



TELECONFERENCE CBOT FIELDWORK COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP MEETING MINUTES Monday, July 26, 2021

12:00 pm – Workgroup Meeting

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

California Board of Occupational Therapy (Board) Member and Workgroup Chairperson Lynna Do called the meeting to order at 12:15pm. Board staff called the roll and a quorum was established.

Workgroup Members Present

Board Member Denise Miller
 Cesar Arada
 Candace Chatman
 Joyce Fries
 Jaynee Meyer
 Akemi McNeil
 Jessica Padilla
 Eileen Wang

Workgroup Members Absent

Dominique Embrey
 Deanna Mannarelli

Board Staff Present

Heather Martin – Executive Officer
 Jody Quesada Novey – Associate Analyst
 Gagan Mahl – Enforcement Analyst
 Demetre Montue – Administrative Analyst

2. Chairperson opening remarks.

Chairperson Lynna Do welcomed all that were present and introduced herself as a member of the Psychology profession that has worked closely with the Occupational Therapy profession. Ms. Do stated that the Fieldwork Communications Workgroup was meeting to address fieldwork placement challenges, advance the profession and ensure the public is protected

3. Introductions by all Workgroup participants.

The following Workgroup participants introduced themselves:

- Board Member Denise Miller
- Cesar Arada – San Jose State University
- Candace Chatman – University of Southern California

- Joyce Fries – Grossmont College
- Akemi McNeil – Stanbridge University
- Jaynee Meyer – University of St. Augustine
- Jessica Padilla – Santa Ana College
- Eileen Wang – Stanbridge University

4. Public Comment Session for items not on the Agenda.

There were no comments from the public.

5. Group discussion and sharing of student placement challenges: *What does the Level II fieldwork crisis look like in California?* Defining and discussing the issue of too few fieldwork supervisors and facilities available for California's occupational therapy students to include in future report to the Board.

Denise Miller reported that the Board hoped the workgroup could provide suggestions as to how the Board could assist from a marketing and licensee standpoint. Ms. Miller suggested messaging that could convey the urgency of the situation.

Discussion ensued and it was reported that some of the placement challenges were as follows:

- California programs battling for placement with out of state programs that are placing their students in California.
- When reaching out to OTs directly, the Administrators are instructing the OT to have the Fieldwork Coordinator only go through the Administrator.
- OTs are overworked and burned out and there is a lot of turnover.
- OTs are not aware they can supervise OTA fieldwork.
- Other states are reserving their fieldwork spots for residents of their state only.
- Cancellation of placement after confirmation is received.

6. Discussion on and identification of objectives for fieldwork communication and outreach related to consumer safety and possible recommendation(s) to the Board.

The discussion on identification of objectives for communication and outreach related to consumer safety and recommendations included sending a survey to the Fieldwork Coordinator of each California OT and OTA school to capture their placement concerns and/or challenges. Following review of the survey results, a recommendation would be made to the Board outlining suggested methods of outreach, including a mailing paid for by the Board and what would be included in that outreach.

Executive Officer Heather Martin reported the cost of this mailing by way of the United States Postal Service would be approximately \$4,000 dollars.

Additional outreach ideas included:

- Include step by step directions on how to reach out to a school or administrator if a practitioner is interested in supervising.
- Promote the earning of professional development units for supervising.
- Increase awareness of the process to supervise a student for Administrators of facilities.
- In reference to the OT and OTA programs, simplifying the contract for fieldwork so it does not act as a barrier.
- Encourage OT and OTA programs to groom their students to 'give back' to the profession by supervising.

Public Comment

Alison George, commented that San Jose State University was lucky enough to have loyal fieldwork sites but they have noted that Southern California sites and Northern California sites are also offering preference to students in their geographical location.

7. Identify the Workgroup's next steps to determine need for another meeting.

Following discussion, the Workgroup's suggested next steps were as follows:

- Evaluate the results of the survey sent by Board staff to the Fieldwork Coordinators.
- Identify the language the workgroup wished to see broadcasted and submit it to the Board.
- Identify the groups that should be included as recipients.
- If Board approval is received start with the mailings and/or other approved forms of outreach.

8. Select future meeting date(s) if another meeting is necessary.

The workgroup decided the next meeting would be held on August 9, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Chairperson Do asked that the survey be sent out prior to the August 9th meeting and that if any workgroup members had any comments or documents for submission to reach out to Board staff or to Ms. Do.

Ms. Do thanked everyone for their participation and assured them that their voices are important.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.