



PRACTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Committee Members Present

Christine Wietlisbach, OT, Board Member/Chair
 Richard Bookwalter, OT, Board Member
 Lynne Andonian, OT
 Carlin Daley Reaume, OT
 Diane Laszlo, OT Retired

Committee Members Absent

Lynna Do, Board Member
 Danielle Meglio, OTA
 Jeannette Nakamura, OT

Board Staff Present

Heather Martin, Executive Officer
 Jody Quesada Novey, Manager
 Rachael Hutchison - Analyst
 Jeanine Orona - Analyst

Public Attendees Present

Floyd Tran, OT
 Chi-Kwan Shea, OT

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, roll was called, and a quorum was established.

2. Chairperson opening remarks.

Chair Christine Wietlisbach thanked all the committee volunteers and members of the public for their attendance of the first Practice Committee meeting in years. Ms. Wietlisbach stated that the list of practice related issues the Committee was tasked with would be prioritized and there would be a discussion about the schedule of upcoming meetings. Lastly, if those present collectively feel the expertise is in attendance the committee would discuss a few issues. Ms. Wietlisbach closed with the announcement that the committee is still recruiting volunteers that may have skillsets not yet represented on the committee.

3. Introductions by all Committee Members.

- Christine Wietlisbach, 30 years of experience in occupational therapy (OT), hand therapist, current California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT) Board member.
- Richard Bookwalter, 27 years of OT experience mostly in geriatrics and for the last 15 years in wheelchair seating and mobility at Kaiser San Francisco, and current CBOT Board member.
- Diane Laszlo, 36 years as a certified hand therapist, recently retired and has been working per diem as a certified hand therapist.

- Carlin Daley Reaume, 16 years of experience in OT, private practice that focuses on pelvic health, prior career focus was lifestyle redesign and emerging and non-traditional areas of practice, current Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of the Pacific.
- Lynne Andonian, 35 years of experience in OT mostly focused on mental health and academia and a current professor of OT at San Jose State University.

4. Executive Officer to provide overview of Bagley Keene Open Meetings Act and meeting requirements.

Executive Officer Heather Martin gave an overview of the Bagley Keene Open Meetings Act requirements, emphasizing Committee members avoiding any discussions that are being discussed by the Committee outside of a scheduled and noticed Committee meeting. She also advised Committee Members they could always direct inquiries to her.

There were no additional public comments.

5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda, but members of the public chose to introduce themselves at will.

- Chi-Kwan Shea, 44 years of experience in OT. Ms. Shea has 27 years as an educator and professor, many prior years in administration, a 23-year volunteer for a community based occupational therapy training program, recently became a Board member for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).
- Floyd Tran, ten years as an OT, currently holds a supervisory role, worked in inpatient and outpatient settings but presently treats pre-mature infants in the neonatal intensive care unit.

There were no additional public comments.

6. Committee discussion and prioritization of practice issues delegated by the Board to the Committee for evaluation and possible recommendation(s) to the Board.

The Practice Committee prioritized the seven practice issues assigned as follows:

- 1. Consider whether suture removal is within OT scope of practice.*
- 2. Consider whether Advanced Practice approval in Hand Therapy is required to treat carpal tunnel syndrome, repetitive motion injuries, or finger/hand pain, wrist pain or elbow pain that is not due to trauma or surgery. (Receipt of opinion from OT with hands approval; need additional opinion from OT with background ergonomics, orthotics, or geriatrics.)*

Chair Wietlisbach stated that items one and two would be a priority and would be addressed simultaneously at the next meeting. Ms. Wietlisbach and Diane Laszlo would work with Executive Officer Heather Martin on background information.

3. *Review ACOTE Guidelines and consider reducing Advanced Practice education and training requirements for students graduating after a certain date (date TBD).*
4. *Review education and training requirements for licensees demonstrating competence in Advanced Practice areas and consideration of reducing education/training hours needed.*

The consensus of the Committee was that items three and four are related and that the Committee could begin discussion at their December meeting; Ms. Wietlisbach indicated she would work with Board staff on materials needed for this discussion.

5. *Recommendation on records retention requirement(s) for an Occupational Therapy business that closes or is sold or if the practitioner is no longer in private practice.*

The consensus of the committee was that this topic would be addressed when the Committee could obtain the participation of an additional member in private practice to accompany the opinions of Carlin Daley Reaume.

6. *Request for guidelines for OTs educating patients on “the correct weight-bearing status precautions, maintaining movement precautions (such as posterior hip precautions), following surgeon protocols, utilizing approved abbreviations in documentation, and exercising sound clinical judgement while working with and educating patients.”*

The consensus of the committee was that the question was very generic in nature, and they agreed that guidelines cannot be provided for every workplace scenario. Their final recommendation was to remove the item from the purview of the Practice Committee and have staff advise the commenter that they should call upon their knowledge, skills, and abilities along with the protocol of their specific employer.

7. *Pending Board action in November, possible discussion on, among other things, whether dry needling and wound care is within occupational therapy scope of practice and whether statutory or regulatory language is needed.*

This topic would possibly be addressed by the Committee in the future, depending on the outcome of the discussion of the Board at their November meeting.

There were no additional public comments.

8. Discussion on scheduling time(s) for future meetings.

Per the Doodle poll the consensus of the Committee would hold their next meeting December 8th, and a Doodle poll would be sent out to determine availability for a March 1, 2024, meeting.

There were no additional public comments.

9. New suggested agenda items for a future meeting.

The committee will await further items to be assigned by the Board and hope to hold quarterly meetings after addressing the above-mentioned initial items.

There were no additional public comments.

Chair Wietlisbach thanked everyone for their time and attendance

Meeting adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.