



PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2024

Committee Members Present

Christine Wietlisbach (Chair)
Lynne Andonian
Bob Candari
Ernie Escovedo
Elizabeth Gomes
Heather Kitching
Diane Laszlo
Danielle Meglio
Jeanette Nakamura
Carlin Daley Reaume
Chi-Kwan Shea
Richard Bookwalter

Board Staff Present

Heather Martin, Executive Officer
Jody Quesada Novey, Manager
Demetre' Montue, Analyst

Committee Members Absent

Lynna Do
Mary Kay Gallagher

Friday, August 2, 2024

3:00 pm – Committee Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm, roll was called, and a quorum was established.

2. Chairperson opening remarks.

Chair Christine Wietlisbach thanked the committee members for their attendance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

4. Review and vote on approval of the June 21, 2024, committee meeting minutes.

Chair Wietlisbach requested the following edits to the June 21, 2024, Practice Committee meeting minutes:

- a. That "...the graduate must demonstrate that they can successfully use PAMs." on page 3 paragraph 6 be changed to "...the graduate must demonstrate that they can safely and effectively use PAMs."
 - b. That "...an argument to remove the AP PAMs requirement could safely include OT graduates that began programs in 2018." on page 3 paragraph 8 be changed to "...an argument to remove the AP PAMs requirement could safely include OT graduates that began programs under the 2018 ACOTE guidelines."
 - c. That paragraph 3 on page 4, be amended in its entirety to read "Ms. Daley-Reaume stated that ACOTE is the accrediting body that is in charge of academic standards thus they should not be the committee's focus."
 - d. That "...a graduate who began their program in 2018..." on page 4 paragraph 8 be changed to "...a graduate who began their program under the 2018 ACOTE guidelines..."
 - e. That "...the choice should include 2020 or 2025 standards." on page 5 paragraph 9 be changed to "...the choice should include 2018 or 2023 ACOTE standards."
 - f. That "...consideration for accepting the 2020 ACOTE standards for PAMs..." on page 5 bullet-point 1 be changed to "...consideration for accepting the 2018 ACOTE standards for PAMs..."
 - g. That the motion on page 5 be changed to "... 2018 ACOTE standards for PAMs and use those standards as a basis for reconsidering the advanced practice standards for PAMs.
 - h. That paragraph six on page 6 beginning "Mr. Bookwalter commented..." be amended in its entirety to read "Mr. Bookwalter commented that a patient that needs a physical agent modality as an adjunct or preparatory part of their treatment would suffer in that they would not receive the full benefit of what an OT can offer."
- Heather Kitching moved to approve the June 21, 2024, Practice Committee meeting minutes with Chair Wietlisbach's suggested edits and directed Board staff to make any non-substantive changes.
 - Diane Laszlo seconded the motion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Committee Member Vote

Christine Wietlisbach	Yes
Lynne Andonian	Yes
Richard Bookwalter	Yes
Bob Candari	Yes
Ernie Escovedo	Yes
Elizabeth Gomes	Yes

Heather Kitching	Yes
Diane Laszlo	Yes
Danielle Meglio	Yes
Jeanette Nakamura	Yes
Carlin Daley-Reaume	Yes
Chi-Kwan Shea	Yes

The motion carried.

5. Consideration and possible recommendation to the Board on amending California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 39, Article 9, Section 4152(a)(2), Physical Agent Modalities, to reduce the supervised training hour requirement and CCR Section 4155(a)(2) to update the Application for Advanced Practice Approval in Physical Agent Modalities, incorporated by reference.

Chair Wietlisbach reminded the committee that they had already discussed this agenda item in the previous meeting, but that the purpose of it being on today's agenda was to review the proposed language for the changes discussed.

Chair Wietlisbach asked the committee to review the proposed changes to CCR Section 4152.(a)(2).

- Carlin Daley-Reaume moved to recommend the Board accept the proposed edits to CCR Sections 4152(a)(2) and 4155(a)(2), incorporated by reference.
- Ernie Escovedo seconded the motion.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Member Vote

Christine Wietlisbach	Yes
Lynne Andonian	Yes
Richard Bookwalter	Yes
Bob Candari	Yes
Ernie Escovedo	Yes
Elizabeth Gomes	Yes
Heather Kitching	Yes
Diane Laszlo	Yes
Danielle Meglio	Yes
Jeanette Nakamura	Yes
Carlin Daley-Reaume	Yes
Chi-Kwan Shea	Yes

The motion carried.

6. Consideration and possible recommendation to the Board on amending Business and Professions Code Section 2570.3, to provide an exception to the education and training requirement to use Physical Agent Modalities, for licensees who graduated from their qualifying degree program on or after July 31, 2020.

Chair Wietlisbach asked that Board staff update the agenda item 6 coversheet to read:

Consideration and possible recommendation to the Board on amending Business and Professions Code Section 2570.3, to provide an exception to the education and training requirement to use Physical Agent Modalities, for students who began their qualifying degree program under the 2018 ACOTE Standards.

Discussion among the committee members ensued and they agreed to update the language of BPC Section 2570.3(g).

Proposed language

(g) An occupational therapist having graduated from their qualifying degree program on or after July 31, 2020, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this section.

Updates from Committee to proposed language.

(g) An occupational therapist ~~having graduated from~~ started-ing their qualifying degree program on or after July 31, 2020, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this section.

Additionally, the language pertaining to supervision hours in CCR Section 4152(a)(2) would be updated as follows:

4152(a)(2) Training: Completion of ~~240~~ 40 hours of supervised on-the-job training, clinical internship or affiliation, which may be paid or voluntary, pertaining to physical agent modalities.

7. Consideration and possible recommendation to the Board, following a review of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Guidelines, to consider reducing or eliminating education and training requirements for students graduating after a certain (TBD) date, to provide hand therapy and swallowing assessment, evaluation, or intervention.

A robust conversation ensued surrounding the reduction or elimination of additional education and training requirements to provide hand therapy and swallowing assessment, evaluation, or intervention.

Two committee members expressed their unease to say that all occupational therapy students are qualified to perform these advanced practices upon graduation.

Chi-Kwan Shea stated that she felt more comfortable that a newly graduated OT would not be able to call themselves hand therapists but only able to proclaim

entry level competence in hand therapy. Ms. Shea stated that she wished to discuss this topic in depth.

Chair Wietlisbach stated that although assistants were not able to be approved for advanced practice(s), they can provide advanced practice services under the

license of an advanced practice approved OT. The OT is responsible for ensuring the skill level of the OTA in the treatment technique.

Further conversation took place regarding the removal of hand therapy as an advanced practice altogether because a new graduate should be able to provide entry level hand therapy and refer if needed.

8. Consideration and possible recommendation to the Board on whether the education and training requirements for licensees demonstrating competence in the advanced practice areas of hand therapy and swallowing assessment, evaluation, or intervention should be reduced.

The consensus of the committee was to compare the ACOTE standards from the beginning of licensure through current standards to show how the occupational therapy profession has progressed in reference to minimum standards. The resulting data would provide a clearer picture of whether or not entry level competence has been met for hand therapy and swallowing assessment, evaluation or intervention.

Richard Bookwalter informed the committee that advanced practice requirements were in the statute and that removing an advanced practice would require change to the statute.

To emphasize his point, Mr. Bookwalter shared that he attended a Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) leadership meeting as the Board President where DCA clarified their position on changes to scope of practice. DCA's position was that efforts to expand or redefine practice fall outside the mandate of the licensing boards and into the role of the professional associations. The role of the boards is to interpret, define and enforce the statutes.

9. New suggested agenda items for a future meeting.

There were not any new items suggested.

Meeting adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm