

Board of Occupational Therapy Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026

1. Roll call

Marcus Doughty, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 11, 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 July 29, 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 Chair
Alfred Bracciano, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA Vice-Chair
Mary Walsh-Sterup, OTR/L, CHT Secretary
Elizabeth Bailey, Member

Staff Present:

Amy Blinston, Program Manager
Matt Gelvin, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Kat Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Staff Attorney

Members of the Public Present:

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, Bailey, Doughty, and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot

Approval of April 15, 2026, board meeting minutes. Voting to approve: Bracciano. Doughty, Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: none. Voting to abstain: Peetz. Minutes were approved May 19, 2026.

4. Closed Session

Motion: Bracciano moved, seconded by Walsh-Sterup, to move into closed session at 9:06 am to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Bailey and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

5. Board Recommendations

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:17 am

There were no Board recommendations.

6. Regulation Review

The Board tabled this item until the next meeting. The Board will do a final review of the regulations at the next meeting and then they will be reviewed by the Department of Health and Human Services Legal Division.

7. Occupational Therapy Compact Update

Neville informed the Board 8 states are currently using compact privileges, while New, York, Massachusetts, and Illinois have compact legislation filed. Twenty-nine Compact Member states have legislation enacted however are not issuing privileges.

Blinston commented that the website has a map and other information.

The Compact map and other information may be found at <https://otcompact.gov/> .

8. Application Processing Report

Hitzel offered the application licensing processing report for the Board to review.

9. Public Comment.

Questions were asked about the regulation review process and the timeline for the new regulations being enacted. New regulation drafting is almost complete, and then the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Legal Department will do a final review.

Kimmerling requested that the definitions “client” and “patient” be reviewed by DHHS Legal Department staff in comparison to how those definitions are written in current regulations and statutes.

10. Topics for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be in-person September 1, 2026, at 9:00 am. Topics identified for the next meeting include: Regulation Revision and Public Comment.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am

Respectfully submitted,

(signature on file)

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Secretary