

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

August 4, 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 10:02 a.m., August 4, 2023 via Zoom virtual video and live streamed to the public on YouTube. A quorum was established. 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
- Brenda Martin
- Carolyn Murphy
- Glynn Wallace (left meeting at 11:00)
- Kelly Brandon
- Raelena Crooks
- Amy Larriviere

Also present at the Meeting:

- Patricia Wilton, LSBME Executive Counsel
- Olivia PeLong, LSBME Executive Program Specialist
- Tracy Mauro, LSBME IT Specialist
- Jacintha F. Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer

Persons Absent:

- Dr. Vincent Culotta, LSBME Executive Director
- Kim Solari, OTAC Member

Old Business

1. **Minutes of July 2023 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed. On the motion of Darbi Philibert, duly seconded by Carolyn Murphy, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the July 14, 2023 OTAC meeting with no changes.
 - No public comment.
2. **New Business** – Darbi reported that the LOTA plans on convening a town hall meeting regarding the new legislation that passed in the Louisiana Legislature this spring and that impacts occupational therapy. LOTA has sent a mass email regarding this to their members. They have

asked a member of OTAC to be present; Darbi has agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of OTAC.

3. Old Business – OTAC Membership

- Carolyn Murphy will be serving another term. Resumes for open positions are due 8/31/2023. Darbi will send another email request blast reminding practitioners of the deadline.
- OTAC members were encouraged to reach out to COTAs they know to apply.

4. Old Business – Rules and Regulations

Physical Agent Modalities (PAMs)

- Section 4901B - Darbi reviewed Rules from multiple states regarding use of PAMs. After discussion, it was agreed to add mention of PAMs to our current definition of Occupational Therapy as follows:
 - “Occupational therapy interventions may include occupations and activities, interventions to support occupation (including but not limited to *physical agent modalities*), education and training, advocacy, group, and virtual interventions.”
 - Ingrid Franc motioned to accept this revised definition of OT; Kelly Brandon seconded. All were in favor.
 - No public comment.
- Section 4901B – Darbi reviewed Rules from multiple states that specified what a COTA may do related to PAMs. After discussion, it was agreed to add language regarding PAMs to our current definition of Occupational Therapy Assistant. Drafted as follows:
 - “*Occupational Therapy Assistant*—A practitioner who is licensed to deliver occupational therapy services in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of, and in partnership with an occupational therapist licensed under this chapter. Under the appropriate level of supervision of an occupational therapist, an occupational therapy assistant may perform all interventions stated in the definition of occupational therapy, including physical agent modalities, with the exception of dry needling.”
 - Amy Larriviere motioned to accept this revised definition of Occupational Therapy Assistant; Kelly Brandon seconded. All were in favor.
 - No public comment.
- Section 1903 - All agreed that a definition of PAMs is needed. The following definition was drafted:
 - *Physical agent modalities* mean those modalities that produce a response in soft tissue through the use of mechanical devices, light, water, temperature, sound, or electricity. Physical agent modalities are characterized as adjunctive methods used in conjunction with or in immediate preparation for patient involvement in purposeful activity.
 - Ingrid Franc moved to approve this definition; Carolyn Murphy seconded. All were in favor.
 - No public comment.

Adding references to the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework in Selected Rules Sections.

- There was discussion on the merits of adding references to the OTPF within the Rules in the Evaluation and Intervention sections.

- Section 4911B – Draft language added as follows (changes italicized): Initial occupational therapy evaluations shall consider the repertoire of occupations in which the client engages, the contexts influencing engagement, the performance patterns and skills the client uses, the demands of the occupation, and the client’s body functions and structures, *as outlined in the current AOTA Occupational Therapy Practice Framework.*
 - Kelly Brandon motioned to accept, Darbi Philibert seconded. All were in favor.
 - No public comment.
- Section 4913B - Draft language added as follows (changes italicized): Intervention plan development shall utilize the evaluation, client goals and outcomes, best available evidence, and professional and clinical reasoning *as informed by the current AOTA Occupational Therapy Practice Framework.”*
 - Darbi Philibert motioned to accept; Brenda Martin seconded. All were in favor.
 - No public comment.

Supervision of Unlicensed Personnel, Volunteers, and Students

- Ingrid shared draft language created from review of other states’ Rules on supervision of unlicensed personnel and volunteers.
- Section 4928? (this number may change) – Supervision of Unlicensed Personnel and Volunteers
 - Added language stating that all unlicensed persons must be supervised by an OTP at all times, using direct supervision (line of sight), that they may be delegated to perform non-skilled tasks only, and that any tasks involving interaction with a client must be routine and have a predictable outcome. In addition, the OTP must ensure that the unlicensed person has demonstrated competence with the selected task and equipment. This competence must be documented for all client-related tasks.
- Section 4929? (this number may change) – Supervision of OT and OTA Students.
 - Added language stating that students completing their clinical education will be supervised per current AOTA guidelines and that all documentation by a student must be co-signed by an OTP.
- Darbi Philibert motioned to accept the addition of Rules drafted to address supervision of unlicensed personnel, volunteers, and students; Brenda Martin seconded. All were in favor.
 - No public comment.

Telehealth

- A draft of language regarding the use of telehealth by OTPs in Louisiana was reviewed and discussed.
- Revisions were made and will be presented at the next meeting.
- No votes taken.
 - No public comment.

Next meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Fri. Aug. Sept. 15, 2023

Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.