

Board of Occupational Therapy Meeting Minutes April 15, 2026

1. Roll call

Marcus Doughty, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:07 a.m. on April 15, 2026, in the lower-level Goldenrod Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to 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 Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on April 7, 2026.

Doughty announced that this is an open meeting and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present:

The following members answered roll call:

Marcus Doughty, OTD, OTR/L, CHT Board Chair
Alfred Bracciano, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA Board Vice-Chair (via Webex)
Mary Walsh-Sterup, OTR/L, CHT Board Secretary
Nancy Peetz, Board Member (Left at 12:01 pm)

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General (via Webex)
Kat Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Staff Attorney
Trevor Klaassen, DHHS Investigations

Public Addressing the Board:

Melissa Kimmerling, Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association (NOTA):
mskimmerling@gmail.com (via Webex)
Candice Mullendore, Vice-President of Policy and Advocacy NOTA
policyandadvocacy.nota@gmail.com (via Webex)
Kristen Neville, kneville@aota.org (via Webex)

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Occupational Therapy

3. Review Minutes. The minutes from the meeting held March 18, 2026, were reviewed by the Board. Walsh-Sterup moved, seconded by Bracciano, to approve the minutes. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz, and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

4. Closed Session

Purpose: To hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions.

Motion: The meeting went into closed session at 9:09 am.

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

The Meeting returned to Open Session at 9:45 am

5. Board Recommendations

In the matter of the application from University of Nebraska Medical Center a motion was made by Walsh-Sterup moved, seconded by Peetz to approve the program to teach Physical Agent Modalities Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz, and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

6. Regulation Review

The Board tabled this item until the next meeting.

Break 12:22 pm – 12:27pm

7. Scope of Practice

- a. *“Does ‘remediation of, and compensation for, visual deficits, including low vision rehabilitation’ as stated in the definition of Occupational Therapy include the use of handheld lenses, handheld prisms, or other therapeutic optometric/ophthalmic devices including polarized or red-green anaglyph filters to treat binocular vision disorders?”*
- b. *Provide formal definitions of the use of the terms “remediation of and compensation for”; and “define visual deficits”. Just as 38-2506 through 2508 define modalities in the current Nebraska Revised Statutes.*

In response to questions a and b:

Licensed Occupational Therapists work with patients to improve occupational performance and may encompass a variety of tools or adaptive equipment to treat a functional deficit. The tools or adaptive equipment may include the use of handheld lenses, handheld prisms, or other therapeutic optometric/ophthalmic devices.

It is the opinion of the Board of Occupational Therapy that the use of handheld lenses devices, handheld prisms, or other therapeutic optometric/ophthalmic

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devices can be appropriate within a treatment plan for patients with visual deficits.

- c. *Does medication management and education fall within the Occupational Therapy Scope of Practice.*

This will be defined in the Chapter of Regulations for Occupational Therapy which is currently under review.

8. Public Comment.

There were no public comments.

9. Topics for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 30, 2026, at 9:00 am. It will be in person for Board members. Topics will include Regulation Revision, Occupational Therapy Compact, and the Application Processing Report.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

(signature on file)

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Secretary