Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Videoconference Call
May 2, 2025
1801 Congress Ave Ste 10.900
Austin, TX 78701
9:00 AM

Members Present: Estrella Barrera, OTR, MOT
Jennifer Clark, COTA
Chelsea Howell, Public Member
Eddie Jessie, Public Member
Stephanie Johnston, OTR, OTD, FAOTA, Chair
Sally King, COTA
Todd Novosad, OTR, Vice Chair

Members Absent: Blanca Cardenas, Public Member
Karen Gardner, OTR, Secretary

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 9:08 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 Blanca Cardenas and Karen Gardner for the absence at the meeting
Made by: Chelsea Howell
Second by: Estrella Barrera
Motion passed.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Minutes of February 7, 2025, meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes
Made by: Sally King
Second by: Jennifer Clark
Motion passed.

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

Ralph Harper briefed the Board on fiscal and budgetary matters, agency personnel matters, the current legislative session, other agency business and ongoing projects, and IT matters, including work on the agency's server and the launch of the agency's new licensing system.

6. Investigation Committee Report concerning:

A. Agreed Orders for case #s: 25-014, 25-044, 25-064, 25-075, 25-080, 25-081, 25-084, 25-087, 25-095, 25-104, 25-116, 25-123, 25-126, 25-127, 25-128, 25-129, 25-130, 25-140, 25-146, 25-149, 25-155, 25-157, 25-158, 25-165, 25-168, 25-171, 25-174, 25-182, 25-183, 25-197, 25-206, 25-207, 25-208, and 25-238

Amy Carter presented motions from the Investigation Committee to approve agreed orders for the following case numbers: 25-116, 25-126, 25-127, 25-129, 25-206, 25-130, 25-128, 25-207, 25-208, 25-080, 25-149, 25-168, 25-174, 25-095, 25-157, 25-155, 25-084, 25-014, 25-087, 25-146, 25-075, 25-123, 25-182, 25-171, 25-183, 25-044, 25-104, 25-165, 25-081, and 25-238.

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 March 3, 2025

Amy Carter reported that one hundred fourteen cases were reviewed by the Investigation Committee at the March 3, 2025, meeting. Thirty-four orders were issued by the Investigation Committee, thirty of which were accepted. Two informal conferences were held.

C. Performance measures, on-site investigation visits, school presentations, and other investigative activities during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2025

Amy Carter reported on performance measures, on-site investigation visits, school presentations, and other investigative activities during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2025.

3. Public Comment

Stephanie Johnston returned to the agenda item. Karthik Mani, a Texas occupational therapist and the ambassador to Texas for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), introduced himself and his role as ambassador to facilitate communication between the Board and NBCOT.

7. Adopting changes to 40 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §374.1, Disciplinary Actions, including the Schedule of Sanctions in §374.1; and §374.2, Detrimental Practice

Lea Weiss addressed the agenda item and noted changes that could be adopted to §374.1, Disciplinary Actions, to revise the Schedule of Sanctions, and §374.2, Detrimental Practice, including changes that could be made upon adoption to the amendments as published.

Lea Weiss also noted that public comment was received regarding the proposed amendments to §374.2, Detrimental Practice. Lea Weiss shared a possible response to the comment, and the Board agreed with such.

Motion: To adopt proposed rule §374.1, relating to Disciplinary Actions, and §374.2, relating to Detrimental Practice, with an effective date of June 1, 2025, or as soon as possible thereafter, with the changes recommended by agency staff
Made by: Chelsea Howell
Second by: Estrella Barrera
Motion passed.

8. 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, entry-level occupational therapy accreditation statistics and updates, and pending legislation during the current legislative session.

9. 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 the high quality of the American Occupational Therapy Association's recent annual conference, as well as communicating with the Office of the Governor's Appointments Office regarding the need for the appointment and reappointment of board members.

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

Stephanie Johnston noted that board meetings had been scheduled for August 1, 2025; October 31, 2025; February 6, 2026; and May 1, 2026, with possible committee meetings to be held July 31 and August 1, 2025; October 30 and 31, 2025; February 5 and 6, 2026; and April 30 and May 1, 2026.

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Minutes approved on: August 1, 2025