

**FINAL APPROVED**

**ADVISORY BOARD ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
Minutes  
June 7, 2016**

The Advisory Board on Occupational Therapy met on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Breshae Bedward, OT  
Karen Lebo  
Dwayne Pitre, OT  
Kathryn Skibek, OT

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Eugenio Monasterio, M.D.

**STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director  
Alan Heaberlin, Deputy Director, Licensure  
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Regulatory Analyst  
Bradley Verry, Licensing Specialist  
Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Janet L. Borges, L.Ac.  
Michele Stoll, OTA, VOTA  
Stephanie Ping, L.Ac, ASV  
Catherine Cooper, OT  
Mathew Stanley, ASV

**CALL TO ORDER**

Kathryn Skibek called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES**

Mr. Heaberlin announced the Emergency Egress Instructions.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called and a quorum declared. Mr. Heaberlin informed the Advisory Board that Mr. Verry will soon be leaving the agency. Mr. Heaberlin also introduced his replacement, Ms. Denise Mason.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

Ms. Lebo moved to adopt the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Ms. Bedward moved to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Ms. Borges provided comment to the Advisory Board regarding educational requirements and scope of practice. Ms. Borges strongly opposed the incorporation of Dry Needling into the scope of practice for Occupational Therapy.
2. Ms. Cooper provided comments to the Advisory Board regarding scope of practice and use of Dry Needling as a tool for specialized therapists. Ms. Cooper believes that Occupational Therapists should be able to utilize Dry Needling. Lastly, Ms. Cooper petitioned that the Board of Medicine to develop a pathway for Occupational Therapists to utilize Dry Needling as a therapy tool.
3. Ms. Stoll provided comment to the Advisory Board regarding the AOTA and VOTA positions as they relate to a change in the practice act. Ms. Stoll informed the Advisory Board that AOTA is unable to provide comment regarding the use of Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists. Ms. Stoll also stated that due to the fact that the profession is science and evidence based, and given the lack of evidence regarding such change, VOTA cannot support a change to the law and regulations.
4. Mr. Stanley provided comment to the Advisory Board regarding risk to the public if Dry Needling is practiced by healthcare professionals without sufficient training. Mr. Stanley informed the Advisory Board that he is opposed to the utilization of Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists-Advisory Board Discussion**

Ms. Skibek led the Advisory Board in a discussion regarding the use of Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists. Mr. Pitre asked about required hours of continuing education needed before practicing Dry Needling, and Ms. Lebo inquired about educational requirements for licensed acupuncturists. Mr. Pitre suggested more research should be conducted before the Advisory Board could support the inclusion of dry needling in the practice act. Ms. Lebo inquired as to the reason for including Dry Needling in the Occupational Therapy scope of practice since there are other healthcare professionals capable of providing these services. Ms. Bedward moved to recommend that the Board of Medicine does not approve the use of Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists at this time. The motion was second and carried.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The proposed amendments to section 18VAC85-80-71 on continued competency requirements to allow a licensee to fulfill the requirements by maintenance of certification by NBCOT were approved on May 20 and will be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on June 13, 2016. A public comment forum will open on 6/13/16 and remain open through 7/13/16. Ms. Yeatts provided additional information regarding the regulatory process before the regulations become finalized.

Mr. Heaberlin informed the Advisory Board that there are currently 3717 active and 72 inactive Occupational Therapists. Additionally there are 1288 active and 4 inactive Occupational Therapy Assistants who hold licenses issued by the Virginia Board of Medicine.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

October 4, 2016

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Advisory board was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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Kathryn Skibek, OT, Chair

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William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director

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Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist