

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

April 14, 2023

Virtual Zoom Meeting

A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee, pursuant to lawful notice, was duly convened and called to order at 10:05 a.m., April 14, 2023 via Zoom virtual video and live streamed to the public on YouTube. The chair verified the identity of all videoconference participants and that the audio and video were clear and audible. The chair advised that public comments could be mailed to publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov.

Members present were as follows:

Darbi Philibert, Chair
Ingrid Franc, Vice Chair
Raelena Crooks
Brenda Martin
Kelly Brandon
Carolyn Murphy
Glynn Wallace

Also present at the Meeting:

Dr. Vincent Culotta, LSBME Executive Director
Patricia Wilton, LSBME Executive Counsel
Olivia PeLong, LSBME Executive Program Specialist
Tracy Mauro, LSBME IT Specialist
Jacintha F. Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer

Members Absent: Kim Solari

Amy Larriviere

1. Old Business

- a. **Minutes of March 2023 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed. On the motion of Brenda Martin, duly seconded by Kelly Brandon, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the March 10, 2023 OTAC meeting with no changes.

- No public comment.

2. New Business – Updates from LOTA

- a. Darbi attended the annual LOTA Spring Conference in Metairie and provided an update on behalf of OTAC at the Business Meeting. She informed attendees that there will be two spots opening on OTAC in December and that the Laws & Rules course is available.
- b. LOTA presented two bills to the Legislature. The Compact bill will be presented on 04/14/2023 and the Telehealth bill will be presented on 04/24/2023.

- c. Dr. Culotta clarified that if the Compact bill passes, OTPs in LA will have the option to obtain either a Louisiana-only license to practice, or the Compact license. They will not be forced to get a Compact license.
 - No public comment.

3. Old Business – Laws & Rules Course and Quiz

- a. Darbi thanked Ingrid and Susie for their work on this project.
- b. An email blast to all licensed OTPs in LA was sent informing them of the course.
- c. Glynn took the course and quiz and discussed issues he had with questions #7 and #9. He has provided his feedback to Susie. Ingrid to email Susie regarding the feedback and any needed changes.
 - No public comment.

4. New Business – OTA practitioner question to OTAC

- a. An OTA communicated a question to OTAC regarding attending a continuing education course on Exposure Response Prevention (ERP). Several concerns were raised:
 - ERP involves a lot of assessment and may be beyond the scope of practice allowed for an OTA (GW).
 - This intervention would need to be clarified in our Rules as no MD referral is needed for pediatric treatment in the school systems, yet ERP would need an MD referral for public safety (VC).
 - ERP may be out of the scope of practice of occupational therapy (CM).
 - Occupational therapy is not listed as a recommended provider on any of the courses for ERP looked at.
 - ERP may be blurring the lines between OT and counseling (RC).
 - The OTAC agreed that it was unclear whether the OTA practitioner was asking whether the course was an approved course for CEUs, or whether they wanted to know if they would be allowed to provide that intervention.
 - Darbi and Dr. Culotta to collaborate on a follow-up question email for clarification.
 - No public comment.

5. Old Business – Rules Revisions

- a. In order to better inform revisions to the OT/OTA supervision section, each OTAC member gave a brief summary of the rules of a different state. Reviewed states were as follows:
 - Ingrid Franc – North Carolina
 - Darbi Philibert – Arkansas, West Virginia, and Arizona
 - Kelly Brandon – Texas
 - Glynn Wallace – Massachusetts
 - Raelena Crooks – Alabama
 - Carolyn Murphy – Virginia
 - Brenda Martin – New Mexico and Florida
- b. Trends and ideas noted:
 - Several states have separate sections delineating supervision of unlicensed personnel (techs, aides, and students).

- Only two states, W. VA and AZ, require differing levels of OTA supervision depending on the level of experience of the OTA. The other 8 states do not differentiate based on OTA experience.
- None of the states require differing levels of OTA supervision depending on the setting the OTA works in.
- Three states, NC, VA, and AL, limit the number of OTAs that any one OT can supervise to 3. No other states have number limits. MA states that the OT must use their judgement on this.
- Texas requires that the OTA provide the name of the OT that was available to them in their treatment notes. This is not necessarily their supervising OT, but the one they could call on that day if needed.
- Several states have a face-to-face supervision frequency time frame of once per month with other availability by phone, videoconference, or written communication (NC, AL, W. VA, AZ). This level of supervision was usually called 'general' though AZ calls it 'minimal'.
 - VA is every 10th visit or 30 days, whichever comes first.
 - Arkansas is one hour/40 hours worked by OTA.
 - Three states have no stated frequency of face-to-face supervision: FL, TX, MA.
- Arkansas specifies that supervision of an OTA is always required, no matter how experienced the OTA.
- Two states have no requirements of competency documentation: TX, VA. Others were vague on this issue.
- OTAC members expressed general agreement about needing a separate section to address supervision of unlicensed personnel, that supervision of OTAs should not be based on the OTA's years of experience or specific setting, and that the idea of having the OTA document the name of the OT available to them that day is a good one.
- It was agreed that Ingrid and Darbi would craft a draft OTA supervision section based on the information above and OTAC will edit at next meeting.
 - No public comment.

Next meeting is May 12 at 10:00. The August meeting needs to be moved to a different day.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.