

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

July 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 10:08 a.m., July 14, 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](mailto: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 noon)
- Kelly Brandon
- Raelena Crooks
- Amy Larriviere

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
- Kristen Neville, AOTA State Affairs
- Marie McLaughlin, LOTR, President of the LA Hand Therapy Association

Members Absent:

- Kim Solari

**Old Business**

1. **Minutes of June 2023 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed. On the motion of Ingrid Franc, duly seconded by Darbi Philibert, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the June 9, 2023 OTAC meeting with no changes.
  - No public comment.
2. **Old Business – Rules Revisions: Dry Needling**

- The dry needling (DN) section of the Rules may be included in a separate *Physical Agents Modalities* section, or may be incorporated into an existing section. That remains to be determined.
- Darbi shared a draft of Rules for DN based on review of other states' guidelines. Only three states currently have DN-specific guidelines. The Rules regarding training and use of DN need to be general enough to allow for flexibility and specific enough to protect the consumer.
- Kristen Neville clarified that the AOTA states that DN is within the scope of OT practice as preparatory to occupation-based intervention, but gives no other specifics, i.e., regarding training. The AOTA does not consider DN to be an entry-level skill.
- The draft proposal was reviewed, discussed, and edited:
  - Issue of an OT on the compact who is using DN in another state. All agreed that an OT in that situation would need to meet our LA minimum training standards as this training is not for license renewal but for a separate entity involving competent practice of a specific skill.
    - Dr. Van gave a physician example. If an M.D. on the compact from another state wants to prescribe medications in LA that are considered dangerous, that M.D. must take a specific course determined by LSBME.
  - Darbi found some states using the term *therapeutic dry needling* (TDN) as opposed to *dry needling* (DN). After discussion, it was agreed to use DN.
  - Dr. Van recommended that a mechanism be built in for management of major complications that could arise from DN and that the Board will want to see this in our Rules. Ingrid added this language to the draft.
  - Hours of training were discussed. It was agreed that the 24 hours of DN-specific training used by Mississippi is reasonable but that more will be required for OTs who want to practice DN on body structures other than the upper extremity. This language was added to the draft.
  - Inclusion of specific language regarding physician or other authorizing person order or prescription for DN was discussed. Kristen Neville stated that the need for prescriptions and prior authorizations is being reviewed at the federal level as they can be a barrier to care. After discussion, the requirement for an order or prescription specifically for DN was added.
- Motion to approve the draft proposal regarding use and training in DN was given by Carolyn Murphy and seconded by Darbi Philibert. All voted in favor.
  - No public comment.

### **3. Old Business – Response to COTA regarding Exposure Response Therapy.**

- Dr. Van will look into whether he sent the crafted response.

### **4. Old Business – OTAC Membership**

- Kelly Brandon has submitted her intent to renew letter (and was approved by the LSBME at their last meeting) and Carolyn Murphy stated that she will submit her letter of intent to continue on the committee.
- A mass email was sent to all OTPs. There have been eight inquiries, but none from COTAs.

- Darbi recommends putting more details about the position into the next mass email as many of the inquiring questions have been the same.
- Darbi asked that all members send emails to COTAs we know encouraging them to apply.
  - No public comment.

**5. New Business - OTAC Representative for the Compact Commission.**

- Dr. Van was chosen by the Board to be the representative on the OT Compact Commission. The Compact Commission wanted someone with Board-level authority. Dr. Van sees himself as a conduit for information between the Compact Commissioners and OTAC.
  - No public comment.

**6. New Business – OT Inquiry Regarding Length of Time a Prescription for OT is Valid**

- There is no language in the current Rules regarding how long a prescription for OT lasts. Discussion led to agreement that there needs to be ongoing communication between the OT and the referral source. It was also agreed that frequency of communication and/or updated prescription will differ for each individual client, i.e., one client may experience drastic changes indicating a need for a new prescription, another client may not be progressing well and the OT should contact the referring source about whether OT should be continued.
- Darbi will craft a response for the email inquiry.
  - No public comment.

**7. Old Business – Rules and Regulations**

- Darbi and Ingrid went over sections remaining to be updated:
  - Telehealth
  - PAMs
  - Use of the title *Doctor*
  - Licensing of foreign-trained OTs
  - Supervision of unlicensed personnel
  - Temporary licensing section
  - Subchapter C. Unauthorized Practice, Prohibitions and Causes for Administrative Action
- Patricia then reviewed the LSBME approval process for Rules changes. Clean and marked up copies of the Rules will be needed. The Board will be asked to amend by substitution.
- Darbi to have a draft proposal on Telehealth crafted for the OTAC meeting on 8/4/2023. Ingrid to have a draft proposal on supervision of unlicensed personnel for 8/4 meeting.
- No public comment.

**Next meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Fri. Aug. 4, 2023.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 PM.**