

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Board WebEx Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 14, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy met via WebEx on Friday, August 14, 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
Chassett Harris Daniel, Temporary Employee

Board Members Absent

No Members absent.

Attorney General's Office

Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

Laura Wilken
MSP
Call-In User 1
Justina
Madi
Julia Henry
JNetra McWilliams

Call to Order

Mr. McClellan established that a quorum of the Board was present, and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Board Meeting Agenda

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

Open Session Minutes – June 24, 2026 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the June 24, 2026 WebEx Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Ratification List: April 29, 2026 – August 9, 2026 Licenses, Reinstatements and PAMs

Ms. Branson motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the list of licenses issued from January 31, 2026 – April 28, 2026, licenses issued by reinstatement, the Physical Agent Modalities certifications, and limited permits issued between Board meetings.

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

1. Outreach with Primary Board Administrators
2. OT State Regulatory E-newsletter – June 2026
3. State Regulatory Leadership Forum
4. IMPORTANT NEWS
5. Don't Miss – Six Aspects of Board Governance
6. Leadership Forum Spotlight – Don't Be Afraid of the Lion's Den

- 7. Leadership Forum Spotlight – AI in OT Practice: What Regulators Should Know and Consider**
- 8. Qualifications and Compliance Review Program**

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

Discussion – OT Compact

- 1. TN Goes Live**
- 2. WI Goes Live**
- 3. Wisconsin Launches OTC Applications on May 29th**
- 4. Three States Join the OT Compact!**
- 5. Announcement of Executive Committee Officers**
- 6. OT Compact Webinar Hosted by AOTA**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to the OT Compact Commission Report, as presented.

2027 OT Board Meeting Dates

Meetings are scheduled for Fridays at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx unless otherwise noted on the Board website closer to the meeting date(s).

February 5, 2027
May 14, 2027
August 13, 2027
November 5, 2027

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the 2027 OT Board Meeting Dates, as presented.

Governor's Active Supervision Certificates

1. Rule 671-1-.02 Officers – Approved

- i. Rule 671-1-.02, Officers, amended_Effective July 15, 2026

2. Rule 671-2-.01 Law Defined – Approved

3. Rule 671-3-.03 Examination – Approved

4. Rule 671-3-.06 Limited Permit – Approved

5. Rule 671-3-.08 Renewal of License/Penalties/Continuing Education Requirements. Amended – Approved

6. Rule 671-3-.10 Foreign Applicant. Amended – Approved

7. Rule 671-3-.12 Address/Name changes – Approved

- i. BR 671-3-.05, 671-3-.06, 671-3-.08, 671-3-.10 and 671-3-.12_Effective July 15, 2026

8. Rule 671-4-.02 Unprofessional Conduct Defined. Amended – Approved

- i. Rule 671-4-.02, Unprofessional Conduct Defined. Amended, amended_Effective July 15, 2026

9. Rule 671-6-.02 Requirements – Approved

- i. Chapter 671-6 CERTIFICATION FOR USE OF PAMS & BR 671-6-.02 Requirements

10. Rule 671-2-.02 Supervision Defined_Effective July 15, 2026

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to the Governor's Active Supervision Certificates, as information.

National Practitioner Database (NPDB)

- 1. Multi-State Licensure Action Codes Will Expand to Additional Professions**
- 2. Multi-State Licensure Action Codes Lists**

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

Discussion – Request for Copy of AG Opinion – Lauren Pollow, Lobbyist, APTA-GA Chapter

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Branson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny request for release of information based on attorney-client privilege.

Petitions for Rule Waiver

1. BR 671-3-.01_Katie Victoria Joyner

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 671-3-.01 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

2. BR 671-3-.01(1)_LKerah Haire

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Branson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 671-3-.01(1) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

3. BR 671-3-.09(2)(d)_Catherine Loose

Ms. Hammad motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 671-3-.09(2)(d) based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship. May submit a Petition for Rule Variance to include the alternative documents referenced by applicant.

Petitions for Rule Variance

1. BR 671-3-.01(1) Shijia Li

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 671-3-.01(1) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Branson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept *The Work Number* and other legitimate employment verification service providers in lieu of a complete verification of employment form if such service providers include the same information that is required on the form and include this information in the relevant board policies or rules.

2. BR 671-3-.01(1)_Madeline Shafer

Ms. McDaniel motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition for variance of BR 671-3-.01(1) based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship. May submit a new Petition for Rule Variance with additional documentation such as tax documents. The Verification of Employment form must be completed in full as well.

3. BR 671-3-.06(3) Justina George

Ms. Branson motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 671-3-.06(3) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship. Hours must be completed by September 23, 2026, the expiration of Limited Permit.

4. BR 671-3-.09(2)(d)_Brittany Nichole Foster

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 671-3-.09(2)(d) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

5. BR 671-3-.01(1)_Brigid Stockslader

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Branson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 671-3-.01(1) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

6. BR 671-3-.01(1)_Madeline Shafer

Ms. McDaniel motioned, Dr. Hinerfeld seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 671-3-.01(1) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

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:

- OT Compact
- Board Rules
- PLB Updates

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

Board's Chair Report – R. McClellan

Mr. McClellan stated he had no official report except to note that he has been in conversations with the GOTA's lobbyist about the dry needling legislation and with state senators. He shared that he hopes the Senate Bill will pass during the 2027 legislative session and he will have more to report at the November 6, 2026 meeting.

The Board accepts the Board Chair's Report, as information.

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad 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, August 14, 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 – June 24, 2026 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the June 24, 2026 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – C. Pake

AG MEMO - OT250279

Ms. McDaniel motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to close the case. If attempts to reinstate, details of case will be considered.

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

Legal Services MEMO – Cases for Ratification

Mr. McClellan motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following orders as received:

1. OT260037
2. OT260035
3. OT270001
4. OT260009

Cognizant Complaint Summary Report – D. Hinerfeld

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| OT250294 | Table pending Investigative Interview. |
| OT250291 | Close the case due to insufficient information to initiate an investigation. |
| OT250238 | Close the case due to no jurisdiction. If attempts reinstate, details of case will be revisited. |
| OT260002 | Close the case due to insufficient information to initiate an investigation. |
| OT260017 | Close the case due to insufficient information and lack of jurisdiction. |
| OT260016 | Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding NPDB report of Summary Suspension of privileges. |
| OT240013 | Table pending additional information. |
| OT250252 | Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$1000 based on failure to comply with terms of previous consent order. Fine due within six months of order docket date. Flag for Audit. |
| OT250283 | Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$250 based on unprofessional conduct for improper documentation and require at least four (4) hours CE related to proper documentation, and ethics related to record keeping and reporting. Courses taken to satisfy the order may not be used for future renewals. Fine and CE due within 90 days of order docket date. Flag for Audit. |

Rachele Branson left the meeting at 11:59 a.m., with a quorum of the Board still present.

Cognizant Application Ratification List

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Mr. McClellan seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the Cognizant Application referrals.

Applicant 4684495 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Licensure with a fine of \$500 based on failure to disclose arrest on application. Fine to be paid within 90 days of order docket date. Flag for Audit.

Applicant 4728659 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Licensure with a fine of \$500 based on failure to disclose arrest on application. Fine to be paid within 90 days of order docket date. Flag for Audit.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion – OT250245

Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. McDaniel seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 fine based on failure to adhere to the terms of the Public Consent Agreement. Fine due within 90 days of order docket date. Flag for Audit.

Applications for Board Review

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

Initial Applications

Applicant 4606194 Require a 320-hour Supervised Clinical Experience with a 90-day limited permit.

Applicant 4784492 Table pending further information.

Applicant 4786542 Table pending an Applicant Interview.

Applicant 4779888 Require a 360-hour Supervised Clinical Experience with a 90-day limited permit.

Applicant 4797504 Require Applicant to demonstrate competency by completing a 180-hour Supervised Clinical Experience under a 90-day limited permit. Issue a 90-day limited permit.

Applicant 4742524 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$550 for false attestation and unlicensed practice from 4/1/2026-5/26/2026. Fine due within 90 days of order docket date. Flag for Audit.

Applicant 4834452 Dr. Hinerfeld motioned, Ms. Hammad seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to require Applicant to demonstrate competency by completing a 360-hour Supervised Clinical Experience under a 90-day limited permit. Issue a 90-day limited permit. Robert McClellan abstained from the vote.

Renewals – Arrest

Applicant 4677017 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$250 based on failure to meet CE requirements for renewal. Must complete five (5) hours of live interactive, real-time direct patient hours and pay the fine within 90 days of order docket date. CE hours completed to satisfy the terms of this order and renewal may not be used to meet CE requirements for the renewal biennium ending March 31, 2028 or future renewals. Flag for audit.

Immigrations Status

Applicant 4678561 Deny renewal and refer to the Attorney General's Office for Revocation of Licensure due to failure to meet licensure requirements.

Renewal

Applicant 4639933 Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an OMPE.

Adjournment: No further business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.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: September 23, 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 McClellan 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 Occupational Therapy Licensure 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, August 24th 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 McClellan
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 28 day of August 2026

[Signature]
Notary Public

