

*Minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to revision at the next meeting.*



## STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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### SUMMARY MINUTES PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

November 4, 2023

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Members Present: Phil Seitz, Jose Pablo Castillo, Jocelyn Pereira, Allison Stone  
Members Absent: Melanie Minarik  
Staff Present: Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director  
Heather Hartley, Executive Director  
Stacey Whittaker, Director of Licensing & Operations  
Chricy Harris, Sr. Deputy Attorney General  
Public Present: Bethany Smith, Emerald Smith, Abigail Swidergal

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#### **Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum**

Chair Seitz called the Board meeting to order at 10:31 am. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

#### **Public Comments**

Chair Seitz called for public comments. Abigail Swidergal, OTA commented regarding the meeting being in-person only. The board has a zoom account with no additional costs that should be provided for members who want to attend.

Heather Hartley read into the record written public comments provided by Kristen Neville, AOTA and Susan Lingelbach, NOTA. There were no further comments.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Seitz called for approval of minutes.

Allison Stone made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2023. The motion passed.

#### **Consideration of Revised Proposed Regulation**

Loretta Ponton explained that the following regulation revisions are being presented in response to the public comments received at the September 23, 2023 Public Workshop.

**Sec 1.2: New Section** – Specialty and advanced practice areas of emphasis requirements to include competence, documentation, and written consent in certain circumstances.

**Sec 6: NAC 640A.070** – removes requirement to re-take the Nevada Occupational Therapy Jurisprudence Examination; add new criteria for credit for continuing education if licensees hold current certification from

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the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy and adds paragraph 8 on the conversion of continuing education to contact hours.

**Sec 7: NAC 640A.090** – restructures section, increases allowable hours for specialty or advance practice certification and creates new paragraph 4 on acceptable documentation for continuing education.

**Sec 10: NAC 640A.155** – removes fee for returned payments and authorizes the Board to charge a convenience fee for credit and debit card payments.

**Sec 11: NAC 640A.160** – revises licensing fees charged by the Board.

After discussing these sections at great length, Allison Stone made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Castillo, to approve the revised proposed regulations as written with one change to Sec 1.2: subsection 1 removing the language “or performing any internal or external therapeutic procedures requiring touching of the genitalia or breasts”.

The motion passed.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Heather Hartley provided a report on licensure statistics, FY24 financial statements, office operations and activities, complaint status, and upcoming board member vacancies. There were no further comments.

### **Report from Deputy Attorney General**

Deputy Attorney General Chricy Harris stated she had nothing to report.

### **Board Activities & Reports from Members**

Heather Hartley presented the 2024 Meeting and Activities Schedule, and a future board retreat was discussed. Chair Seitz made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira, to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented. The motion passed. Loretta Ponton presented Allison Stone with a service award for her seven years of service on the board. Loretta also acknowledged Melanie Minarik’s service with the board and her service award will be given to her back in Reno. There were no further comments.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Seitz opened the floor for public comments. Abigail Swidergal, OTA thanked Allie Stone for her service with the board. Abigail commented that she believes there to be incongruent language in both the board packet and the Jurisprudence Exam; some areas recognize NBCOT Certification, some do not. She also stated that it would be nice for OTA’s to be recognized and included in the language; she heard OT referenced repeatedly today but not OTA. Although the increase in fees were approved today, Ms. Swidergal, OTA also wanted to express her concerns with the increase in fees, especially for new graduates. There were no further comments.

**Adjournment** – Chair Seitz adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am