

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

November 17, 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 10:09 a.m., November 17, 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
- Raelena Crooks
- Kathleen Norcross
- Mary Green-Keys

Members absent were as follows:

- Carolyn Murphy

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
- Lauryn Sudderth, LSBME Attorney
- Kristen Nevelle, AOTA Manager of State Affairs
- Julia Cahill, LOTR; Guest

Persons Absent:

- Jacintha F. Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer

## Old Business

1. **Minutes of October 2023 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed. On the motion of Brenda Martin, duly seconded by Kim Solari, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the October 13, 2023 OTAC meeting with no changes.
  - No public comment.

## New Business

2. **Questions from Louisiana licensed occupational therapist Julia Cahill regarding pain coaching business.**
  - Occupational therapist Julia Cahill was present to provide OTAC with further information regarding the question that she had previously sent to the Board:

I am in the process of starting a pain coaching business with the intent to serve clients from all over and I want to make sure that the education I am providing is able to fall under the umbrella of coaching and not OT so that services can be provided over state lines. Many of the other therapists I have discussed with...were able to distinguish themselves by NOT providing intake evals, specific treatment plans, goal setting, progress notes, or discharge notes to further clarify that the services provided are coaching and not therapy. If allowed I would like to mention my past history as an OT to my clients and encourage them to seek OT treatment if specific information or treatment is desired. Of the information I intend to provide, much of it relies on client self reflection, self goal setting, and self assessment with some strategy training provided as examples.

Would this allow me to act as a coach, or are there other steps I need to take to ensure that I am acting as a coach and not a therapist as I pursue my new role? Thank you for all your time and clarification!

- Ms. Cahill discussed her intended client activities. OTAC members discussed the difference between tailoring and adapting interventions versus providing general educational information. Questions were raised regarding whether her activities could expose her to liability. Ms. Cahill stated she is still looking into that. Concerns were expressed. OTAC *will request further information* to go any further.
    - No public comment.
3. **Executive Session for licensure recommendation for Contact #296217**
    - Motion to move into Executive session by Darbi Philibert, duly seconded by Ingrid Franc at 11:21 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 11:40 AM. All present voted unanimously to return to Public session.
    - The Chair held a vote on the licensure recommendation. Darbi Philibert motioned to recommend that Contact #296217 *be requested to* provide a letter of recommendation from her supervising OT. Kim Solari seconded the motion. All members present voted unanimously in favor.
      - No public comment.

## Old Business

### 4. Use of the title of Doctor

- The OTAC reviewed the language written by Patricia Wilton regarding the use of the title of Doctor by occupational therapists in Louisiana. The recommended language makes it clear that an occupational therapist must identify themselves as an occupational therapist when using the title of “Doctor” preceding their name.
- Darbi Philibert motions to approve this addition to the Rules. Ingrid Franc seconded it. All members present voted unanimously in favor.
  - No public comment.

### 5. Definitions for the Rules

- Darbi reviewed the current format for Definitions in the OT Rules in which they are divided by subject matter. Patricia Wilton clarified that we do not need to retain that format and all definitions can be listed alphabetically near the beginning of the Rules document.
- Darbi Philibert then reviewed each definition with the Committee. The Committee removed some and edited others.
- Darbi Philibert motioned to accept the changes to the Definitions format and to the changes to the Definitions themselves. Brenda Martin seconded the motion. All members present voted unanimously in favor.
  - No public comment.

## New Business

### 6. OTAC meeting dates for 2024.

- Members discussed how frequently OTAC meetings will be needed in 2024. All agreed that they should remain monthly until the Rules revisions are completed. There was general agreement that when they are completed, the frequency should decrease from monthly but be more frequent than the previous quarterly schedule in order to be responsive to practitioner issues and questions.
- Ingrid Franc to communicate with Dr. Van regarding available dates for 2024. They will be scheduled monthly but cancelled when no business is presented.

### 7. OTAC Leadership

- With Darbi Philibert’s retirement from the Committee, a new Chair or Co-chair is needed. Dr. Van clarified that there is no set way for determining leadership. Ingrid Franc is willing to remain Co-chair but does not want to be a lone Chair.
  - No public comment.
- **Meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.**