

# STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

August 8, 2015

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Members Present: Eric Gerken, Kittima Conrad, Linda Frasier, Deena Spaulding,  
Members Absent: Stacey Henderson  
Staff Present: Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director,  
Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Public Present: Shirise Smith and James McKivigen, Physical Therapy Board  
Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Speech-Language Pathology Audiology and  
Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

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The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Eric Gerken, Chair. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Eric Gerken welcomed Shirise Smith, James McKivigen and Rebecca Bailey-Torres and thanked them for taking the time to participate in the Board's Retreat and discussion relating to Productivity Issues Faced in Occupational Therapy Practice noting the issues of productivity apply to the speech therapy and physical therapy professions as well.

Board members and public introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their experience and practice areas.

### **Productivity Issues Faced in Occupational Therapy Practice**

Loretta Ponton explained the purpose of this meeting is to set the groundwork through a round table discussion for a potential Board document to assist practitioners when faced with challenges in the workplace regarding productivity and ethical decision making. The intent of the document would be to provide guidance and support for practitioners when faced with workplace and/or employment related challenges.

At the national level, the AOTA, APTA and ASHA associations have a Consensus Statement on Clinical Judgment in Health Care Setting, and the AOTA has a document related to Ethical Considerations for Productivity, Billing and Reimbursement. Today's practitioners in the therapy fields face increased pressures to meet "productivity" goals which may result in potential ethical issues including those related to documenting and/or billing for services.

Eric Gerken opened the discussion and referred the members to the discussion outline.

General discussion was heard from all individuals; discussions included:

- How therapists and employers view productivity;
  - therapists put the needs of the client first;
  - for employers, the bottom line is the most important
- The employers role and rights in determining what services are to be provided;

- Coding and billing for services, practitioner or employer responsibility, different employment settings utilize different structures
- Documentation, notes and time management challenges

Eric Gerken concluded the discussion and round table discussions and thanked each individual for their contributions to the session.

Loretta Ponton stated during the afternoon session, the members will be reviewing, discussing and developing a draft document on best practices for productivity and ethical considerations.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:15 and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Eric Gerken opened the afternoon session, noting that the members of the PT Board and Speech Board were not present for the afternoon session. Eric asked Loretta to facilitate the discussions.

Loretta directed the members to the outline for Best Practices and stated the sections were patterned after the national consensus statement. Each section of the document was reviewed, discussed and revised to reflect the consensus of the members.

Eric Gerken concluded the discussions, thanking all for their input and participation. Eric directed Loretta to draft the document for the Board's consideration at their next meeting.

A copy of the draft document as developed by the Board is attached.

**Public Comments** – No public comments were made.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.