Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Videoconference Call
August 2, 2024
1801 Congress Ave Ste 10.900
Austin, TX 78701
9:00 AM

Members Present: Estrella Barrera, OTR, MOT
Blanca Cardenas, Public Member
Jennifer Clark, COTA
Eddie Jessie, Public Member
Stephanie Johnston, OTR, OTD, FAOTA, Chair
Todd Novosad, OTR, Vice Chair

Members Absent: Jacob Boggus, Public Member
Sally King, COTA
Karen Gardner, OTR, Secretary

Counsel Present: Rosalind Hunt, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present: Amy Carter, Director of Enforcement
Adriana Delgado, Licensing Manager
Randall Glines, Staff Services Officer
Ralph Harper, Executive Director
Lea Weiss, OT Coordinator

The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners may discuss and/or take action on any of the following agenda items. The Board may go into executive session on any agenda item listed below as authorized by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Stephanie Johnston, Presiding Officer, who was physically present at the location of the meeting open to the public. She called the roll and announced that a quorum existed.

2. Excusing Board Member absences

Motion: To approve the excuse of Karen Gardner and Sally King for the absence at the meeting
Made by: Jennifer Clark
Second by: Todd Novosad
Motion passed.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Minutes of May 3, 2024, meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes
Made by: Estrella Barrera
Second by: Eddie Jessie
Motion passed.

5. Executive Director's Report concerning fiscal and budgetary matters, performance measures, ongoing projects, agency personnel matters, IT matters, Executive Council activity, recent and upcoming legislative sessions, and other agency business

Ralph Harper briefed the Board on fiscal and budgetary matters, agency personnel matters, and other agency business and ongoing projects, including work on the agency's Strategic Plan and Legislative Appropriations Request. In addition, Ralph Harper discussed IT matters, and with John Monk, Director of the Health Professions Council, addressed the agency's recent IT outage.

6. Investigation Committee Report concerning:

A. Agreed Orders for case #s: 24-044, 24-073, 24-088, 24-115, 24-135, 24-136, 24-137, 24-141, 24-145, 24-153, 24-156, 24-165, 24-167, 24-169, 24-170, 24-171, 24-174, 24-180, 24-181, 24-183, 24-184, 24-185, 24-186, 24-187, 24-188, 24-189, 24-191, 24-193, 24-195, 24-201, 24-203, 24-207, 24-212, 24-218, and 24-229

Amy Carter presented motions from the Investigation Committee to approve agreed orders for the following case numbers: 24-180, 24-183, 24-185, 24-187, 24-189, 24-193, 24-195, 24-191, 24-186, 24-181, 24-165, 24-141, 24-088, 24-135, 24-153, 24-203, 24-212, 24-145, 24-136, 24-201, 24-229, 24-044, 24-207, 24-170, 24-169, 24-218, 24-137, and 24-073.

The Board approved the agreed orders.

Agreed orders for the remaining cases were not presented to the Board.

B. Number of cases reviewed, Agreed Orders issued, informal conferences, and other investigative matters discussed during the Investigation Committee Meeting of June 14, 2024

Amy Carter reported that ninety nine cases were reviewed by the Investigation Committee at the June 14, 2024, meeting. Thirty four orders were issued by the Investigation Committee, twenty eight of which were accepted. Five informal conferences were held.

C. Performance measures, on-site investigation visits, school presentations, and other investigative activities that have occurred during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024

Amy Carter reported on performance measures, on-site investigation visits, school presentations, and other investigative activities that have occurred during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024.

7. OT Coordinator's Report, concerning developments in the field of occupational therapy and updates regarding regulatory matters in occupational therapy, including Board licensing, CE audit, and entry-level occupational therapy accreditation statistics and updates; recent and developing legislation; and trends and developments in occupational therapy regulations

Lea Weiss reported on Board licensing, CE audit, and entry-level occupational therapy accreditation statistics and updates.

8. Presiding Officer's Report, concerning developments in the field of occupational therapy and updates regarding regulatory matters in occupational therapy, including entry-level occupational-therapy accreditation updates; trends and developments in occupational therapy regulations, practice, standards, and guidelines; Board and committee appointment updates; and regulatory conferences and events

Stephanie Johnston noted upcoming conferences and events.

9. Future Board meeting dates and agenda items for future consideration

Stephanie Johnston noted that board meetings had been scheduled for November 8, 2024; February 7, 2025; May 2, 2025; and August 1, 2025, with possible committee meetings to be held November 7 and 8, 2024; February 6 and 7, 2025; May 1 and 2, 2025; and July 31 and August 1, 2025.

10. Personnel matters regarding the appointment, compensation, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Executive Director of the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners

Stephanie Johnston announced that it was 9:47 AM on August 2, 2024, and that the Board would go into closed session pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel matters under Agenda Item 10. Stephanie Johnston noted that all non-board members may remain in the main meeting room or leave the meeting and that board members and Rosalind Hunt would convene in a breakout room for the closed session. The Board went into closed session.

The board members returned to the main meeting room and the Board returned to open session. Stephanie Johnston conducted a roll call of members, determined that a quorum existed, and announced that it was 10:11 AM on August 2, 2024, and that the Board was back in open session.

Stephanie Johnston noted that no action was taken in closed session.

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 10:12 AM.

Minutes approved on: November 8, 2024