

## Minutes of the August 25, 2020 Board of Occupational Therapy Video Conference Meeting

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Alfred Bracciano, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:06 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 in the Licensure Unit Conference Room 1 at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Bracciano announced that this is an open meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

**Members Present:** The following members answered roll call:

Dr. Alfred Bracciano, Chairperson  
Mary Walsh-Sterup, Vice-Chairperson  
Dr. Marcus Doughty, Secretary  
Nancy Peetz, Member

**Others Present:**

Kristen Neville, Manager, State Affairs, AOTA  
Melissa Kimmerling, EdD, MOT, OTR/L, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, NOTA  
Natalee Hart, Assistant Attorney General  
Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor  
Trevor Klaassen, Investigator  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

### **3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes on February 24, 2020. All members voted to approve the minutes as written.

### **4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Peetz moved, seconded by Walsh-Sterup to move into closed session at 9:09 a.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

## **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 9:52 a.m. There were no recommendations.

## **6. REGULATION UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee advised the regulations were officially promulgated on June 20, 2020 and notification was sent to the Board, interested parties and stakeholders. There was also spotlighted information included on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Occupational Therapy Licensure webpage. Covert-ByBee thanked the Board and Department staff for their hard work to get the regulations promulgated.

## **7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee provided that the legislature was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and returned to session on July 20<sup>th</sup> and met for three sessions a day until August 13<sup>th</sup>. There were no bills regarding Occupational Therapy, the majority of the bills were focused on the budget.

Covert-ByBee also shared information regarding the current 407 Credentialing Review process for Athletic Trainers. She gave background on how the process works in general and also an update on the status of the current process for Athletic Trainers.

## **8. UPDATE ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPACT**

Covert-ByBee stated that in order to get the compact approved in Nebraska a senator would need to suggest a bill to pass the compact. Neville added that they have concluded getting feedback on the proposal and the drafting team will be meeting this week and next to determine if there's any changes to be made to the proposal. The American Occupational Therapy Association and National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Board of Directors also need to formally adopt the compact language. They are hoping to complete that this fall and get ready for potential introduction to state legislatures next year.

## **9. COVID-19 AND LICENSURE**

Covert-ByBee gave an overview of Executive Orders 20-27 which was signed by the Governor in late June. It does not have a large effect on Occupational Therapy licensure aside from allowing for an additional continuing education waiver if a licensee was not able to complete their hours due to circumstances beyond their control. If a licensee requests that waiver they would also need to provide documentation supporting it.

## **10. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

Carranza shared the licensure application processing report. This was for informational purposes only.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Occupational Therapy on October 8, 2020.*

#### **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kimmerling stated that she has been involved with the Athletic Training 407 credentialing process meetings and would be able to give additional information if requested.

#### **12. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR NEXT YEAR**

The Board scheduled meetings for next year on February 2, 2021 and August 24, 2021 both at 9:00 a.m.

#### **13. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Suggested topics for the next meeting included a legislative update, update on the Athletic Training 407 process and update on the Compact.

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Doughty, Secretary