



STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SUMMARY MINUTES PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

March 25, 2023

Members Present: Phil Seitz, Jose Pablo Castillo, Jocelyn Pereira, Allison Stone, Melanie Minarik
Staff Present: Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director
Stacey Whittaker, Director of Licensing & Operations
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General
Public Present: Jeanette Belz, Vanessa Dunn

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Seitz called the Board meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

Chair Seitz opened public comments. There were no comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Seitz called for approval of minutes.

Allison Stone made the motion, seconded by Melanie Minarik to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2023. The motion passed.

Governor's Executive Order 2023-004 Report

Executive Order 2023-004 Order Directing Professional and Occupational Licensing Boards to Suspend the Issuance of Any New Regulations, Show Cause for all Occupational Licensing Requirements and to Provide a Recommended Pathway for Facilitating Licensure Reciprocity. The Report is due to both the Governor's Office and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau by April 1, 2023.

Loretta Ponton presented a draft cover letter and EO 2023-004 report to the board for review. She also clarified that the Governor's Office has since provided an excel spreadsheet to be completed which will accompany the reports.

Jose Pablo Castillo made the motion, seconded by Allison Stone, to approve the EO 2023-004 report and cover letter as written. The motion passed.

Legislative Activities

Jeanette Belz of Belz and Case Government Affairs provided an update on the Board's bill and sponsor; legislative activities, and potential bills that may affect the Occupational Therapy profession and/or Board administration. To date, over 777 bills have been introduced this session (including 4 compact bills) and they have extended the deadline to March 27th. The OT Board Bill, AB-343 sponsored by Assemblyman CH Miller has been introduced and will be presented on March 31st.

The Board Members provided an update on their Legislative tour and floor session, which was also Nevada Occupational Therapy Association Day. NOTA was present and provided a great presentation. Board Members and Staff were able to meet with Assemblyman CH Miller who is sponsoring the OT Board Bill.

Personnel Benefits

Loretta Ponton presented current and proposed board personnel benefits to include Retirement and Medical Benefits and Personal Time Off. Board Personnel Policy ties retirement benefits (employer contributions to deferred compensation) to the State of Nevada personnel rates and PERS employer contribution rate. Effective July 1, 2023, the employer PERS contribution rate will increase by 2% to 17.5%

No change was recommended to the current retirement benefits (deferred compensation) as it is comparable to the State PERS retirement.

Medical benefits were discussed and recommended continuing a stipend at ½ the PEBS monthly premium. The Board could move toward adding medical benefits for full-time staff hired after 7/1/2023.

A revised Personal Time Off benefit schedule was presented and recommended to align with the State Personnel Policy.

The board discussed the benefits presented and felt that they are important for both recruitment and retention of board staff.

Chair Seitz made the motion, seconded by Allison Stone, to approve the Personal Time Off (PTO) changes as presented. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ponton reported on Governor's Executive Order 2023-003 and presented the initial draft to be discussed at the Public Hearing on April 6, 2023. Information included the Governor's Office template and summary of findings and recommendations in regards to a comprehensive review of board regulations.

Jose Pablo Castillo made the motion, seconded by Melanie Minarik, to approve the Executive Director's Report as presented. The motion carried.

Report from Deputy Attorney General – Henna Rasul stated she had nothing to report.

Board Activities & Reports from Members

Loretta Ponton presented an extended 2023 meeting and activities schedule to include the upcoming Public Hearing in April, meetings in May and August for Legislative Review, followed by personnel recruitment interviews and on-boarding meetings for September and November.

Public Comment – Chair Seitz opened the floor for public comments. There were no comments.

Adjournment – Chair Seitz adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.