



PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 11, 2024

Committee Members Present

Christine Wietlisbach (Chair) (Board Member)
Richard Bookwalter (Board President)
Bob Candari
Ernie Escovedo
Mary Kay Gallagher
Elizabeth Gomes
Heather Kitching
Diane Laszlo
Danielle Meglio
Jeanette Nakamura
Chi-Kwan Shea

Board Staff Present

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

Committee Members Absent

Lynne Andonian
Carlin Daley Reaume
Lynna Do

Friday, October 11, 2024

12:00 pm – Committee Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 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.

Chair Wietlisbach asked the committee to disregard the public comment that was provided to them for review. Ms. Wietlisbach reported that the nature of the complaint was personal in nature, not practice related and should be handled by Board staff.

There was no additional public comment, as there were no members of the public in attendance.

4. Review and vote on approval of the August 2, 2024, committee meeting minutes.

Chi-Kwan Shea asked that the spelling of her surname be corrected in the minutes.

Ms. Shea asked for further clarification regarding a comment made in reference to assistants in the minutes.

Chair Wietlisbach explained that a correction to the minutes was needed that included that an assistant (OTA) could not be approved for advanced practice(s) but were allowed to work under the license of an advanced practice approved OT as long as the OTA had the skillset.

- Heather Kitching moved to approve the August 2, 2024, committee meeting minutes with the proposed updates.
- Diane Laszlo seconded the motion.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Member Vote

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

The motion carried.

5. Consideration and possible recommendation to the Board on whether the education and training requirements for licensees demonstrating competence in the advanced practice area of hand therapy should be reduced.

The committee reviewed the California Code of Regulations (regulation) section that pertains to Advanced Practice in Hand Therapy and the Business and Professions Code sections (laws) that reflect the six content areas of education and training required for Hand Therapy approval and compared both to the 2023 (effective 2025) ACOTE standards.

The purpose was to find evidence within the ACOTE standards that might prove that OT students are gaining satisfactory training in advanced practice content areas, specifically hand therapy.

The six content areas that an OT seeking hand therapy approval must demonstrate education and training to the satisfaction of the board are:

- 1) Anatomy of the upper extremity and how it is altered by pathology.
- (2) Histology as it relates to tissue healing and the effects of immobilization and mobilization on connective tissue.
- (3) Muscle, sensory, vascular, and connective tissue physiology.
- (4) Kinesiology of the upper extremity, such as biomechanical principles of pulleys, intrinsic and extrinsic muscle function, internal forces of muscles, and the effects of external forces.
- (5) The effects of temperature and electrical currents on nerve and connective tissue.
- (6) Surgical procedures of the upper extremity and their postoperative course.

Chi-Kwan Shea proposed asking ACOTE directly about the six required areas of training and education pertaining to hand therapy and whether or not they agreed that these areas are being met in the OT programs under the ACOTE standards.

Chair Wietlisbach and Executive Officer Heather Martin thought that Ms. Shea's was a great idea and Ms. Martin agreed to reach out to the ACOTE Director of Accreditation, Teresa Brininger, to invite her to the next committee meeting.

The consensus of the committee included that content areas one through five were being gained in the current OT programs, however there was concern about content area six being met. The hope was to be able to reduce some of the educational and training hours.

Discussion around the use of the term "advanced practice" and the implication that the practitioner has gained an advanced skill level rather than entry level ability is the threshold upon completion of an OT program. The history of why the term was chosen was delivered by Diane Laszlo and discussed among the committee. The consensus of the committee was to revisit the topic after the assigned topics were addressed.

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

Chair Wietlisbach announced that the committee would not begin their review of swallowing assessment, evaluation, or intervention until they had clarification or a path forward on the hand therapy item.

Following contact with Ms. Brininger, Board staff would send a Doodle poll.

7. New suggested agenda items for a future meeting.

There were no suggested agenda items for a future meeting.

Meeting adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.