

Minutes of the August 27, 2019 Board of Occupational Therapy Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Alfred Bracciano, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:07 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 in the Lower Level Conference Room B 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 a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Alfred Bracciano, Chair
Mary Walsh-Sterup, Vice-Chair
Marcus Doughty, Secretary
Nancy Peetz, Member

Others Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator
Shaun Conway, Senior Director, External & Regulatory Affairs, NBCOT
Karthik Mani, Assistant Director, External & Regulatory Affairs, NBCOT

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 25, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION: Peetz moved, seconded by Doughty, to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

4. NBCOT PRESENTATION

Conway and Mani gave a presentation about the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification and services. The presentation was for informational purposes for the Board and department staff. It highlighted the way licensees, administrators and board members can utilize the tools available on their website. This included tools related to continuing education, exam outlines and preparation, eligibility notices and score transfers as well as a disciplinary action exchange for administrators to have access to disciplinary actions across states.

5. NBCOT STATE REGULATORY LEADERSHIP FORUM REVIEW

Covert-ByBee and Bracciano shared their experience from going to the forum. They both enjoyed meeting individuals from many other states and discussing the issues other states are facing.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee provided a legislative update. LB 29 becomes operational September 1, 2019 and allows for telehealth for a number of different professions including occupational therapists. LB 112 provides waiver of initial licensure fees for applicants between the ages of 18-25, low income as defined by the bill and active duty military and dependents. It is operational as of January 1, 2020. LB 244 provides for mobile massage therapy establishments and is operational May 29, 2019. LB 409 adopts design standards for health care facilities and is operational September 1, 2019.

7. REGULATIONS UPDATE

Covert-ByBee provided an update on the process of promulgating new regulations. The regulations have been reviewed by department legal and sent over to the Governor's Policy Research Office (GPRO) awaiting approval for public hearing. Once the public hearing is set we will set up a board meeting about 10 business days after the hearing to respond to any public comments made at the hearing.

8. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Covert-ByBee provided an application processing report. It was for informational purposes only.

9. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Walsh-Sterup moved, seconded by Doughty to go into closed session at 11:27 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.

10. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Doughty moved, seconded by Walsh-Sterup to return to open session at 11:54 a.m. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

MOTION: Walsh-Sterup moved, seconded by Doughty, to approve the Physical Agent Modalities certification application for Kaelynn Drake for Superficial Thermal Agents, Deep Thermal Agents and Electrotherapeutic Agents. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Occupational Therapy on November 12, 2019.

11. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Suggested topics for the next meeting included information on compacts, election of officers, notice of meeting publication and update on regulations.

12. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR NEXT YEAR

The Board scheduled meetings for next year on February 4th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and August 25th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Doughty, Secretary