

1 **Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners**

2 **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

3 Videoconference Call

4 February 6, 2026

5 1801 Congress Ave Ste 10.900

6 Austin, TX 78701

7 9:00 AM

8
9 **Members Present:** Estrella Barrera, OTR
10 Blanca Cardenas, Public Member
11 Karen Gardner, OTR, Secretary
12 Eddie Jessie, Public Member
13 Stephanie Johnston, OTR, Chair
14 Sally King, COTA
15 Todd Novosad, OTR, Vice Chair

16
17 **Members Absent:** Jennifer Clark, COTA
18 Chelsea Howell, Public Member

19
20 **Counsel Present:** Rosalind Hunt, Assistant Attorney General

21
22 **Staff Present:** Amy Carter, Director of Enforcement
23 Randall Glines, Staff Services Officer
24 Ralph Harper, Executive Director
25 Nicole Palmer, Staff Services Officer
26 Lea Weiss, OT Coordinator

27
28 **The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners may discuss and/or take action on**
29 **any of the following agenda items. The Board may go into executive session on any**
30 **agenda item listed below as authorized by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government**
31 **Code Chapter 551.**

32
33 **1. Call to Order**

34 The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Stephanie Johnston, Presiding Officer, who was
35 physically present at the location of the meeting open to the public. Stephanie Johnston called
36 the roll and announced that a quorum existed.

37
38 **2. Excusing Board Member absences**

39 **Motion:** To approve the excuse of Jennifer Clark and Chelsea Howell for the
40 absence at the meeting

41 **Made by:** Estrella Barrera

42 **Second by:** Todd Novosad

43 **Motion passed.**

44
45 **3. Public Comment**

46 Leslie Smart, chair of the Standards and Practice Committee of the Texas Occupational
47 Therapy Association (TOTA), noted that the association had submitted a public comment. Lea
48 Weiss presented the comment Judith Joseph, Executive Director of TOTA, submitted on the
49 association's behalf requesting additional options for public access to board meetings.
50

51 **4. Minutes of November 7, 2025, meeting**

52 **Motion: To approve the minutes**

53 **Made by: Sally King**

54 **Second by: Estrella Barrera**

55 **Motion passed.**
56

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

60 Ralph Harper briefed the Board on fiscal and budgetary matters, recent legislative sessions,
61 other agency business and ongoing projects, and IT matters. Ralph Harper
62 addressed agency personnel matters and noted that there remained one unfilled licensing
63 position.
64

65 **6. Investigation Committee Report concerning:**

66 **A. Agreed Orders for case #s: 2025-00721, 2025-00850, 2025-00866,**
67 **2025-00868, 2025-00874, 2025-00875, 2025-00877, 2025-00878, 2025-00882,**
68 **2025-00934, 2025-00955, 2025-01022, 2025-01024, 2026-00004, 2026-00005,**
69 **2026-00087, 2026-00088, 2026-00090, 2026-00103, 2026-00119, 2026-00185,**
70 **and 2026-00252**

71 Amy Carter presented motions from the Investigation Committee to approve agreed orders for
72 the following case numbers: 2025-00875, 2025-00878, 2026-00252, 2025-00874, 2025-00877,
73 2026-00103, 2026-00090, 2026-00119, 2026-00185, 2025-00955, 2025-00868, 2026-00004,
74 2026-00088, and 2025-00721.
75

76 The Board approved the agreed orders.
77

78 Agreed orders for the remaining cases were not presented to the Board.
79

80 **B. Number of cases reviewed, Agreed Orders issued, informal conferences,**
81 **and other investigative matters discussed during the Investigation**
82 **Committee Meeting of December 12, 2025**

83 Amy Carter reported that one hundred twenty-eight cases were reviewed by the Investigation
84 Committee at the December 12, 2025, meeting. Twenty-one orders were issued by the
85 Investigation Committee, fourteen of which were accepted. One informal conference was held.
86

87 **C. Performance measures, on-site investigation visits, school presentations,**
88 **and other investigative activities during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026**

89 Amy Carter reported on performance measures, on-site investigation visits, school
90 presentations, and other investigative activities during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026.
91

92 **7. Proposing changes to 40 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §374.1, Disciplinary**
93 **Actions, including to correct a typo**

94 Lea Weiss and Amy Carter addressed the agenda item and noted changes that could be
95 proposed to the section to correct a typo.

96
97 **Motion: To approve publishing for public comment proposed rule §374.1, relating to**
98 **Disciplinary Actions**

99 **Made by: Karen Gardner**

100 **Second by: Eddie Jessie**

101 **Motion passed.**

102
103 **8. Proposed rule changes pursuant to SB 912 (89th Regular Legislative Session)**
104 **concerning a CE tracking system and the development of an RFO and/or RFP**

105 Lea Weiss addressed the agenda item and progress concerning the development for posting on
106 the Texas Comptroller's Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) of an RFO concerning the
107 implementation of a CE tracking system pursuant to SB 912.

108
109 **9. Request from the Office of the Governor concerning the Texas Regulatory**
110 **Efficiency Office (TREG)**

111 Lea Weiss addressed the agenda item and ongoing work regarding the request from
112 the Office of the Governor concerning TREG and a preliminary internal review of the Board's
113 rules pursuant to SB 14 of the 89th Regular Legislative Session.

114
115 **10. OT Coordinator's Report, concerning developments in the field of occupational**
116 **therapy and updates regarding regulatory matters in occupational therapy,**
117 **including Board licensing, CE audit, and entry-level occupational therapy**
118 **accreditation statistics and updates; recent and developing legislation; and trends**
119 **and developments in occupational therapy regulations**

120 Lea Weiss reported on Board licensing, CE audit, and entry-level occupational therapy
121 accreditation statistics and updates and legislation during the recent regular legislative session.

122
123 **11. Presiding Officer's Report, concerning developments in the field of occupational**
124 **therapy and updates regarding regulatory matters in occupational therapy,**
125 **including entry-level occupational-therapy accreditation updates; trends and**
126 **developments in occupational therapy regulations, practice, standards, and**
127 **guidelines; Board and committee appointment updates; and regulatory**
128 **conferences and events**

129 Stephanie Johnston noted that it was anticipated that new board members would be appointed
130 presently. Stephanie Johnston also shared information concerning an international trip she led
131 with her OTA students to study occupational therapy.

132
133 **12. Future Board meeting dates and agenda items for future consideration**

134 Stephanie Johnston noted that board meetings had been scheduled for May 1, 2026; August 7,
135 2026; October 30, 2026; and January 28, 2027, with possible committee meetings to be held
136 February 5 and 6, 2026; April 30 and May 1, 2026; August 6 and 7, 2026; October 29 and 30,
137 2026; and January 28 and 29, 2027.

138

139 **13. Adjournment**

140 The Board adjourned at 10:18 AM.

141

142 **Minutes approved on:** May 1, 2026