

Board of Occupational Therapy Minutes for August 19, 2025 Meeting

1. Roll call

Marcus Doughty, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:03 a.m. on August 19, 2025, 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 August 5, 2025.

Doughty 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, Secretary
Dr. Marcus Doughty, Chair
Nancy Peetz, Member

Members Absent

Dr. Alfred Bracciano, Vice-Chair

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General (via Webex)
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney
Jen Wolf, DHHS IT Department

Members of the Public Addressing the Board

Francielle Pineda, Assistant Director External and Regulatory Affairs for the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT): fpineda@nbcot.org
Melissa Kimmerling, Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association (NOTA):
mskimmerling@gmail.com

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot

Reaffirmation of the mail ballot approving the meeting minutes of January 28, 2025. Voting to approve Bracciano, Doughty, Peetz, Walsh-Sterup. Voting to not approve, none. Minutes for the meeting on January 28, 2025, were approved February 11, 2025. *This is the corrected date from what was presented at the meeting.

4. SharePoint Partners Presentation

Jen Wolf of the DHHS IT Department gave a presentation to the Board Members about the new SharePoint site that will be used to share meeting documents between the Department staff and Board members. The handbook was sent to Board members under a separate email.

5. Closed Session

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

The Board did not move into closed session.

6. Board Recommendation(s)

There were no Board recommendations.

7. Legislative Update

LB 660 passed and will require all State agencies to do a regulation review every 5 years and submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature.

LB 257 passed and will go into effect September 3, 2025. This will require a revision of the Occupational Therapy regulations. There is more information regarding this subject under agenda item #8.

8. Implementation of LB 257 and Regulation Revision

LB 257 passed and will go into effect September 3, 2025. Until the regulation revision is complete and the regulations are promulgated, the law is not operational.

The Chapter of Regulations is now open and the process of revising, updating, and creating new regulations to ensure they cover the new scope of practice can now begin. The Board may also review continuing education coursework, code of unprofessional conduct, and other regulations during the Regulation Revision.

Melissa Kimmerling, NOTA, spoke via Webex to offer to send materials for standardized training for dry needling and other information to help during this process.

9. Occupational Therapy Compact

The Compact database is planning to go live at the end of September 2025. The Compact Commission administrative fee will be \$75 to purchase a privilege. The Board of Occupational Therapy needs to set the state administration fee that will be used to offset our administration costs. The cost will be the same for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistants for initial and renewal compact privilege. The website for the compact is <https://otcompact.gov>, if additional information is desired.

Motion: Walsh-Sterup moved, seconded by Peetz to set the state fee for the Occupational Therapy compact privilege at \$45. Voting Aye: Doughty, Peetz, and Walsh-Sterup. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

10. Licensure Database Update

The database has been switched from License 2000 to My License Office or MLO. The transition has been smooth with only a few hiccups. The Department is planning to continue modernization updates to our processing system over the next few years.

11. AOTA Inspire Update

Walsh-Sterup spoke about her attendance at the meeting and the many learning opportunities. AI was a very popular topic along with Telehealth, Animal Therapy, Appropriate Caseloads, and Pelvic Health.

12. Application Processing Report

This report is presented to the board for informational purposes only.

13. Schedule Meeting for 2025-2026

Additional meetings need to be scheduled to give the Board an opportunity to work on Regulation Revision. The Board would like to hold the meeting in-person before the end of the year. When a date is selected it will be posted to the DHHS website. Meetings for 2026 are scheduled for February 3, 2026, and September 1, 2026.

14. Topics for Next Meeting

Topics identified for the next meeting include Occupational Therapy Compact Update, National Occupational Therapy Association Update, Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association Update, Credentialing Review Update, Application Processing Report, and Regulation Revision. The next meeting will be held in-person, and we will be using the new SharePoint site to share documents.

18. Public Comment

Pineda from the NBCOT provided updates on new microcredentials available for OTR's and COTA's through the NBCOT. NBCOT also has two state regulatory research reports on Dry Needling and Wound Care and a report on Continuing Education requirements available for the Board to review.

Additionally, Pineda highlighted the upcoming NBCOT Annual State Regulatory Forum happening on September 9-10, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file with the Department)

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Secretary