



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Board Member(s) Present

Denise Miller – President
Richard Bookwalter – Vice President
Jeff Ferro
Laura Hayth
Beata Morcos

Board Staff Present

Heather Martin, Executive Officer
Jeff Hanson, AGPA
Ileana Butu, Legal Counsel

2:30 pm - Board Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m., roll was called; members Nancy Michel and Sharon Pavlovich were absent. A quorum was established.

2. President's remarks.

Board President, Denise Miller, OT/L, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

3. Public Comment session for items not on the agenda.

Ada Boone Hoerl, OTA Program Director, Sacramento City College, commented that she still believes that continuing education should be required for a new graduate's first renewal, even if it's pro-rated or reduced; she feels strongly that new graduates should complete some hours.

4. Consideration and possible action on legislative proposal amending the definition of "practice of occupational therapy" as set forth in BPC Section 2570.2.

Richard Bookwalter commented that the current proposed amendment is several years old and proposed by previous board.

President Miller invited public comment.

Public Comment

Pat Nagaishi, OTR/L, President of the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC), stated that it is important for the definition to reflect the role and scope of

occupational therapy (OT). Ms. Nagaishi provided the Board with information, including a document entitled 'Conceptual Changes Needed' which provides OTAC's recommendations regarding the scope of practice.

The recommendations included, among other things, to add references to rehabilitation, habilitation, and behavioral health and update the reference to orthotics. Ms. Nagaishi also commented that she supports the elimination of post professional education for advanced practice approval if the applicant demonstrates that they have met the requirements in their program.

Former Board President Mary Evert, OTR/L, provided the context of past recommended edits to the statutory definition of occupational therapy.

Bryant Edwards, OTR/L, pointed out that speech-language skills and gait training are currently excluded from the definition.

Tracey Airth-Edblom, OTR/L, CHT, expressed concern that orthotics are allowed only if they are 'selective temporary' and believes that is too limiting.

Ms. Nagaishi said that there is scope of practice overlap and it is important to highlight the value of OT. She pointed out that other healthcare providers (eg. ABA, MTs, RTs and ATs) are using similar therapies and it's important to capture distinct value of occupational therapy.

Christine Wietlisbach, OTR/L, former OT Board member and current BBS Board member, stated that the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) considered not listing applied behavior analysis when discussing legislative amendments.

Sarah Bream, OTR/L, faculty at University of Southern California, stated that OTs don't diagnose mental health issues but they do address mental health within the context of function.

Ms. Evert stated that American Red Cross doesn't include OTs as first responders due to no "mental health" designation.

Board member Jeff Ferro commented that he felt it important to be thoughtful about the approach before pursuing amendments to legislation.

The Board discussed creating an ad hoc committee, based on Denise Miller's recommendation, to vet the proposed legislative amendment.

Donna Breger-Stanton, OTR/L, Fieldwork Coordinator at Samuel Merritt University, stated that psycho-social is not specifically mentioned in the practice act.

A member of the public commented that the Board should consider the educator perspective, including helping to define opportunities for students to address the psycho-social aspect.

- ❖ Jeff Ferro moved to have an Ad Hoc committee review BPC Section 2570.2 and bring their findings to the Board's first meeting next spring.
- ❖ Richard Bookwalter seconded the motion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Roll Call Vote

Denise Miller	Aye
Richard Bookwalter	Aye
Jeff Ferro	Aye
Laura Hayth	Aye
Beata Morcos	Aye

The motion passed.

After soliciting volunteers and further discussion by the Board, it was decided the Ad Hoc committee would be made up of Board Members Jeff Ferro and Richard Bookwalter, Tracey Airth-Edblom, Bryant Edwards, Donna Breger-Stanton, Ada Boone Hoerl and Sarah Bream.

- ❖ Richard Bookwalter moved to have the Ad Hoc committee be comprised of the volunteers listed above.
- ❖ Jeff Ferro seconded the motion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Roll Call Vote

Denise Miller	Aye
Richard Bookwalter	Aye
Jeff Ferro	Aye
Laura Hayth	Aye
Beata Morcos	Aye

The motion passed.

5. Adjournment.

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.