

MINUTES

UTAH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSING BOARD MEETING

February 16, 2010

Room 474 – 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Heber Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

CONVENED: 9:00 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 9:48 A.M.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Richard Oborn
Lee Avery

Board Members Present:

M. Carol O'Meara, Chairperson
Eunice Zee-Chen
Mary Heigert
Shari Bloom, PA-C
Christopher Noren

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Swear in Christopher Noren as a new Board member

Mr. Noren was sworn in as a new member of the Board.

Read and approve the Minutes.

Ms. Eunice Zee-Chen motioned to approve the minutes of October 6, 2009, seconded by Ms. Bloom. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Limitation of number of occupational therapy assistants that an occupational therapist can supervise

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that the Division received a request for a waiver to supervise additional supervisees. The current statute requirement is limited to not more than two (2) COTAs unless approved by the Division in collaboration with the Board. The Board reviewed the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, 58-42a-306, Supervision Requirements in detail. The Board noted that the statute does not clarify the difference between full time and part time supervisors. The Board discussed the differences between

supervising a COTA who has experience, skill and knowledge vs. a COTA who has just graduated from college. After further discussion, the Board noted that its first job is to protect the public and decided that it is comfortable with keeping the limit at two (2) supervisees with the Division and Board approving additional supervisees on an individual basis.

2. Use of term “occupational therapist assistant” in the Occupational Therapy Practice Act

Mr. Oborn noted that throughout the statutes OTA are referred to therapist assistants. In the work environment they are referred to therapy assistants. The Board briefly discussed the need to make this consistent. Mr. Oborn noted that this change would be a minor change. The association would need to sponsor a bill to have state legislators change the statute. Mr. Oborn noted that the Occupational Therapy Practice Act is up for sunset review in 2015. If the association decided to not immediately pursue with this change, then it could take place at that time.

3. Licensing statistics

Mr. Oborn reviewed the following statistics with the Board, as of February 11, 2010:
521 Occupational Therapists (OT) licenses
211 Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) licenses
In 2009 complaints were filed against 2 filed OTs, both were resolved with letters of concern.
In 2008 – there were no complaints filed
In 2007 – there was one complaints filed
In 2006 – there was one complaint filed.
In 2005 – there was two complaints filed.
Mr. Oborn noted that occupational therapists have fewer complaints filed against them than other professions. Mr. Oborn stated that the topics of allegations were varied including, but not limited to the following: criminal history, fraudulent billing, allegations of injury, and practicing without a license.

4. Information from 2009 NBCOT Conference

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that in the past, the Division could send Board members to the conferences offered by the professional associations. Mr. Oborn stated that because of the current state budget problems, there has been a freeze placed on all travel for state employees. Mr. Oborn gave the Board a handout received from NBCOT that was reviewed at the last conference. The Board noted that NBCOT is launching a series of online self-assessment tools for Occupational Therapy professionals. These are tools

intended to empower certificants of all levels of experience to engage in critical self-reflection with the ultimate goal of assessing current levels of proficiency within the domains of occupational therapy practice. Mr. Oborn encouraged the Board to visit the NBCOT website at www.nbcot.org for more information.

5. Open and Public Meeting Act Training

Mr. Oborn reviewed the Open and Public Meeting Act Training with the Board. Mr. Oborn encouraged the Board to contact him with any questions.

6. Code of Conduct for DOPL Investigations, Audits and Examinations

Mr. Oborn reviewed the DOPL Code of Conduct for DOPL Investigations, Audits and Examinations with the Board. Mr. Oborn encouraged the Board to contact him with any questions.

Not on the agenda:

Mr. Oborn reviewed the process to fill Board vacancies.

The next scheduled meeting

The Board discussed future Board meetings. Several Board members stated that they are unable to attend the meeting scheduled for June 15, 2010. Mr. Oborn stated that the next scheduled Board meeting would be on October 19, 2010, unless notified otherwise.

2010 Board meetings have been tentatively scheduled: October 19.

The meeting adjourned:

9:48 A.M.

September 6, 2011
Date Approved

(ss) Eunice Zee-Chen
Chairperson, Utah Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

February 22, 2010
Date Approved

(ss) Richard J. Oborn
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing