

Minutes of the January 30, 2024 Board of Occupational Therapy Virtual Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Chairperson, called the virtual meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:08 a.m. on January 30, 2024, in the Goldenrod Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on January 16, 2024

Walsh-Sterup announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Chairperson
Dr. Marcus Doughty, Vice-Chair (via Webex)
Nancy Peetz, Member
Alfred Bracciano, Secretary (via Webex)(joined at 9:35 am)

Members Absent:

Others Present:

T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Legal (via Webex)
Anna Harrison, DHHS Compliance Monitor
Carla Cue, Licensure Investigator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Peetz moved, seconded by Doughty to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Walsh-Sterup, Doughty, and Peetz. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the August 29, 2023, meeting minutes. Walsh-Sterup, Bracciano, and Doughty voted to approve the minutes as written. Voting to abstain, Peetz. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Occupational Therapy via Mail Ballot on February 8, 2024.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Doughty moved, seconded by Peetz to move into closed session at 9:11a.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, and Peetz. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

Bracciano joined the meeting via Webex at 9:35 am.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 9:58 a.m.

The Board did not make any recommendations.

6. Election of Officers

MOTION: Doughty moved, seconded by Peetz to continue with the current slate of officers: Mary Walsh-Sterup, Chair and Investigative Consultant; Doughty, Vice-Chair; Bracciano, Secretary. Voting aye: Walsh-Sterup, Doughty, Peetz, and Bracciano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

7. Per Diem Discussion

Motion: Doughty moved, seconded by Peetz to keep the per diem the same as it was last year. The per diem is \$50 per day with one-half day allowed for preparation work. Voting aye: Walsh-Sterup, Doughty, Peetz, and Bracciano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

8. Notice of Meeting Publication

Motion: Doughty moved, seconded by Peetz to approve the Notice of Meeting Publication per the request of the Department and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, meetings for this Board continue to be posted on the Department of Health and Human Services Licensure Board Meeting Agenda webpage, be physically posted on the Board Meeting Agenda billboard in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building and be disseminated via e-mail to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. Voting aye: Walsh-Sterup, Doughty, Peetz, Bracciano. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

9. Voting for delegates

Motion: Doughty moved, seconded by Peetz to appoint the Chair as the delegate and Vice-Chair is the alternative to any National or State meetings. Voting aye: Walsh-Sterup, Doughty, Peetz, and Bracciano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Occupational Therapy via Mail Ballot on February 8, 2024.

10. Compact Update:

Covert-ByBee reported that the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact has joined efforts with the Audiology Speech-Language Interstate Licensure Compact and the Professional Licensed Counselors Interstate Compact to request proposals from vendors to develop a database for the purposes of data sharing and compact privilege issuance. The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Rules Committee has been actively developing rules to define a minimum data set to help inform the database needs. Covert-ByBee informed the board that fingerprint national background checks are now being accepted by the Nebraska State Patrol and required for initial licensure. It was also reported that this has been working well for applicants.

11. Licensure Database Update

Covert-ByBee reported that the project is on time and slated to be operational by 2025.

12. Licensure Application Processing Report

Covert- Bybee stated that the application processing report was prepared for informational purposes only. Covert-ByBee informed the board that all Occupational Therapists will be required to renew their license by August 1, 2024.

13. Topics for Next Meeting

Topics to include in the next meeting to be held on August 27, 2024 will be the Occupational Therapy Compact Update, Licensure Database Update, Legislative Update, and Credentialing Review Process.

14. Public Comment

A member of the public commented and requested an estimated time frame for the Compact rules and regulations to be operational. Covert-ByBee stated the goal is for the Compact to be operational by next year.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred Bracciano, Secretary