



Occupational Therapy Practice Board Draft Minutes
October 18, 2024
Green River College
1221 D St. N.E, Room 230, Auburn, WA 98902

Members Present:

- Mary Spores, Occupational Therapist, Chairperson
- Ryan Wilson, Occupational Therapist Vice-chairperson
- Shari Roberts, General Public
- Joaquin Olivas, Occupational Therapy Assistant

Staff Present:

- Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Catherine Roner-Rieter, Staff Attorney; Tami Thompson, Regulatory Affairs Manager; Jeff Orwig, Budget Analyst; Sierra McWilliams, Assistant Attorney General.

Guests and Other Participants:

- Michelle Randolph, Occupational Therapist; Kristin Neville, State Affairs Manager with the American Occupational Therapy Association; Kirsten Szewczyk, Occupational Therapist; Kate White Tudor, Policy Consultant and Lobbyist for the Washington Occupational Therapy Association; Janet Melatti; Terry Bowman, Occupational Therapist.

1. Call to Order

On Friday October 18, 2024 at 9:03 am Chairperson Spores called the Occupational Practice Board meeting to order.

1.1. Introductions – Board Members, Staff, and Audience

Following the call to order, Chairperson Spores facilitated introductions, allowing each board member and department staff to be acknowledged. Attendees joining virtually also had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Spores presented the proposed agenda, seeking approval from the board. No objections were raised, and a motion to approve was initiated by Chairperson Spores. Mr. Olivas seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

1.3. Approval July 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting then moved to the approval of the minutes from the previous session held on July 19, 2024. Ms. Roberts presented the minutes, and moved for approval, Mr. Olivas seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

1.4. Public Comment

Chairperson Spores initiated the open forum session, providing a platform for the public to address issues related to occupational therapy. No comments were received.

2. Rules Hearing

The board considered public comment and the adoption of proposed rules for multiple sections in chapter 246-847 WAC, filed as WSR# 24-18-009 on 8-22-2024, and WAC 246-847-117 and 246-847-990 filed as WSR# 24-17-077 on 8-16-2024. The Occupational Therapy Practice Board proposed amendments to chapter 246-847 WAC to lower barriers entering and remaining in the Occupational Therapy workforce. Ms. Tudor expressed her appreciation and acceptance of the proposed amendments as well as some feedback from peers she has spoken with regarding the proposed rule amendments. No other testimonies were made, and Chairperson Spores concluded the rules hearing at 9:21a.m. Ms. Roberts presented the conclusion of the rules hearing, and moved for approval, Mr. Olivas seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion on SSHB 1724 and Equivalent States

Per Second Substitute House Bill 1724, the board considered approval of substantially equivalent states after review of individual states licensing standards. Kathy Weed, Program Manager, presented the states that were substantially equivalent to Washingtons education and examination requirements. Ms. Weed asked the board if they had any discussion, comments, or concerns regarding the states that have been selected as substantially equivalent. Chairperson Spores suggested that the board move to accept the states that are substantially equivalent, Mr. Olivas seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion on Exception Matrix

The board reviewed the latest version of the exception application matrix and considered approval. Kathy Weed, Program Manager, presented the exception application matrix to the board. Chairperson Spores and Ms. Roberts addressed a few changes they wanted to include to the exception application matrix. The changes were made and accepted by the board. Ms. Roberts

accepted the changes made to the exception of application matrix, and moved for approval, Mr. Olivas seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Report from the Executive Director

A presentation by Ms. Santiago, Executive Director.

5.1. Budget Update

Ms. Santiago presented the budget report to the board. She shared that the budget is doing well, and she broke down the budget to the board. The board revenue appears to be increasing more than the board is spending. Overall, the fund balance is above the goal that the board had set for the fund balance. Ms. Santiago notified the board of the decrease and then an increase in the board's revenue was caused by a system issue that has been reviewed and corrected.

The board took a break @ 9:58am and returned at 10:05am.

6. Program Manager Report

6.1. NBCOT Regulatory Forum Recap

Ms. Weed provided a presentation on the trends for both Occupational Therapist and Occupational Therapy Assistants over the next 10 years. Washington was predicted to have an increase of Occupational Therapist over the predicted next 10 years. She also went over the exam preference to become a Licensed Occupational Therapist, and that the trends show that although the exam is offered online many people prefer to take the exam at the testing center.

6.2. Recruitment Update

Ms. Weed submitted recruitment packages a few weeks ago. The Governor's office will not be reviewing or appointing any new appointments until the new administration comes into the Governor's office except for boards that may face quorum issues. This board has been identified as potentially having quorum issues if appointments are not made.

6.3. 2025 Meeting Dates and Locations

Ms. Weed asked the board to provide some dates for next year's meetings. Ms. Roberts suggested a meeting date of January 17, 2025, April 25, 2025, July 18, 2025, and October 24, 2025. The board agreed to these dates.

6.4. 2025 Legislative Calls

Ms. Weed asked for a volunteer to attend the weekly calls for the legislative session coming up. Mr. Olivas volunteered to attend the weekly legislative calls.

7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Ms. Weed will discuss the compact flow and how it will intersect, at the January or April meeting. Ms. McWilliams will provide a presentation on ethics and public meetings for new members that may have joined the board.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Spores called the meeting to be adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Washington State Occupational Therapy Practice Board

On File

Mary Spores, Chairperson