

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

October 13, 2023

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 10:07 a.m., October 13, 2023 via Zoom virtual video and live streamed to the public on YouTube. A quorum was established. 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](mailto:publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov).

Members present were as follows:

- Darbi Philibert, Chair
- Ingrid Franc, Vice Chair
- Brenda Martin
- Glynn Wallace
- Kelly Brandon
- Amy Larriviere
- Kim Solari

Members absent were as follows:

- Carolyn Murphy
- Raelena Crooks

Also present at the Meeting:

- Dr. Vincent Culotta, LSBME Executive Director
- Patricia Wilton, LSBME Executive Counsel
- Olivia PeLong, LSBME Executive Program Specialist
- Tracy Mauro, LSBME IT Specialist
- Sandra Hawkins, LSBME License Analyst
- Phyllis Johnson, Licensing Analyst Supervisor

Persons Absent:

- Jacintha F. Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer

### Old Business

1. **Minutes of September 2023 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed. On the motion of Kelly Brandon, duly seconded by Brenda Martin, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the September 15, 2023 OTAC meeting with no changes.
  - No public comment.

## **New Business**

### **2. Executive Session for licensure recommendation for Contact #301316**

- Motion to move into Executive session by Darbi Philibert, duly seconded by Ingrid Franc at 10:12 AM. All present voted unanimously to move into Executive session.
- Motion to return to Public session by Ingrid Franc, duly seconded by Brenda Martin at 10:27 AM. All present voted unanimously to return to Public session.
- The Chair held a vote on the licensure recommendation. Darbi Philibert motioned to recommend to the LSBME that Contact #301316 be allowed to move ahead with their application for licensure as an occupational therapy assistant in Louisiana. Amy Larriviere seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor.

### **3. OTAC Appointments**

- Dr. Van asked the members to choose their most highly recommended person for each position and to provide second and third recommendations in case the LSBME has an issue with the highest recommendation.
- For the COTA appointment (Position #1), Ingrid asked for each member's first choice. Based on the selections, there was a clear most recommended, second and third choice. See table below for most recommended candidate for each position.
- For Position #2, there was no clear 'winner' on the first round of voting. The OTAC then discussed pros/cons of each and looked at areas of practice and geography that were needed. After discussion, the vote was re-taken and there was a clear most recommended. Choosing second and third required more discussion but was chosen.
- Position #1 recommendation is Kathleen Norcross, COTA
- Position #2 recommendation is Mary Green-Keys, LOTR
  - No public comments.

A break in the meeting was taken 11:12-11:17 AM.

## **Old Business**

### **4. Rules and Regulations Review and Update**

#### **A. English language Proficiency Requirement for Foreign-Trained Occupational Therapists**

- OTAC continued discussion of adding a 'passing' score for the English language proficiency exam, TOEFEL. Kelly Brandon discovered that the NBCOT gives the TOEFEL to foreign-trained applicants and provide exemption from taking the exam if the applicant's country is on a list in which English is the primary language.
- There was discussion of whether this language needed to be added to the Rules at all since NBCOT is a gatekeeper on this issue. However, it was decided to keep it and to add a 'passing' score of 89.
- Darbi Philibert motioned to accept the change; Kim Solari seconded and all voted unanimously to accept the addition of the passing score to section 1906, #6, in the Rules.
  - No public comments.

#### **B. Use of the Title of Doctor for Rules Update**

- The current LSBME statute that pertains to this is number 51:413 A and B. Dr. Van stated we need to make sure that the language we draft meshes with this statute.

- One option is to have a section in the OT Rules regarding title of doctor and simply reference the statute in it.
- OTAC reviewed language from California, Iowa, and Texas. It was agreed that California’s most closely resembled our Statute but Dr. Van continued to have reservations about giving examples.
- Patricia Wilton stated she understood our desire for a self-contained document that OTs can refer to for practice and will check into this language.

**C. Definitions for Occupational Therapy Rules Update**

- Darbi gave background on updating the definitions and pointed out that we currently have definitions in two different sections, causing confusion. Patricia Wilton agreed that these can be merged into one long list of definitions.
- The Chair went through each definition in sections 1901, 1903, and through a portion of section 4901 through ‘Education’.
- OTAC agreed whether each should be deleted, needs to be updated, or remain with no change. Definitions that need to be added were also identified. See table below:

Delete the Definition	Update the Definition	Leave with No Change	Definitions to Add
Association/LOTA	Application	Applicant	OT Practice Framework
Department	Good Moral Character	License	AOTA Guidelines
NBCOT	Activity	Occupational Therapist	Occupational therapy practitioner
Person	Occupational Therapy	Occupational therapy assistant	Temporary permit
Activities of Daily Living	LA OT Practice Act	Consultation	Provisional temporary permit
Activity Limitation	Physical Agent Modalities		
Assistive/Adaptive Equip	Client care conference		
Board	Close client care supervision		
Cognitive skills	Education		
Community services			
Resources			
Coordination			
Context			
Coping skills			
Document			
Dyadic Interaction			

- Darbi motioned to accept the changes to the definitions, Ingrid seconded and OTAC voted unanimously to accept the changes.
  - No public comment.
- **Next meeting 11/17/2023 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

- Added a meeting on 12/1.
- **Meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.**