

MINUTES
UTAH
BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
MEETING

April 7, 2015

Room 402- 4th Floor - 9:00 a.m.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 9:08 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 10:53 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Suzette Farmer, Ph.D., RN
Shirlene Kimball

Conducting:

Loriann Helgeson, OTD OTR/L
Lezlie Adler, MS

Board Members Present:

Van Neilson, public member
JoAnne Wright, Ph.D.
Lezlie Joan Adler, MS
Loriann Helgeson, OTD OTR/L

Board Members Excused:

Mary Gainer, OTA

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

October 21, 2014 Minutes:

Dr. Helgeson made a motion to approve the October 21, 2014 minutes as written. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. All Board members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discussion and Review of the Occupational Therapy related bills that passed the 2015 Legislature:

Dr. Farmer provided Board members with an enrolled copy of S.B. 131 which is a combination of the three OT bills that were before the legislature. The bill modified the OT Practice Act and added additional terms, modified the qualifications for an individual to become licensed as an OT or OTA, modified supervision requirements of an OT when supervising an OTA, described unlawful and unprofessional conduct, and extended the sunset date of the OT Practice Act.

Dr. Farmer indicated:

- The name changed from the Occupational Therapy Board to the Board of Occupational Therapy
- Includes manual therapy in scope of practice.

- Includes wound care in scope of practice.
- Manual therapy and wound care modalities will need to be defined.
- The OT requirement that was added: if applying for licensure on or after July 1, 2015, complete a minimum of 24 weeks of supervised fieldwork experience.
- The OTA requirement that was added: if applying for licensure on or after July 1, 2015, complete a minimum of 16 weeks of supervised fieldwork experience.

Discussion regarding Rule changes/additions:

Dr. Farmer indicated the Board needs to provide a definition of what physical agent modalities, manual therapy and wound care entail. The definition for the modalities needs to be clear enough for the profession and Division investigators to understand the definition. The following rule updates need to be addressed:

- **Definitions.**
 - Physical agent modalities:
 - Dr. Wright made a motion to define physical agent modalities as the specialized treatment procedures including superficial thermal agents, deep thermal agents, electro therapy agents and mechanical devices. Dr. Helgeson seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.
 - Manual therapy:
 - Ms Adler made a motion to define manual therapy as the use of skilled hand movements to manipulate tissues of the body for a therapeutic purpose. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.
 - Wound care
 - Dr. Wright made a motion to define wound care as: (a) prevention of interruptions in skin and tissue integrity; and (b) care and management of interruptions in skin and tissue integrity. Dr. Helgeson seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- Competency: Add to unprofessional conduct:
 - Engaging in or attempting to engage in the use of physical agent modalities, managing wound care, or using manual therapy when not competent to do so by education, training, or experience.
 - An occupational therapist must complete formal specialized wound care training or certification which includes didactic and clinical components if engaging in the care and management of interruption in skin and tissue integrity; identify any special requirements for competency in manual therapy; identify any special requirements for competency in physical agent modalities.

Board members discussed sharp wound debridement. Dr. Farmer indicated:

- Sharp wound debridement is not identified in the Practice Act; the Act is specific to wound care.
- A definition could be added or left out of the rule. However, this is an area of practice that the question will be asked whether or not the OT can perform the procedure.
- If added, the Board would need to require a specialized course. However, the question will be does the agency have a policy in place and is the individual competent to do the procedure.

Dr. Wright made a motion not to address sharp debridement in Rule. Dr. Helgeson seconded the motion. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

- **Education/Accreditation:**
 - Board members indicated there is no predecessor or equivalent organization for the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).
- **Examination:**
 - Board members indicated the only approved examination for licensure as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant is

the National Board of Certification in
Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

- **Continuing Education**
 - Define continuing education. Keep the requirements as sparse as possible so that the individual knows what is required for continuing education and not be confused regarding the wording.
 - Determine whether to identify certain areas and topics, such as ethics and law, or go very broad and say “x” number of hours approved by “x” organization. Dr. Farmer indicated that the Division would not approve the continuing education. The Rule would need to require continuing education approved by a state, national or professional association. Dr. Wright questioned if there is a continuing education opportunity at a facility, but the organization sponsoring the continuing education is not approved, would the hours count? Dr. Farmer indicated that the Rule would need to include “x” number of hours within health care agencies, otherwise, they would not count as approved continuing education.
 - It was suggested the Board consider the rural areas and allow “x” number of hours online. A webinar could be accepted.
 - Dr. Wright stated she feels that the individual should obtain hours in their specialized area of work and would like to see at least two hours in ethics.
 - Don’t add face to face but just that it is approved by an agency/organization. We don’t want obtaining continuing education to be burdensome.
 - Dr. Farmer suggested starting off broad, and narrow down if necessary.
 - This section will need more time for discussion and will be scheduled for the next meeting.

- **Supervisory Responsibilities**
 - Dr. Helgeson made a motion to reaffirm the discussion from an earlier Board meeting and we do not need to add anything to the current

rule. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- Dr. Farmer stated that the definition of general supervision and consult with an attending physician is no longer needed, and these will be removed from Rule.
- Ms. Adler made a motion to remove from definitions general supervision and consulting physician. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

- **Unlawful Conduct:**

- Dr. Wright made a motion to accept the language and no additions need to be added at this time. Dr. Helgeson seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- **Unprofessional conduct:**

- Under number (2), engaging in or attempting to engage in the use of physical agent modalities, add: “managing wound care or using manual therapy” when not competent to do so.
- Under (5) violating any provision, add: “current”, American Occupational Therapy Association Code of Ethics and take out last amended April 2005.
- Dr. Wright made a motion to clean up and add the above recommendations under unprofessional conduct. Ms. Adler seconded the motion. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Next meeting:

May 5, 2015. At this meeting further discussion will be held regarding continuing education. It was also recommended Board members review the following for discussion next month:

- Ms. Adler will review the competencies for manual therapy
- Dr. Helgeson will review the competencies for physical agent modalities
- Dr. Wright will review NBCOT and AOTA standards

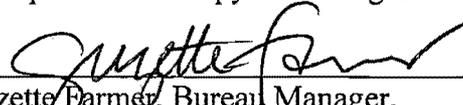
Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

5/5/15
Date Approved



Lezlie Adler, Chair
Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

5/5/15
Date Approved



Suzette Farmer, Bureau Manager,
Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing