

AGENDA ITEM 7

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE REPORT AND BOARD ACTION.

The following are attached for review:

- Highlights from September 20, 2012, meeting.
- Acceptance of the June 26, 2011, meeting minutes.
- Review of practitioner responses from facebook re: whether practitioners currently address disaster preparedness with their clients or what would motivate them to do so.



HIGHLIGHTS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/DISASTER RESPONSE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Thursday, September 20, 2012

At 3:03 the meeting was called to order. No one from the public was in attendance at the teleconference sites.

The June 26, 2012, Committee Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Carol Bartolo Loeffler, reported that she obtained informational material regarding disaster preparedness and would provide copies to Board staff at the end of the meeting.

The Committee scanned two responses from practitioners regarding a Facebook blast that was sent out asking for information from practitioners if they integrate disaster planning into client care.

Ms. Evert summarized the Committee has considering ways to educate practitioners on integrating disaster preparedness into client care plans and the workplace. The Committee also has explored the possibility of establishing a post professional educational requirement and/or establishing disaster preparedness into ethical standards of practice. Ms. Evert opined that realistically, in order for the Board to pursue a regulatory requirement or ethical standard on disaster preparedness and planning, it should be established or incorporated into the framework of occupational therapy.

Ms. Evert indicated the focus and goal of the committee should be directed at bringing a resolution before the Representative Assembly with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to incorporate disaster planning in patient or client plans. Carol Bartolo Loeffler indicated that such a resolution should also encourage occupational therapy practitioners to take an active role in participating in disaster planning in the workplace also. Ms. Evert indicated that she could seek assistance from current Board Members and past Board Members to take the steps necessary to introduce a resolution, which at a minimum, would elevate discussion on a national level.

Mary Evert made a motion to pursue a resolution before the Representative Assembly of the AOTA to insert language in the occupational therapy scope of practice that would incorporate disaster preparedness into patient/client planning. Carol Bartolo Loeffler seconded the motion. The Committee's vote was unanimous.

Committee Members were advised that the Board's Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) plan would need its annual review at its next meeting.

The Committee decided that it would next meet at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24, 2012.

At 3:58 p.m. the meeting adjourned.



Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response Teleconference Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Committee Members Present

Mary Evert, Chair
Kathay Lovell
Carol Bartolo Loeffler
Mohammed Khalifa

Board Staff Present

Jeff Hanson

A. Call to order, roll call, establishment of a quorum

At 5:20 p.m. the meeting was called to order. Contact with the teleconference site in Fairfax was established. Roll was called; a quorum of the Committee was established.

B. Approval of May 17, 2012, Committee Meeting Minutes

- Kathay Lovell moved to approve the May 17, 2012, Meeting Minutes as presented with a minor edit to remove a hyphen from Committee Member Carol Bartolo Loeffler's name.

Roll Call Vote

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Mary Evert | Aye |
| Kathay Lovell | Aye |
| Carol Bartolo Loeffler | Aye |
| Mohammed Khalifa | Aye |

- The motion was approved by the Committee

C. Committee Members updates/activities

Kathay Lovell, reported that since the Angora Fire five years ago, the South Lake Tahoe area continues to examine and consult with experts on the area's Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan. Disaster plans have become more comprehensive with more focus being devoted to evacuation plans.

Mary Evert referenced materials contained in the agenda packet. One of the items was an insert in a San Diego newspaper that was designed to assist households in the San Diego to prepare for disasters. Ms. Evert indicated occupational therapists should be considering these matters when providing client services, especially when performing home assessments, but also in discharge planning.

Ms. Evert shared that she and Kit Sinclair submitted a proposal to the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to provide a short course at the Annual Conference in San Diego in 2013 titled "Are you preparing your clients to be personally

ready for the next disaster to hit". The synopsis of the course involves OT's having an obligation to prepare disaster response plans with clients for their needs and environment, the OT's roles and practices within a disaster management framework plus strategies to improve professional and team competencies in this critical area of patient safety and quality of life.

Mohammed Khalifa reported that he made contact with representatives with the American Red Cross in San Francisco and San Mateo to open dialog on how occupational therapists could contribute in Disaster Preparedness/Response. Mr. Khalifa reported there was an openness and willingness to explore the possibilities. Discussion ensued on the possibilities of preparing a presentation in the event a meeting can be arranged. It was suggested this might be a wonderful project to recruit a student to develop.

Carol Bartolo Loeffler brought several brochures and pamphlets she obtained from the American Red Cross to the meeting for reference. Ms. Bartolo Loeffler reported that her interactions with therapists who work in facilities has found that the therapists rely on the plans, good, bad, or indifferent, that the facility has developed. Many times the plans are rudimentary and do not consider the wide variety disasters/situations that might occur. As examples, Ms. Bartolo Loeffler cited often there are no plans in place for a disruption in power. Often when provisions for food and water have been made, storage is sometimes problematic and results in contamination. Ms. Bartolo Loeffler indicated that she would like to see therapists become more aware, and actively engage and collaborate with their employers and clients on improving or developing disaster plans.

D. Review and discussion on including establishing a continuing competency requirement related to disaster preparedness/response.

There was consensus among Committee Members that establishing a continuing competence requirement could be a viable avenue to pursue. However, concerns regarding the legalities of making such coursework mandatory, the availability of courses, course content, and the cost to a practitioner would warrant more research.

E. Review and discussion on including disaster preparedness/response training as an Ethical Standard of Practice.

Committee Members also demonstrated a willingness to establish a requirement for disaster preparedness/response training as an ethical standard. Discussion ensued on whether this option would carry enough punch or impact for a therapist to complete such training. The Committee was advised that language contained in the Ethical Standards of Practice establishes that any violation of the ethical standards would be deemed as unprofessional conduct, therefore subjecting a licensee to potential disciplinary action.

F. Discussion on goals and direction of the Committee.

Committee Members believe disaster preparedness/response training would benefit occupational therapy practitioners and ultimately the client population that they serve. Discussion ensued on finding a way or a mechanism to encourage therapists to complete training and integrate the concepts into practice with their clients or their work place. Committee Members expressed an interest in developing an on-line course and reference material that could be put on the board's website where licensees could educate

themselves. As encouragement, the course could be applied toward the professional development requirement. The Committee may pursue the making the course mandatory training or weave it into an ethical requirement.

G. Selection of 2012 meeting dates/times.

The Committee's next Teleconference Meeting is being scheduled at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 9, 2012.

H. Public comment on items not on agenda.

There was no public comment.

I. Adjournment

At 6:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

FACEBOOK BLAST

Seeking Information from practicing Occupational Therapists

The Board's Disaster Preparedness Committee seeks your assistance. The Committee is interested in knowing the following:

1. In your current practice do you address disaster preparedness with clients?
2. If you work in a health facility, school, or agency, does your employer have a disaster plan and do you participate and/or provide input on any established plan?
3. What could the Board do to motivate licensees to become educated about disaster preparedness?
4. Have you applied or considered signing up to be a volunteer in a disaster?

RESPONSE #1 FROM: S.L.

1. Yes
2. Not working in a facility
3. Education-(we didn't really seriously until we had a local floods and clients that needed to be evacuated from their homes)
4. Yes

RESPONSE #2 FROM: L.N.

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Provide information, booklets, pamphlets, deadlines!
4. Yes, how do I do it?