



## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 6 - 7, 2025**

**Keck Graduate Institute  
School of Health Sciences  
Sheldon M Schuster Campus Center  
Meeting Room – Building 517, Founders Room 165  
535 Claremont Drive, Claremont, CA 91711**

### **Board Members Present**

Beata Morcos – Board President  
Christine Wietlisbach – Board Vice President  
Richard Bookwalter – Board Secretary  
Hector Cabrera  
Lynna Do

### **Board Staff Present**

Austin Porter – Interim Executive Officer  
Jody Quesada Novey - Manager  
Helen Geoffroy – Board Attorney  
Karina Clark - Analyst

**Thursday, March 6, 2025  
9:30 am - Board Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. Secretary Richard Bookwalter called roll and a quorum was established.

### **2. President's Remarks – Informational Only; no Board Action to be taken.**

Board President Beata Morcos thanked Keck Graduate Institute (KGI), School of Health Sciences, for hosting the Board meeting. Ms. Morcos welcomed and thanked the Board's Interim Executive Officer (EO), Austin Porter and Board staff.

Interim EO Austin Porter thanked President Morcos and the Board members for entrusting him with Board staff operations.

There were no Board member remarks.  
There were no public comments.

### **3. Board Member Remarks – Informational Only; no Board Action to be taken.**

Lynna Do thanked the staff at KGI for such a warm welcome.

Hector Cabrera thanked Interim EO Austin Porter for being proactive and supportive during the transition.

There were no other Board member remarks.

#### **4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.**

KGI, Occupational Therapy Program Director Vikas Sharma, PhD, welcomed Board members and staff to KGI for the Board meeting. Dr. Sharma thanked the Board members for all their hard work, and for being such an important entity in helping the consumers as well as the licensees. He stated there are faculty and students attending this meeting, who will be learning side by side with Board members.

Assistant Professor Kelly Auld-Wright OT/L introduced herself and thanked Board members for choosing Keck Graduate Institute.

Assistant Professor Ana Sanchez OT/L introduced herself and thanked Board members for choosing Keck Graduate Institute.

Assistant Professor and Capstone Coordinator Hanalynn Hunt, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS introduced herself and thanked Board members for choosing Keck Graduate Institute. She expressed her excitement to witness the Board's process.

Capstone Student Viviana Avila introduced herself and thanked the Board members for choosing Keck Graduate Institute.

Student Pearl Kim introduced herself and welcomed the Board members,

Director of Operations & Academic Administrative Specialist Jennifer Jiang introduced herself and thanked the Board members for choosing Keck Graduate Institute.

Ada Boone Hoerl, Sacramento City College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Coordinator thanked the Board members for all their important work and the ability to join this meeting via WebEx.

Board President Beata Morcos thanked Ada Boone Hoerl for joining the Board meeting.

There were no other Board member remarks.  
There were no other public comments.

#### **5. Review and vote on approval of November 14-15, 2024, Board meeting minutes.**

Board President, Beata Morcos requested that use of "committee chair" be removed from agenda item #9, Report from the EO Selection Committee, because there is not a chairperson of the EO Selection committee.

Board member Richard Bookwalter requested a correction to agenda item #8, paragraph 8 to read in part, "...the consumer may or may not benefit from the practitioner being recognized as a First Responder."

- Richard Bookwalter moved to accept the November 14-15, 2024, Board meeting minutes with discussed changes to items #8 and #9
- Christine Wietlisbach seconded the motion.

**Board Member Vote**

Beata Morcos	Yes
Christine Wietlisbach	Yes
Richard Bookwalter	Yes
Hector Cabrera	Yes
Lynna Do	Abstain

There were no Board member remarks.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried.

**6. Report from the Administrative Committee.**

Board President Beata Morcos stated that the Administrative committee consisted of the EO, Board President, and Vice President and there was no legal requirement for noticing the meeting or transcribing minutes.

Three meetings took place in the last two months. The first meeting took place in January, as newly hired EO, Marc Mason, gave notice of vacating the position and the Administrative Committee met to discuss his replacement.

Two meetings took place in February, one to officially process Marc Mason's resignation and the second meeting was to appoint Interim Executive Officer Austin Porter.

During the second meeting, Strategic Planning was discussed along with the constrained budget. Interim EO Austin Porter met with the Budget office several times to discuss CBOT's budget and collaborate on cost savings for the remainder of the fiscal year.

There were no Board member remarks.

There were no public comments.

**7. Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response.**

Mr. Bookwalter requested approval of the Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) Committee meeting minutes from April 19, 2024.

- Richard Bookwalter moved to approve the minutes.
- Christine Wietlisbach seconded the motion.

There were no Board member remarks.

There were no public comments.

**Board Member Vote**

Beata Morcos	Yes
Christine Wietlisbach	Yes
Richard Bookwalter	Yes
Hector Cabrera	Yes
Lynna Do	Yes

The motion carried

Data from the survey on Disaster Preparedness was compiled and presented to committee members at the January 15, 2025, meeting. The survey questions were geared toward understanding what licensees are doing to prepare their patients for a disaster and what the workplaces are offering as training.

Mr. Bookwalter mentioned there were two resource and information webpages pertaining to Disaster Preparedness and Response available on CBOT's website. One was for consumers and the other one for practitioners. During the committee meeting on January 15, 2025, there was a robust discussion on Occupational Therapists (OTs) being recognized as First Responders and if and how that can be accomplished. Guest Emily Balog, PhD, OTR/L, who is a professor at Rutgers University, was able to provide committee members with the different definitions of a First Responder from several government agencies.

A letter outlining support for OT practitioners to be recognized as first responders was received from the President of the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC), Samia Rafeedie.

The discussion of the OT profession being recognized as First Responders was discussed at previous Board meetings with the intention of obtaining the status and benefits. Mr. Bookwalter offered his research that stated the First Responders are law enforcement, fire and EMTs, as they are the ones that respond in case of an emergency. Occupational Therapy would be secondary care to what is offered by the aforementioned professions.

Vice President Christine Wietlisbach asked how Emily Balog, PhD, OTR/L felt about the OT profession being a First Responder. Mr. Bookwalter stated she expressed some doubt, because current definitions from Homeland Security and other government agency websites do not identify OT practitioners as First or Emergency Responders.

Board member Lynna Do added that OT practitioners would be beneficial during disasters due to their education and training. Vice President Christine Wietlisbach agreed that OTs are trained in transfers, which would make it easier for an OT to assist EMT or other responders with movement.

**Public Comment**

KGI Assistant Professor Kelly Auld-Wright stated that with her past

experience at Ranchos Amigos Hospital, during COVID, OT practitioners were considered Disaster Service Workers by L.A County. They assisted with transfers and medication intake, similar to the roll of a CNA. Some of her coworkers were also sent out to the nursing unit for about 2-3 months. During COVID, OTs were afforded the same benefits as any other first responder, but that is not the case today.

KGI OT Program Director Vikas Sharma, PhD stated that while he worked in a Skilled Nursing Facility, during an emergency, OT's worked side by side with nurses, doctors and law enforcement to ensure patients were safe. He expressed that this would be a long process and thanked the Board for looking into it.

Sacramento City College OTA Program Director Ada Boone Hoerl stated that she was a Red Cross instructor, and they offered several trainings on Disaster Preparedness and Relief. She stated she is not stuck on the word First Responder for the OT profession, but instead to look at language for the profession to participate in Disaster Relief. She suggested that the Board could identify the OT profession as Disaster Support, which would define and bring status to the profession.

Mr. Bookwalter added, as per Google definition, nurses are not even considered First Responders which technically means that OT practitioners would also not be considered First Responders. Mr. Bookwalter asked the Board if they wished to pursue attempting to have OT practitioners recognized as First Responders or Disaster Support. Additionally, he asked if the committee wished to create and send another survey in light of the LA fires and the small response to the first survey.

Board members Hector Cabrera and Lynna Do agreed to have another survey sent to practitioners referencing the LA fires and focused on the role OT practitioners played and whether they felt prepared to assist in the disaster. The results of the survey can help the Board decide if they wish to continue pursuing recognition for OT practitioners related to Disasters.

Survey questions would be discussed at the upcoming DPR Committee meeting, scheduled for April 16, 2025.

Board President, Beata Morcos, requested that the DPR Committee research the procedure on how to become recognized as a First Responder and/or Disaster Responder.

Ada Boone Hoerl was appointed by President Morcos as a DPR Committee member. Ms. Boone Hoerl accepted.

### **Public Comment**

OTAC Treasurer Candace Chapman, OTD, OTR/L introduced herself and thanked the Board and DPR Committee members for working toward achieving First Responder recognition.

There were no additional Board member remarks.  
There were no additional public comments.

## **8. Update on the Board-Approved Practice Reviewer Application Changes.**

Interim EO Austin Porter reviewed the updates that were made to the Practice Reviewer Application as a result of a Board vote.

1. Occupational Therapy Assistants were added to Practice Reviewer application as eligible reviewers
2. Experience length was updated to match CBOT's website, which is 10 years.

### **Public Comment**

Ada Boone Hoerl, asked for clarification on the term "experience" from the Board.

Interim EO, Austin Porter explained the term "experience" means 10 years of experience in the profession in general. The application further states, with seven years of recent experience in the area of expertise of which they will be reviewing cases.

There were no additional Board member remarks.  
There were no public comments.

## **9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Sunset Review process and possible Sunset Committee Member appointment.**

Interim EO Austin Porter started by letting Board members know the last Sunset Review Committee minutes from 2021 were included, to provide information and a general idea of what type of information and reports will have to be produced. This information was reference material for those Board members that may not have been part of the last Sunset Review. Mr. Porter further explained the Sunset report is due every four years, unless an extension is approved. The EO and at least the Board President go before the California Legislature to provide an update on the Board's activities, processes, staffing, meetings, and to address any issues the legislature may have found in the prior report. The goal is to extend the authority of the Board for another four years. The Sunset report is due at the end of 2025 and there will be a hearing in early 2026.

Board member Richard Bookwalter shared his experience at the previous Sunset Legislative hearing, which was a mix of committee members from the Legislature and the Senate, all from the business of professions subcommittees. They asked several questions about budget, managing of funds, and if the Board was successful at implementing the tasks assigned by the Legislature at the previous Sunset review. There were 25 questions included in the report, and five questions that were not expected.

President Morcos appointed the following as Sunset Committee Members:

- Beata Morcos, President

- Christine Wietlisbach, Vice President
- Richard Bookwalter, Secretary

There were no additional Board member remarks.  
There were no additional public comments.

### **CONVENED CLOSED SESSION**

The Board convened in closed session at 12:26 pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting convened in open session and immediately adjourned at 12:49pm.

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#### **Board Staff Present**

Austin Porter – Interim Executive Officer  
Jody Quesada Novey - Manager  
Helen Geoffroy – Board Attorney  
Karina Clark - Analyst

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

**9:30 am - Board Meeting**

#### **10. Call to order, Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. Secretary Richard Bookwalter called roll and a quorum was established.

#### **11. President's Remarks – Informational Only; No Board Action to be Taken.**

Board President Beata Morcos thanked the staff and faculty at Keck Graduate Institute, School of Health Sciences for hosting the Board meeting and offering a warm welcome. Ms. Morcos also thanked Keck Graduate Institute President Dr. Mohamed Abousalem, Provost Megan Prosser, Program Director Dr. Vikas Sharma, OTD, OTR/L, and Administrative Support Specialist Jennifer M. Jiang.

**12. Board Member Remarks – Information Only; No Board Action to be Taken.**

There were no additional Board member remarks.

**13. Public Comment for Items not On the Agenda.**

OTAC President Samia Rafeedie asked for a status update on the approved changes to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 39, Section 4181 Supervision Parameters, and in particular the motion that passed at the November 13-14, 2024, Board meeting that would strike OTAs from being included in the final number of people that could be supervised at any one time by an OT. Supervision of OTAs was already outlined in statute and the vote would make effective that OTA supervision would be kept separate from changes made to CCR Section 4181.

Christine Wietlisbach, Board Vice President, replied that the comment could not be discussed because it was not noticed on the agenda. Ms. Wietlisbach advised that an overview may be given during the Executive Officer's report, but the Board could not address it otherwise. President Morcos and Vice President Wietlisbach thanked Ms. Rafeedie for the OTAC's support.

**Public Comment**

Sacramento City College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Coordinator Ada Boone Hoerl thanked the Board for the collaborative discussion between OTAC and the Board on supervision parameters. She served on the Supervision Standards committee and it was the intention of the committee to have OTA's removed from the list, as they were already licensed. She thanked the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and OTAC for the continued follow up.

Kristen Neville, AOTA Manager of State of Affairs, thanked the Board for allowing her the opportunity to attend virtually. She joined the meeting to support Samia Rafeedie, OTAC President. Ms. Neville thanked the Board and stated that she will await the regulatory update.

There were no other public comments.

**14. Discussion and possible action on requiring professional development units pertaining to the Board's laws and regulations and possible implementation.**

President Beata Morcos gave an overview of the list of states that require a jurisprudence examination or questionnaire.

Lynna Do stated that she would be in favor of the jurisprudence examination or questionnaire being a requirement of continuing education, as opposed to a required exam during licensure.



Vice President Christine Wietlisbach stated with her past experience as a contractor for enforcement case review, she noticed that a lot of practitioners do not understand the law. Having this requirement would be beneficial for the practitioners in staying current with the laws and regulations of the profession. Ms. Wietlisbach supported jurisprudence education because it would be more cost effective.

Secretary Richard Bookwalter supported jurisprudence as continuing education or an attestation to reading the current laws becoming requirement.

Helen Geoffrey, DCA Attorney, stated that if there is not a required continuing education course being offered for jurisprudence, an attestation can be developed that included a summary of the laws and required a signature.

Ms. Wietlisbach stated that she was not aware that any continuing education course on laws or regulations for practitioners exists. Interim EO Austin Porter stated he conducted research for a course that would cover California law pertaining to occupational therapy, and he was unable to locate one. If the Board was to adopt an attestation or continuing education course requirement, a regulatory package would need to be approved.

### **Public Comment**

Samia Rafeedie stated she would love to partner with the Board to develop an exam or a course for a continuing education requirement on the Board's laws. Ms. Rafeedie stated that OTAC has law experts across the State with higher education. OTAC would be able to create the continuing education examination/course in person or online, as decided by the Board.

Dr. Vikas Sharma stated he also supported the Board in their decision to implement a jurisprudence exam in the future as part of continuing education. He asked for clarity on the specific laws that may need to be covered by the continuing education instructors.

Ada Boone Hoerl, Program Director of Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, Sacramento City College thanked the Board and OTAC for wanting to collaborate on the development and implementation of this exam. She also supported the Board making this a continuing education requirement. Continuing education will help practitioners understand the current law and keep it in the forefront of their minds, as opposed to a one-time examination. She stated she would be willing to assist with writing the exam and teaching the learning module.

Christine Wietlisbach, Board Vice President voiced that she would not be in favor of an attestation because it would not require the needed review.

Board member Lynna Do stated she would be in favor of an examination for

continuing education, as law changes constantly. In the meantime, an attestation option can be available to licensees until the examination is complete. Austin Porter recalled the Board currently has a regulation package for additional requirements on continuing education.

The Board's Regulations Attorney, Elizabeth Dietzen-Olsen, stated this topic was for discussion only and cannot be voted on during the current meeting.

Richard Bookwalter stated he is leaning towards having the option of an ethics or jurisprudence class like Ohio Regulations:

*"Ohio Administrative Code  
Rule 4755:1-3-01 Continuing Education*

*(5) License holders shall complete at least one contact hour of ethics, jurisprudence, or cultural competence education per renewal cycle. The one-hour ethics, jurisprudence, or cultural competence requirement may be fulfilled by completing an acceptable activity...."*

Adding another required continuing education course would be burdensome for licensees, as there are current regulations on the type of PDUs that are acceptable when renewing. He further stated the more complicated the regulations are the harder it will be for licensees to comply.

Helen Geoffrey, DCA Attorney stated that the culturally relevant practice, socio-cultural factors, working with diverse populations and/or bias requirement may be required by statute.

Mr. Bookwalter and Ms. Wietlisbach expressed support to have a California law (jurisprudence) requirement replace or coexist with the ethics requirement. Staff will research the appropriate language to add to current continuing education regulation.

### **Public Comment**

Samia Rafeedie, President, Occupational Therapy Association of California, asked for clarification on the current regulation package proposed language:

(3) One course shall pertain to California Business and Professions Code Division 2 Chapter 5.6 Occupational Therapy [2570 – 2572] and shall pertain to California code of Regulations Title 16, Division 39 [4100 – 4187].

Richard Bookwalter, Board Secretary, clarified that the language presented in double underline is a proposed language concept for Board discussion and does not currently exist.

Helen Geoffrey, DCA Attorney stated that if the above language is approved, the package can be changed to include the continuing education requirement. The soonest it could go into effect is July 2026.

No further Board discussion.

No public comment.

## **15. Regulatory update.**

Interim EO Austin Porter presented a summary of regulatory packages the Board had approved language for and are in process. Mr. Porter reported that the regulatory package that amended sections 4110, Applications, 4111, Place of filing, 4112, Review of Application and 4114, Abandonment of Application was currently published on CBOT's website for comment and would go back to the Director of DCA after the 45-day comment period was completed, which is on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. If no changes need to be made due to comment, the Director's office will send the package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for final approval, which can take up to 30 days.

President Beata Morcos directed staff to give priority to packages that included language approved by the Board in November 2024, specifically sections:

- 4151 Hand Therapy
- 4152 Physical Modalities
- 4153 Swallowing Assessment Evaluation, or Intervention
- 4180 & 4181 Definitions of Supervision Parameters

The first three sections referenced above are packages awaiting direction from the Practice Committee. Vice President Christine Wietlisbach stated that the committee is currently addressing each of the topics above and waiting to add more private practice OTs to the committee to provide input regarding patient record retention requirements when a business is closed/sold/inherited or has a change of ownership; or if practitioner is no longer in private practice.

No further Board comment.

No public comment.

## **16. Executive Officer's Report.**

### **a) Administrative Update, including information on the Board's budget, personnel, BreEZe, and Fee Study Status.**

Mr. Porter reported that year to date revenue was at \$2.2 million, and expenditures reflect \$2.0 million. The Fund Condition for fiscal month seven showed a \$118,000 adjustment, which resulted in an increase in months in reserve. Even with that budget adjustment, the DCA budget office did not approve the fee study required for the necessary fee increases. Mr. Porter is currently working with the DCA budget office to assist in completing an alternative budget analysis. Lastly, the Board anticipates additional funding from the requested AG and OAH augmentations shown in the budget.

BreEZe updates are as follows:

1. The Board's pocket license printer is out of order resulting in the application to purchase a pocket license being unavailable online.
2. Due to recently Los Angeles fires, there is a deferment of fees for all licensees residing within impacted zip codes until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Mr. Porter announced that there were no Board staff vacancies, Ms. Martin's successor Marc Mason chose to leave the Board, and he (Mr. Porter) was appointed Interim Executive Officer on February 14, 2025.

Mr. Porter reviewed the Licensing and Enforcement department data provided in the meeting materials and there were no questions.

### **Public Comment**

Kristen Neville, Manager of State Affairs, AOTA, clarified that the AOTA will allow the Board to publish relevant parts of their Practice Framework document.

Helen Geoffrey, DCA Attorney advised the Board if only a portion of AOTA's Occupational Therapy Practice Framework will need to be used and posted on CBOT's website, it will have to be voted on by all Board members prior to posting.

No further Board discussion.  
No public comment.

## **17. Legislative update**

Interim Executive Officer Austin Porter started by referring to the materials included in the packet, beginning with a summary of legislative updates that may have some impact on Occupational Therapy as a profession. The list was compiled by Board staff to present at this Board meeting for Board members to review and decide if the current Legislative updates are relevant to the profession. The full text of each Bill is also in the packet for review.

Board Secretary Richard Bookwalter, who has been part of the Legislative Committee stated that the committee has not met, but he has reviewed the list of Legislative updates, and the Board can decide if they want to refer them to the Committee after reviewing them.

### **Summary of Legislative Bills:**

- **AB 277 – Behavioral health centers, facilities, and programs: background checks.**

The Board will watch Bill AB 277, as it may apply to Occupational Therapy practitioners working in Behavioral Health Centers.

- **AB 346 - In-home supportive services: licensed health care professional certification.**

The Board will watch Bill AB 346, as occupational therapy is IHSS approved, to provide in-home services and it may change.

- **AB 348 – Full-service partnerships.**

The Board will watch Bill AB 348, as occupational therapy is one of the supportive services provided to severe Mental Health patients. This bill will reduce the eligibility mandate from the State.

- **AB 489, Bonta – Health care professions: deceptive terms of letters: artificial intelligence (AI).**

The Board will watch Bill AB 489, as a Regulation will need to be written to protect Occupational Therapy, health care, and healing arts, if it passes. The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is aware of this bill, as it has already sent notice to California Board of Occupational Therapy to request a fiscal impact analysis, as to what costs will be added to the Board to regulate and enforce the language of this bill.

- **Bill AB 667, Solache – Professions and vocations: license examinations: Interpreters.**

The Board will watch Bill AB 667, because in the future a continuing education examination may be required of licensees, and it may impact how the Board proceeds.

- **Bill AB 742, Elhawary – Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing applicants who are descendant of slaves.**

The Board will watch Bill AB 742, as this will require the California Board of Occupational Therapy to expedite licenses for descendants of slaves. Bill AB 742 did not pass last year but is up for hearing on March 21, 2025.

- **Bill AB 951, Ta – Health care coverage; behavioral diagnosis.**

The Board will watch Bill AB 951. Page 3, lines 3-6 of Bill AB 956 state:

This will affect Occupational Therapy re-diagnoses to continue to maintain coverage for health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism.

### **Public Comment**

Candace Chapman OTD, OTR/L thanked Board Secretary Richard Bookwalter for speaking on both sides of this issue, as there is always the potential for fraud. This is such a big necessity for families of children with autism to continue to get service.

There were no Board member remarks.  
There were no public comments.

- **Bill AB 1009, Rubio – Teacher credentialing: administrative services credential: occupational and physical therapists.**

This bill is almost identical to the one submitted to the legislature in 2024, which was sponsored by OTAC and supported by the Board. The 2024 bill did not pass.

- Christine Wietlisbach moved to direct staff to send a letter in support of AB 1009.
- Richard Bookwalter second.

There were no Board member remarks.

### **Public Comment**

Candace Chapman thanked the Board for their support on Bill AB 1009.

### **Board Member Vote**

Beata Morcos	Yes
Christine Wietlisbach	Yes
Richard Bookwalter	Yes
Hector Cabrera	Yes
Lynna Do	Yes

The motion carried.

The Board would continue to support Bill AB 1009 and staff will submit a letter of support to the author.

- **Bill SB 641, Ashby – Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions.**

The Board agreed to watch Bill SB 641, as it exempts Occupational Therapists from having to pay licensing fees and submit address changes during a disaster.

Helen Geoffrey, DCA Attorney, explained bill SB 641, section 7, allows victims of disaster-stricken areas, 90 days following an emergency to make changes. She further stated, DCA legal is currently looking at this bill and is unsure if DCA has sponsored this bill. Currently DCA's Legal office process pertaining to a declaration of emergency is to discover what and whom may be impacted and ask the Governor's office to waive the requirements or create an emergency order. SB 641 is supposed to aid in the process.

Vice President Wietlisbach suggested the Board wait until they know if DCA is in support of Bill AB 641.

CBOT staff was asked to reach out to DCA to find out what their stance is on Bill AB 641.

- **Bill SB 813, McNerney – Increase client record maintenance period.**

The Board agreed to watch Bill SB 813 in light of the information provided in Samia Rafeedie's comment below.

### **Public Comment**

Samia Rafeedie, OTAC President, stated that she reached out to OTAC's lobbyist, who explained the bill was presented as a "spot bill" which meant it would be amended at some point. On March 3, 2025, the OTAC lobbyist, received communication from Senator McNerney's office, stating Bill SB 813 had been amended and no longer included the Occupational Therapy profession.

Samia Rafeedie, stated she would keep CBOT staff updated with any information she received from her lobbying staff.

No further Board discussion.

No further public comments.

### **18. Review and vote on approval of the Board's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.**

Board President, Beata Morcos reported that the California Board of Occupational Therapy chose their Strategic Plan to be completed every four years. This was an opportunity for the Board to come up with varied areas of improvement, and how those improvements would be implemented within the four-year window. The Strategic Planning was broken into the following sections:

1. Licensing
2. Enforcement
3. Outreach and Communication
4. Laws and Regulations
5. Organization and Administrative

The DCA SOLID team individually interviewed every Board member, and several staff members. There was also a full day session where the items in the survey were discussed and expanded upon in order to be able to formulate a plan to address. A survey was sent to approximately 1,000 people, there were seven official responses. The answers and concerns from interviews and surveys were compiled by SOLID and put into the Strategic Plan document.

President Morcos asked the Board members if there were any questions or concerns about goals discussed during the Strategic Planning. All Board members agreed the document was correct.

There were no additional Board member remarks.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Vikas Sharma asked for clarification of what the new law and ethics exam in Strategic Plan goal 1.4 would be required to entail.

Board Vice President, Christine Wietlisbach explained that the current issue was that when the Board is hearing enforcement cases, licensees will respond with the defense of “I was never taught that”. Requiring an ethics exam or class, will deem that response null and void.

Candace Chapman OTD, OTR/L, OTAC Treasurer thanked the Board for the effort in considering law and ethics for continuing education. She is also a professor at USC and Academic Field Coordinator, and she often hears from students and licensees, that they did not learn the law and ethics in their program. She appreciated the additional measures that made it possible for licensees and the public to be able to have access to additional resources.

Ada Boone-Hoerl, stated that as an educator and Program Director, she understood students saying “I didn’t learn that” even though it is part of their curriculum in school. She thanked the Board for considering law and ethics as a requirement, as most students don’t do optional work. And making it a requirement for licensees, will keep it foremost in their mind.

- Christine Wietlisbach moved to approve Strategic Plan.
- Lynna Do seconded the motion.

There were no Board member remarks.  
There were no public comments.

**Board Member Vote**

Beata Morcos	Yes
Christine Wietlisbach	Yes
Richard Bookwalter	Yes
Hector Cabrera	Yes
Lynna Do	Yes

The motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.