Chuck Wilmarth of Georgia Occupational Therapy Association (GOTA) Health Policy and State Affairs, in regard to what other Boards are doing as it relates to Compact legislation. He explained that the general consensus is that other Boards are in same place as the Georgia Board since there must be 10 states before the Compact Commission can be active and there are currently only four. The fee schedule was a topic of interest and occupational therapists are in agreement that they want to keep this at a very minimal cost. The fee for the compact privilege will not be as expensive as it is for physicians.

Ms. Price explained to Board members how the Compact works for Physical Therapy, which is another Board under the Healthcare 2 umbrella. Ms. Price asked Mr. McClellan to clarify if the Compact will issue the privileges or if the individual states are required to issue the privileges. Mr. McClellan stated that he will go back to Mr. Wilmarth to obtain clarification, but he believes that the Compact Commission will be issuing the privileges. In response to Board member questions concerning the Compact, Ms. Price indicated that once the Compact Commission is formed, they will be the ones determining the rules and policies that each member of the Compact must follow in order to be a part of it. She shared that delegates from the first ten states that join the Compact will be part of the Executive Committee that develops the rules of the Compact so she is proud that Georgia will be at the table. She indicated that the Board will have to select a delegate to serve on the Compact and in most cases, Boards opt to select the Board Administrator to serve in that role because board members often change; however, the delegate can be a member of the Board.

Ms. Price requested that there be a consensus from the Board on the compact privilege fee for OTs and OTAs, and whether they will want a Jurisprudence requirement. After further discussion, the Board agreed that both license types would benefit from a simplified fee of \$65 each for the privilege, and a jurisprudence attestation of having read and understood the current state laws, rules and regulations of the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy will be sufficient for licensed individuals to obtain a privilege.

Board Chair's Report – R. Branson

No report presented.

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, renewal audits and complaints/compliance matters and the status of renewal applications. Additionally, the Executive Director's Report addressed the following:

- Georgia General Assembly
- Further Compact Considerations for the Board

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

Ms. Reddick-Collins motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded, and the Board voted 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, 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, Rafael Salazar, Pamela Reddick-Collins, Casey Vance, and Marla Marlowe.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, May 14, 2021, 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 Minutes

1. February 26, 2021 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes

2. April 22, 2021 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes

Mr. Salazar motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 26, 2021 and the April 22, 2021 executive session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – M. Brannen

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

AG Memo – BR 671-3-.06. Limited Permit and BR 671-3-.08. Renewal of Licenses/Penalties/Continuing Education Requirements

Ms. Branson motioned, Mr. Salazar seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer BR 671-3-.06. Limited Permit and BR 671-3-.08. Renewal of Licenses/Penalties/Continuing Education Requirements back to the Rules Committee.

Adjournment No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: August 20, 2021

RACHELE BRANSON
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR