



## **Occupational Therapy Practice Board Draft Minutes January 16, 2026**

Labor & Industries 7273 Linderson Way SW Tumwater, WA 98501, Room S117

**Members Present:** Shari Roberts, General Public; Joaquin Olivas, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Vice chairperson; Maria Kelley, Occupational Therapist; Martha van Gelder, Occupational Therapist; Dr. Tatiana Kaminsky, Occupational Therapist.

**Staff Present:** Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Jennifer Armitage, Administrative Assistant; Sierra McWilliams, Assistant Attorney General; Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst; Brandis Brandt, Credentialing Supervisor; Sabrina Jackson, Credentialing Specialist.

### **Guests and Other Participants:**

#### **1. Call to Order**

On Friday January 16, 2026, at 9:03 am Ms. Roberts called the Occupational Therapy Practice Board meeting to order.

##### **1.1. Introduction**

Following the call to order, Ms. Roberts 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**

Ms. Roberts presented the proposed agenda, seeking approval from the board. No objections were raised, and a motion to approve of was initiated by Ms. Roberts. Ms. Kelley seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

##### **1.3. Approval of October 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

The meeting then moved to the approval of the minutes from the previous session held on October 24, 2025. Ms. Roberts motioned for approval of the October meeting minutes, Ms. Gelder seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

##### **1.4. Public Comment**

Vice-chair Olivas initiated the open forum session, providing a platform for the public to address issues related to occupational therapy. No comments were received.

#### **2. Newsletter Discussion**

Ms. Schatz provided an update that the newsletter will be going out in April for OT month. In the upcoming newsletter, some of the articles may address information on the OT Compact, HELMS, rules that were effective July 1st, CMS telehealth, and biographies for the three new board members.

### **3. Review of NBCOT and ACOTE Credentialing Polices**

Mr. Olivas did a presentation for the board members. Mr. Olivas explained institutional eligibility, curriculum standards, faculty requirements, fieldwork requirements, and accreditation process.

### **4. Open Public Meetings act training**

Ms. McWilliams presented Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Ms. McWilliams went into depth on the regulations surrounding open public meetings. With additional information regarding regular meetings, special meetings and emergency meetings.

### **5. Review of List and Labels Request**

The board will review lists and labels requests to determine if the request should be approved or denied.

#### **5.1. Independence Rehab**

The board reviewed an application for lists and labels from Independence Rehab LLC. The board reviewed the application and determined the applicant did not meet the requirements as a professional association or an educational institution. Ms. Kaminsky motioned to deny the request. Ms. Roberts seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Santiago provided information and updates to the board.

#### **6.1 Budget**

Ms. Santiago provided the budget report, the report reflected the timeframe of July 01, 2026, through November 30, 2025. The starting fund balance was \$135,082 and the ending balance was \$109,188.

#### **6.2 HELMS Update**

Ms. Santiago provided that the next HELMS release is planning to launch for late winter 2026.

#### **6.3 Legislative Update**

Ms. Santiago shared House bill 2184 is introducing intramuscular needling; House bill 2198 which is related to credentialing timelines; House bill 2261 and Senate bill 6166

would require healthcare professionals in clinical settings to wear name tags with their title.

## **7. Program Manager Report**

Presentation by Kathy Weed, Program Manager.

### **7.1. Rules update**

Ms. Weed provided an update that CE hours throughout the chapter have been updated with an effective date of January 16, 2026. All the WAC sections should be consistent with the 24-hour CE required.

### **7.2. OT compact updates**

Ms. Weed provided that as of Monday, January 12, 2026, three states went live with the compact. The Compact is now up and running nationally. No estimated time for Washington State.

### **7.3. Business Plan**

Ms. Weed provided board members with the goals, objectives, and methods from the business plan and how to update the plan

## **8. Chair and Vice-Chair Roles**

Ms. Roberts nominated Mr. Olivas to serve as chair and he accepted the nomination. Ms. Roberts nominated Ms. Kelley to serve as Vice-chair and she accepted the nomination. Dr. Kaminsky second the motion for Mr. Olivas for chair and Ms. Kelley for Vice-chair and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **9. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

The board discussed items for the next board meeting. Ms. Weed will include 2026 meeting updates, compact updates, updating the board's business plan, credentialing report from the credentialing deputy, conference report out, and discussing newsletter articles.

## **10. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Olivas adjourned the meeting at 10:29 am.

## **Washington State Occupational Therapy Practice Board**

**On File**

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Joaquin Olivas, OT, Vice-Chair

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