

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Board WebEx Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 6, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy met via WebEx on Friday, February 6, 2026. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Robert McClellan, OTR/L, Chairperson
Rebecca Hammad, OTR/L, CLT, Vice Chair
Deborah Hinerfeld, PhD, OTR/L, Board Member
Rachele Branson, OTR/L, Board Member
Betsy McDaniel, OTA, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Sherry Strong, Complaint/Compliance Analyst
LaTavia Bearden, Licensing & Complaint/Compliance Analyst

Board Members Absent

No Members absent.

Attorney General's Office

Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

Leslie
Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
Kate Cannada Purvis
Nikki
Corey Whigham
Call-In User 1
Call-In User 2
Julamy Serrano
Call-In User 5
Justin Hagan
Dr. Gail Lindsay
Sharon Hagan
Shana Finks, PPOTD, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Assistant Professor, Brenau University
Paris
Shelly Howman
Giovanna Quiros, Self-Identified Social Worker
Sharon McCray
Ms. Lewis

Call to Order

Mr. McClellan established that a quorum of the Board was present, and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Board Meeting Agenda

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Open Session Minutes

1. December 4, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Ms. Hammad motioned, Dr. Hinerfeld seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the December 4, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

2. January 29, 2026 Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the January 29, 2026 Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Ratification List: November 1, 2025 – January 30, 2026 Licenses, Reinstatements and PAMs

Ms. Hammad motioned, Dr. Hinerfeld seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the list of licenses issued from November 1, 2025 – January 30, 2026, licenses issued by reinstatement, the Physical Agent Modalities certifications, and limited permits issued between Board meetings.

Correspondence – OT to Canine Rehabilitation - Meagan Conrad, OTA001916

Ms. Hammad motioned, Ms. Branson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that in the State of Georgia, the practice of occupational therapy occurs on people in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-28-3(4), and (11). Performing any practice on animals would fall under the jurisdiction of the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Discussion – American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

- 1. State Regulations Report – 12-4-2025**
- 2. State of Affairs Newsletter – Winter 2025**
- 3. Annual 2026 State Legislative Sessions Review**
- 4. Inspire Conference & Expo**

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

Discussion – National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

- 1. OT State Regulatory E-newsletter**
- 2. Important News from NBCOT**
- 3. E-Newsletter – Occupational Therapy Month**

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

Discussion – OT Compact – OT Compact Accepts Applications in 3 States

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to the OT Compact, as information.

Discussion – Rules Committee – R. McClellan

- 1. Rule 671-3-.01 Application. Amended**
- 2. Rule 671-3-.09. Reinstatement of a License. Amended**
- 3. Rule 671-3-.14. Reciprocity**
- 4. Board Policy A1**

Betsy McDaniel joined the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Mr. McClellan reviewed the rationales contained in the Rules Committee Minutes for Board Rule 671-3-.01 Application. Amended, Board Rule 671-3-.09. Reinstatement of a License. Amended, Board Rule 671-3-.14. Reciprocity, and Board Policy A1 to include the economic impact their recommendations will have on the application process, licensees, and businesses of Georgia.

Ms. Branson motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Committee proposed amendments and rationales for Board Rule 671-3-.01 Application. Amended, Board Rule 671-3-.09. Reinstatement of a License. Amended, Board Rule 671-3-.14. Reciprocity, and Board Policy A1 as

presented in the January 29, 2026 Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes and refer the rules and policy therein to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority. If no objections, vote to post.

Ms. Branson inquired about whether it would be a good time to discuss making additional amendments within the continuing education rule and expressed that she has been contacted by individuals who have expressed their frustration with the use of CE Broker and not being able to get assistance with their accounts.

Ms. Price reminded the Board that the amendments to Board Rule 671-3-.08 Renewal of License/Penalties/Continuing Education Requirements. Amended adopted by the Board during August 15, 2025, Rules Hearing have not yet completed the Governor's Supervision process or issued an effective date. As a result, the best course of action would be to wait until the Board knows the fate of that rule before engaging in any further amendments. She further reviewed some of the potential problems that licensees may be having with recording their continuing education into CE Broker.

It was the consensus of the Board to table any further discussion about amending Board Rule 671-3-.08 Renewal of License/Penalties/Continuing Education Requirements. Amended pending the outcome of the Governor's Supervision process.

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

- OT Compact
- Board Rules
- PLB Updates
- Georgia General Assembly

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Branson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented, with a friendly amendment to the recap of the Board meetings held last year to reflect the calendar year 2025 instead of 2026.

Board's Chair Report – R. McClellan

Mr. McClellan also brought forward a legislative update on dry needling for OTs. He reported that SB 411, which will include dry needling within the scope of occupational therapy, is looking favorable this year and that the Bill did pass out of the Health and Human Services Committee and he is confident with the numbers in support of the legislation. He was told that no testimony on the bill was needed this year. He noted that Senators Shawn Still, Kay Kirkpatrick, and Ben Watson sponsored the legislation and it will be heard on the Senate floor Monday, February 9, 2026.

Ms. Branson motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board Chair's Report as presented.

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. McDaniel 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. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board Members: Robert McClellan, Rebecca Hammad, Betsy McDaniel, Rachele Branson, and Deborah Hinerfeld.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday February 6, 2026, Mr. McClellan 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 – December 4, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the December 4, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Attorney General’s Report – C. Pake

Mr. McClellan motioned, Dr. Hinerfeld seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

- OT180025** Rescind the previous motion and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for Public Consent Order as discussed in Executive Session.
- OT250257** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding use of illegal substances.
- OT250279** Amend the previous decision to include a statement that the Board will accept a voluntary surrender in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings.
- OT250288** Rescind the previous motion and deny the license based on action in another jurisdiction [O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(a)(5) & (8)]. May reapply after completing all terms and conditions of the order in another jurisdiction.

Ms. McDaniel motioned, Dr. Hinerfeld seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General’s Report and advice as presented.

Rachele Branson left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Legal Services MEMO

Ms. McDaniel motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

- 1. OT220039 Case for Ratification** Accept the order as received.
- 2. OT250284 Case for Closure** Rescind the previous motion, deny the renewal of the license based on failure to meet CE requirements, and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for revocation of the license.
- 3. OT250295 Closure Withdrawn Application** Rescind the previous motion, withdraw application, and close the case.

Cognizant Report – D. Hinerfeld

Mr. McClellan motioned, M, Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

- OT250274** Close case due to insufficient information to warrant additional investigation.
- OT260013** Close case with a Letter of Concern regarding reckless driving.
- OT260004** Close case due to insufficient information to substantiate further investigation.
- OT260007** Table pending additional information.
- OT210007** Refer for Peer Review.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion – OT250296

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for unprofessional conduct related to medical documentation errors with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

Applications for Board Review

Mr. McClellan motioned, Dr. Hinerfeld seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

Initial Applications

Applicant 4349971 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for licensure with a \$500 fine for failure to disclose all arrests on application. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for CE audit.

Applicant 4359416 Issue the license.

PAMS – Applicant 4352514 Table pending additional information regarding coursework.

RENEWALS

Applicant 4521974 Send a deficiency letter for 11.5 hours of live/ interactive CE on a topic related to direct patient care taken between 12/13/2024 - 3/31/2026.

In response to a previous statement made during the discussion regarding CE Broker and those licensee who were under the impression that a paid account is required for a CE Broker representative to assist them, Ms. Doss informed the Board members and visitors that CE Broker has a free account option and licensees who have a free account may still contact CE Broker for assistance via email, a support ticket, or live chat. A paid subscription service is not required. Only paid subscribers are eligible to be assisted by phone.

Adjournment No further business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned at 2:49 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director & Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor
Minutes approved on: March 20, 2026

ROBERT McCLELLAN
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question.

Comes now Robert McChellan the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia Occupational Therapy Board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On, February 26, 2026 this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was:
O.C.G.A. §43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h)
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:
To deliberate applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

Robert McChellan
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 2nd day of MARCH 2026

Wendy Cuellar
Notary Public

