

FINAL APPROVED
ADVISORY BOARD ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Minutes
May 25, 2021
Electronic Meeting

The Advisory Board on Occupational Therapy held a virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 hosted at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Breshae Bedward, OT, Chair
Dwayne Pitre OT, Vice-Chair
Kathryn Skibek, OT

MEMBERS ABSENT: Raziuddin Ali, MD
Karen Lebo, JD, Citizen Member

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, Deputy Director-Licensing
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Director - Administration
Yetty Shobo, PhD, Healthcare Workforce Data Center
ShaRon Clanton, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Alexander Macaulay, JD - VOTA
Kristen Neville - AOTA

CALL TO ORDER

Breshae Bedward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions for those that may be attending the virtual meeting in the Perimeter Center.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called, and a quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2021

Ms. Skibek moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitre. The roll was called, and the minutes were approved as presented.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Skibek moved to approve the adoption of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitre. By roll call vote, the meeting agenda was adopted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS (15 minutes)

Mr. Macaulay and Ms. Neville both spoke in support of the new legislation, which makes Virginia the first state in the nation to join the Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact.

WORKFORCE DATA PRESENTATION

Yetty Shobo, PhD presented the workforce data for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants from the 2020 survey. The survey showed an increasing number of younger licensees, but a persistently low racial/ethnic diversity makeup in the workforce. The survey also showed a minimal negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workforce. Practitioners surveyed showed higher educational debt and stagnating income.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of the 2021 General Assembly

Dr. Harp provided a summary report of the newly passed laws from the 2021 General Assembly.

2. Chart of Regulatory/Policy Actions for Board of Medicine

Dr. Harp provided a review of the chart of regulatory and policy actions to be acted upon by the Board of Medicine pursuant to the laws passed in the 2021 General Assembly.

3. Amendments to Regulations for Implementation of OT Interstate Compact

The Advisory Board discussed that the regulations for the OT Interstate Compact were well covered by the law. It did consider what the fees should be for an initial OT/OTA compact privilege and a renewal of the compact privilege. The Advisory Board thought \$75 would be

appropriate for both. Ms. Skibek moved to approve the fees of \$75 to be included in the regulations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitre. By roll call vote, the motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Opher reported that there are a total of 4,079 current, active occupational therapists and 1,732 occupational therapy assistants. In addition, Mr. Sobowale reported that, so far in 2021, the Board has licensed 181 occupational therapists and 171 occupational therapy assistants.

Next Meeting Date

Next scheduled meeting date: October 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, Ms. Bedward adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Breshae Bedward, OT, Chair

William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director

ShaRon Clanton, Licensing Specialist