

Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Videoconference Call
November 8, 2024
1801 Congress Ave Ste 10.900
Austin, TX 78701
8:00 AM

Members Present: Blanca Cardenas, Public Member
Karen Gardner, OTR, Secretary
Eddie Jessie, Public Member
Stephanie Johnston, OTR, OTD, FAOTA, Chair
Sally King, COTA
Todd Novosad, OTR, Vice Chair

Members Absent: Estrella Barrera, OTR, MOT
Jennifer Clark, COTA

Counsel Present: Rosalind Hunt, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present: Amy Carter, Director of Enforcement
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 8:06 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 Jennifer Clark and Estrella Barrera for the absence at the meeting

Made by: Karen Gardner

Second by: Todd Novosad

Motion passed.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Minutes of August 2, 2024, meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes

Made by: Blanca Cardenas

Second by: Eddie Jessie

Motion passed.

5. Investigation Committee Report concerning:

A. Agreed Orders for case #s: 23-146, 24-184, 24-234, 24-241, 24-244, 24-257, 24-258, 24-264, 24-267, 24-268, 24-269, 24-280, 24-282, 24-290, 24-292, 24-293, 24-294, 24-295, 24-296, 24-297, 24-298, 24-299, 24-300, 24-301, 24-302, 24-304, 24-305, 24-306, and 24-345

Amy Carter presented motions from the Investigation Committee to approve agreed orders for the following case numbers: 24-184, 24-293, 24-295, 24-296, 24-297, 24-298, 24-300, 24-301, 24-302, 24-299, 24-304, 24-305, 24-294, 24-345, 24-258, 24-264, 24-280, 24-282, 24-290, 24-234, 24-241, 24-269, 24-257, 24-306, 24-244, and 24-292.

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 September 20, 2024

Amy Carter reported that one hundred ten cases were reviewed by the Investigation Committee at the September 20, 2024, meeting. Twenty-six orders were issued by the Investigation Committee, all of which were accepted. Four informal conferences were held.

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

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

6. 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 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) and IT systems, including its server and licensing system.

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 recent and upcoming conferences and events, as well as communicating with the Office of the Governor's Appointments Office regarding the need for the appointment and reappointment of board members.

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

Stephanie Johnston noted that board meetings had been scheduled for February 7, 2025; May 2, 2025; August 1, 2025; and October 31, 2025, with possible committee meetings to be held February 6 and 7, 2025; May 1 and 2, 2025; July 31 and August 1, 2025; and October 30 and 31, 2025.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:49 AM.

Minutes approved on: February 7, 2025