

ADVISORY BOARD ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Minutes

June 13, 2023

The Advisory Board on Occupational Therapy met on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dwayne Pitre, OT, Chair
Breshae Bedward, OT

MEMBERS ABSENT: Raziuddin Ali, MD
Kathryn Skibek, OT, Vice-Chair
Karen Lebo, Citizen

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM - Deputy Executive Director for Licensure
Matt Novak, JD - DHP Policy Analyst
Roslyn Nickens - Licensing Supervisor
Jamie Culp – Licensing Specialist
Joshlynn Jones – Licensing Specialist
Shelby Smith – Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

Dwayne Pitre, OTR, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions. He also made a brief introduction of the newly hired Board staff present.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called; no quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting from September 20, 2022 were not approved as no quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was not adopted as no quorum was present. The Chair considered a request from Board staff to amend the agenda to include approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2018 meeting which were not approved at a subsequently held meeting. Members present agreed to amend the agenda to include review of the October 2018 minutes. Ms. Bedward and Mr. Pitre thought they reflected what was discussed in 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report on Status of Regulatory/Policy Actions

Matt Novak made a presentation on the status of the regulatory actions for the Advisory. The proposed regulations for implementation of the occupational therapy compact are currently in the public comment period. There will be a public hearing on the regulations next week at the June 22nd Board of Medicine meeting.

2. Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists

Members present reaffirmed that dry needling does not appear to be within the scope of practice for occupational therapists. The history of this issue at the Advisory was reviewed. The conclusion has always been that legislative action would be required for occupational therapists to be able to perform dry needling.

3. Update on Implementation of the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

Michael Sobowale presented an update on the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. As of May 2023, 27 states have joined the compact and 16 other states have introduced legislation to join the compact. The Association and Society Management International, Inc. (ASMI) will serve as the secretariat for the Compact Commission. A new Executive Director has also been hired for the Compact Commission. It is currently projected that member states may begin to grant compact privileges sometime in mid-2024.

Announcements:

Licensing Statistics

Michael Sobowale provided the licensing statistics. There are a total of 5,068 licensed occupational therapists. 3,897 are current active in Virginia; 1,046 are current active out-of-state. There are 65 current inactive within the state, and 59 are current inactive out-of-state.

1,797 occupational therapy assistants are currently licensed of which the vast majority, 1,547 are current active in Virginia with 215 current active out of state. 24 are current inactive in Virginia, and 11 are current inactive out-of-state. One licensee is current active on probation. So far, this year, the Board has licensed 186 new occupational therapists and 44 new occupational therapy assistants.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is October 3, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.