

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

September 15, 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 10:04 a.m., September 15, 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
- Carolyn Murphy
- Glynn Wallace (left meeting at 12:30)
- Kelly Brandon
- Raelena Crooks
- Amy Larriviere
- Kim Solari

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 August 2023 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed. On the motion of Brenda Martin, duly seconded by Kelly Brandon, all present voted unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the August 4, 2023 OTAC meeting with no changes.
  - No public comment.
2. **Rules and Regulations Update**

## A. Telehealth

- Draft rules created based on OTAC input from the July meeting of OTAC were reviewed.
- Glynn Wallace suggested that the terms synchronous and asynchronous be included in definition of terms section.
- Discussion surrounding the OTP's responsibility to determine where the client is physically located at the time of the session and treating a client via telehealth when the client is temporarily in another state, i.e. on vacation. Dr. Van stated that if this is a limited situation, i.e. a one-time visit, treating the patient could be the best for continuity of care. Patricia Wilton pointed out that it would need to be very limited and that in the end, the OTP must follow the laws of the state in which the patient is located.
- It was agreed that it would be the OTP's responsibility to ask for the address of the client's location.
- There were questions surrounding the meaning of *store and forward transfers* in this section of the draft: "Telehealth allows services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers." *Store and forward transfers* refers to information that the client may be collecting and forwarding directly to the healthcare provider, i.e. information from a pacemaker.
- Dr. Van reported that Act 322 recently passed by the Louisiana legislature to regulate telehealth is still being analyzed and understood by the LSBME and that this law will prevail when it goes into effect even if the OT Rules have not yet changed.
- Brenda Martin moved to accept the changes made to the Telehealth Rules; Amy Larriviere seconded. All voted unanimously to approve.
  - No public comment.

## B. Foreign-Trained OTPs Licensure

- OTAC reviewed Rules regarding Foreign-trained OTPs from several states, agreeing with language used by Virginia and North Carolina.
- Discussion regarding accepting NBCOT's vetting of the educational background of OTPs for both American and foreign-trained OTPs. NBCOT's rules regarding foreign-trained OTPs ability to sit for the Exam were reviewed. NBCOT will allow OTPs who graduated from a foreign OT education program with a masters or entry-level OTD to sit for the exam but not OTPs who have an associate degree or bachelor's degree.
- The Committee agreed that all language regarding ACOTE or other accreditation for educational institutions can be removed as passing the NBCOT exam will mean that their educational background has been vetted by the NBCOT.
- It was agreed that non-native speakers applying for licensure in Louisiana will need to demonstrate proficiency with English via a passing score on the TOEFL. This score will need to be determined by OTAC. Ingrid to find information on the score required to attend LSUHSC-New Orleans to use as a possible baseline.
- It was agreed that there does not need to be a separate section for foreign-trained OTPs as all OTPs will need to meet the same qualifications.

- Section 1907 – Qualifications for License, was amended with the addition of English-language proficiency and removal of references to educational requirements.
- Ingrid Franc moved to accept the changes, Darbi Philibert seconded. Committee voted unanimously to approve.
  - No public comment.

**C. Section 1961 – Delegated Duties and Responsibilities of OTAC**

- This section was added to as follows, “9. Review the LSBME Rules for OTPs every three years and revise as needed.”
- Darbi Philibert motioned to accept; Kim Solari seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve.
  - No public comment.

**D. Subchapter C – Unauthorized Practice**

- This section was reviewed and the terms ‘license’ and ‘permit’ clarified. The term ‘permit’ was specified as ‘temporary permit’.
- The term ‘patient’ was changed to ‘client’.
- Male pronouns were changed to ‘they’.
- Raelena Crooks motioned to accept the changes to Subchapter C, Carolyn Murphy seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to accept.
  - No public comment.

**E. Use of the Term Doctor**

- Dr. Van shared Statute RS 37:1743.1 which regulates the use of the term ‘Doctor’ in the state of Louisiana. All non-physicians must use a descriptor term if introducing or advertising themselves as ‘Doctor’. For example, “I am Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Ingrid Franc”.
- Ingrid and Darbi will check language from other states on this issue to combine with current Louisiana law.
  - No public comment.

**New Business**

- LSBME received a letter from LSUHSC-Shreveport stating that their MOT program is now inactive and requesting assurance from the Board that their graduating students will be able to receive licenses to practice in Louisiana. OTAC clarified for Dr. Van that this would be the normal procedure for a program that is transitioning from MOT to OTD. The students will be able to be licensed assuming they meet other criteria.
- OTAC Positions
  - Eight OTPs have applied for the two OTAC vacancies that will start in January.
  - Olivia will upload all of the resumes to the Cloud link as pdfs. OTAC members are not to discuss the applicants outside of a meeting. OTAC members were asked to come to the October meeting with their top 3 picks for each position. If they are unable to attend the October meeting, they should email their choices to Olivia and Dr. Van.
  - Darbi will send the geographical and practice areas that are needed for the vacancies.

**Next meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Fri. Oct. Sept. 13, 2023**

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM**