

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

December 16, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting

A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee, pursuant to lawful notice, was duly convened and called to order at 10:32 a.m., December 16, 2022 via Zoom virtual video and live streamed to the public on YouTube. The chair verified the identity of all videoconference participants and that the audio and video were clear and audible. The chair advised that public comments could be mailed to publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov.

Members present were as follows:

Darbi Philibert, Chair
Ingrid Franc, Vice Chair
Raelena Crooks
Brenda Martin
Amy Larriviere

Also present at the Meeting:

Vincent Culotta, LSBME Executive Director
Patricia Wilton, LSBME Executive Counsel
Jacintha F. Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer
Olivia PeLong, LSBME Executive Program Specialist
Tracy Mauro, LSBME IT Specialist

Members Absent:

Glynn Wallace
Kim Solari
Carolyn Murphy
Kelly Brandon

1. Old Business

- a. **Darbi reviewed the OTAC Mission.**
- b. **Minutes of October meeting.** Darbi made the following addition to the minutes: OTAC member Brenda Martin's third and final term will expire on 12/31/2023. A spelling error was corrected. On the motion of Brenda Martin, duly seconded by Darbi Philibert, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the October 28, 2022 OTAC meeting with the agreed-upon changes.

- c. **Minutes of November meeting.** On the motion of Ingrid Franc, duly seconded by Amy Larriviere, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the November 18, 2022 OTAC meeting.

- No public comment.

2. New Business – Practitioner Questions

- a. Three questions related to licensing of an occupational therapy practitioner trained in a foreign country were discussed and answered with input from OTAC members, Dr. Culotta, and Patricia Wilton. Per our Rules, applicants with foreign training will need to be reviewed by OTAC and approved by the LSBME on a case-by-case basis. If foreign-trained applicants are generally from one country, the OTAC could review that country's education and certification processes, and send recommendation to the LSBME for approval. Response was agreed upon, will be written by Ingrid and Darbi, submitted to Dr. Culotta and Ms. Wilton, and then sent to the inquiring party.
- b. Question related to whether an occupational therapist must re-evaluate a client on a *periodically* basis whether an OTA is on the case or not was discussed and answered with input from OTAC members, Dr. Culotta, and Patricia Wilton. As a defined value, *periodically* must be interpreted the same way across the Rules, therefore, an OT must re-evaluate their client on this schedule. Response was agreed upon, will be written by Ingrid and Darbi, submitted to Dr. Culotta and Ms. Wilton, and then sent to the inquiring party.
- c. Question related to whether a referring physician has to be licensed to practice in LA in order to refer to OT. The Law states that the physician must be licensed to practice in LA. The Rules do not specify this. Where there is discrepancy, the Law outweighs the Rules, and therefore a referring physician must be licensed to practice in LA. Response was agreed upon, will be written by Ingrid and Darbi, submitted to Dr. Culotta and Ms. Wilton, and then sent to the inquiring party.

- No public comment.

3. Old Business – Rules and Regulations Review and Update. Suggested draft changes were discussed and made for sections 1975, 1977, and 1979, as seen below.

- a. Section 1975, A, 2 – Failure to Satisfy Continuing Professional Education Requirements. Changed to state that renewing license within 60 days of expiration is termed *late renewal*.
- b. Section 1975 B - Failure to Satisfy Continuing Professional Education Requirements. Changed to state that a practitioner whose license has not been renewed within 60 days after expiration must go through a *reinstatement* process. Added that this may include a criminal background check. Removed specific dollar costs associated with late renewal. Changed required CEUs for prior year to 14 from 12. Further clarified what is meant by current NBCOT certification. Discussed the NBCOT re-certification process. Darbi to follow-up with Barbara Williams at NBCOT with questions.

- OTAC did not vote on these proposed changes due to need for follow-up.

- c. Section 1977. Changed name to *Waiver of Continuing Professional Education Requirements*. Changed OT/OTA to occupational therapy practitioner. No other changes to this section.
- d. Section 1979 - Exceptions to Continuing Professional Education Requirements.

- Item 1 – Removed this entirely. This item stated that a practitioner employed by the state of LA was exempt from CEU requirements.
 - Item 2 - Changed wording from OT/OTA to practitioner. Added that a practitioner who has held an initial Louisiana license on the basis of examination for a period of less than one year is exempt from the continuing professional education requirements but that they must complete the Laws & Rules course prior to first annual renewal.
- e. Motion to accept the draft changes to Sections 1977 and 1979 by Brenda Martin; seconded by Raelena Crooks; all present voted unanimously to accept the draft changes.
- No public comment.
- Next OTAC Meeting Jan. 13, 2023 at 10am-1pm.
 - Darbi Philibert moved to adjourn the meeting, Brenda Martin seconded.
 - **Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.**