

**DRAFT**

**ADVISORY BOARD ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

Minutes

June 4, 2024

The Advisory Board on Occupational Therapy met on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 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  
Karen Lebo, Citizen  
Raziuddin Ali, MD

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kathryn Skibek, OT, Vice-Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director  
Arne Owens, DHP Director  
Michael Sobowale, LL.M., Deputy Executive Director - Licensure  
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director - Administration  
Erin Barrett, JD, DHP Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Barbara Hodgdon, PhD, Healthcare Workforce Data Center  
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor  
Jamie Culp, Licensing Specialist  
Joshlynn Jones, Licensing Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Alexander Macaulay, Virginia Occupational Therapy Association

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dwayne Pitre, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES**

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

**ROLL CALL**

Jamie Culp called the roll; a quorum was declared.

## **INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS**

Mr. Pitre asked everyone present in the room to introduce themselves.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Karen Lebo moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting. Breshae Bedward seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Breshae Bedward moved to adopt the agenda. Dr. Ali seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the agenda was adopted as presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alexander Macaulay, lobbyist for the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association (VOTA) spoke in support of the agenda item for the advisory board to consider a change to regulatory language for removal of active practice requirement for license renewal. Mr. Macaulay further discussed that VOTA is working on potential updates to the occupational therapy scope of practice for potential legislative action. Another action item that VOTA is working on is tweaking the board member composition to allow a certified occupational therapy assistant to serve on the advisory board.

## **HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DATA PRESENTATION**

Barbara Hodgdon, Ph.D. provided a comprehensive presentation on the results from the 2022 occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant healthcare workforce data survey. Among the key findings for both professions are increases in licensees entering Virginia workforce and those working in full-time employment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Regulatory Update**

Erin Barrett gave a report on the status of the regulatory actions for the advisory board. The final regulatory action to implement the occupational therapy licensure compact became effective on May 22, 2024. discussed the Occupational Therapy (OT) Compact which became effective May 22, 2024. Board of Medicine will not actively be able to grant privileges for Occupational Therapy profession until 2025.

### **2. Removal of Active Practice Requirement for License Renewal**

Erin Barrett presented draft changes to regulatory language for removal of the requirement for

active practice prior to renewal of license as currently found in 18VAC85-80-10 and 18VAC85-85-72. Upon a motion by Breshae Bedward, seconded by Dr. Ali, members voted to approve a recommendation to the full board to adopt fast-track changes to regulations to remove this requirement.

### **3. Update on Implementation of the Occupational Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact**

Michael Sobowale gave a brief overview of the information included in the agenda packet by Kathryn Skibek, OTR, Virginia's primary delegate to the Occupational Therapy Compact Commission who was absent at the meeting. It is expected that a criminal background check process will be in place for those who might be seeking a compact privilege in Virginia at a future date to be determined by the Commission for issuance of a compact privilege.

### **4. Orientation to the Board of Medicine and Advisory Board**

Dr. Harp gave a powerPoint presentation on the Board of Medicine and its Advisory Boards.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

##### Licensing Statistics

Jamie Culp provided the licensing statistics report for occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistants. The Board has a total of 5,300 licensed occupational therapists and 1,805 occupational therapy assistants.

##### Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is October 8, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

---

William L. Harp, MD Executive Director