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## **Occupational Therapy Practice Board Minutes**

**October 20, 2023**

Auburn Community & Event Center, Les Gove Park, Parks, Arts & Recreation Administration Building, 910 9<sup>th</sup> St SE, Auburn WA 98002

**Members Present:** Mary Spores, Occupational Therapist, Chairperson; Ryan Wilson, Occupational Therapist; Shari Roberts, General Public, Vice-chairperson; Walter Gruenwald, Occupational Therapist; Joaquin Olivas, Occupational Therapy Assistant

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Sierra McWilliams, Assistant Attorney General; Shani Hue, Budget Analyst; Lydia Koroma, Staff Attorney; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

**Guests and Other Participants:** Tara Nucci, Occupational Therapist; Alexandra Coquillo, Occupational Therapist, Integra Rehab; Becky Buescher, Occupational Therapist

The public meeting was called to order promptly at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Spores opened the session with a prepared statement (on file).

### **1. Call to Order**

#### **1.1. Introductions – Board Members, Staff, and Audience**

Chairperson Spores initiated introductions. Each attendee had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

#### **1.2. Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Spores confirmed the agenda's completeness and accuracy, receiving unanimous approval from the participants.

#### **1.3. Approval of July 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Spores confirmed the absence of additions or corrections.

*Motion:* Approve the minutes.

*Motion/Second:* Vice-chairperson Roberts/Mr. Gruenwald. Approved unanimously.

#### **1.4. Public Comment Opportunity**

Chairperson Spores discussed the designated public comment section at the end of the agenda. The board agreed to revisit this section if any matters arose during the meeting, ensuring flexibility and openness to public input.

## **2. Discussion on SSHB 1724**

The board engaged in a comprehensive discussion on SSHB 1724, delving into its potential impact on their work.

*Motion:* Approve all recommendations for listed states.

*Motion/Second:* Vice-chairperson Roberts/Mr. Gruenwald. Approved unanimously.

*Motion:* Establish a policy enabling Ms. Weed to advance applicants from substantially equivalent states for acceptance purposes.

*Motion/Second:* Chairperson Spores/Vice-chairperson Roberts. Approved unanimously.

*Motion:* Open rules for specified sections and incorporate SSHB 1724.

*Motion/Second:* Chairperson Spores/Vice-chairperson Roberts. Approved unanimously.

*Break from 10:00 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.*

## **3. Review of Lists and Labels Request**

### **3.1. Puget Sound Home Health and Hospice**

The board reviewed a request from Puget Sound Home Health and Hospice, ultimately deciding to deny the request due to uncertainties arising from a lack of clear evidence supporting the organization's classification.

*Motion:* Deny the request for lists and labels from Puget Sound Home Health and Hospice.

*Motion/Second:* Vice-chairperson Roberts/Mr. Gruenwald. Approved unanimously.

## **4. Review of Board Member Responsibilities**

Ms. McWilliams delivered a presentation on confidentiality policies, emphasizing their relevance to board members. The presentation highlighted the importance of using minimal information necessary for specific duties and avoiding unnecessary dissemination.

## **5. Executive Director Report**

### **5.1. Military Spouse Training**

Ms. Santiago provided updates on military spouse training, referencing House Bill 1009, and urging board members to complete the required training by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **5.2. HELMs Updates**

Ms. Santiago provided an overview of the HELMs project, acknowledging its extensive impact on the budget. Updates included significant leadership changes, setbacks, and a phased implementation approach. Ms. Santiago expressed optimism about the project's progress.

### **5.3. Reorganization of the Office of Health Professions**

Ms. Santiago addressed the July realignment and the credentialing crisis, emphasizing the need for efficiency to enhance public safety and access to care.

### **5.4. Budget Update and Fee Analysis**

Ms. Santiago provided an overview of the budget, emphasizing the absence of a fee analysis.

## **6. Program Manager Report**

### **6.1. Select 2024 Meeting Dates and Locations**

The board discussed and finalized meeting dates and locations for 2024, with considerations for flexibility and accessibility.

- January 19, 2024 (Virtual)
- April 19, 2024 (Yakima)
- July 19, 2024 (Virtual)
- October 18, 2024 (Auburn)

### **6.2. NBCOT Regulatory Forum Recap**

Ms. Weed provided a recap of the recent NBCOT Regulatory Forum, covering topics such as the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) with licensing and standard of care.

### **6.3. Reschedule Discipline Call Day or Time**

Ms. Weed addressed the need to reschedule the Friday afternoon discipline call, considering alternatives and seeking input from the board. After discussion, the board agreed to reschedule the discipline call to Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

### **6.4. OT Compact Updates**

Ms. Weed provided an update on the Occupational Therapy (OT) Compact states, noting developments, challenges, and collaborations with audiology and speech-language pathology commissions.

### **6.5. 2024 Legislative Calls**

Ms. Weed initiated discussions on the legislative calls for the upcoming year, seeking a volunteer to join the Wednesday calls. Volunteer: Mr. Olivas.

### **6.6. Rules Updates**

Ms. Weed provided an update on rules, stating that the health equity work and other school-related tasks have been completed.

**6.7. Exception Application Matrix Updates**

Ms. Weed presented updates to the exception application matrix, seeking feedback on changes related to the Supreme Court decision in 2021.

*Motion:* Accept the presented changes for review.

*Motion/Second:* Vice-chairperson Roberts/Chairperson Spores. Approved unanimously.

**6.8. Recruitment for Upcoming OT Vacancy**

Ms. Weed expressed gratitude to Mr. Gruenwald for his six years of dedicated service and discussed plans for recruitment to fill the upcoming OT vacancy.

**7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Vice-chairperson Roberts raised concerns about Medicare reimbursement for telehealth, suggesting further exploration of the issue. Ms. Weed proposed adding agenda items related to aligning continuing education requirements with other states.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairperson Spores adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Occupational Therapy Practice Board

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Mary Spores, Chairperson

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