



STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SUMMARY MINUTES PUBLIC BOARD MEETING April 13, 2024

Members Present: Jose Pablo Castillo, Christopher Liebl, Melanie Minarik,
Jocelyn Pereira, Phil Seitz

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Heather Hartley, Executive Director
Stacey Whittaker, Director of Licensing & Operations
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General

Public Present: Nathan Edwards, Casey Marano, Robyn Otty

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

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

Public Comments

Chair Castillo called for public comments. Casey Marano, OT stated that she is a Certified Hand Therapist and would like to put forth support for PAMS, specifically Dry Needling. Since it is recognized at the national level, she would like to see the State revisit the topic. They often lose patients to Physical Therapy since they cannot perform Dry Needling. There were no further comments.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Liebl made the motion, seconded by Phil Seitz to approve the minutes of the meetings of March 2, 2024 and April 5, 2024. The motion passed.

Consideration of Application for License pursuant to NRS 640A.020 (for possible action)

Nathan Edwards, OT

Mr. Edwards submitted his initial application to the Board on March 8, 2024. Mr. Edwards answered affirmative to the question, "Has there ever been a complaint filed, investigation or legal action taken against your professional license for any reason?"

Mr. Edwards was alleged to be practicing without a license in Ohio from on or about December 7, 2020, to on or about July 1, 2021. His Ohio license was issued on July 7, 2021. The Ohio Consent Agreement went into effect on November 11, 2021. Mr. Edwards fulfilled all obligations of the Ohio Consent Agreement as of July 25, 2022.

Statements from Mr. Edwards were read into the record, Chair Castillo opened the item up for discussion.

After discussion and review of documentation, Vice Chair Liebl motioned to approve the application for licensure for Nathan Edwards, OT, seconded by Chair Castillo. The motion passed.

Hearing for Determination of Violation of Consent Decree (for possible action)

Nicole Kohnert, OTA-2242, Case No. 24-01

Executive Director Hartley provided a summary of events leading up to the Hearing for Determination of Violation of Consent Decree. A Notice of Suspension and Hearing was issued on March 11, 2024, pending a Hearing before the Board for a determination of violation of the Consent Decree and whether to impose any penalty authorized by NRS 640A.200, including but not limited to revocation of Ms. Kohnert's license to practice as an Occupational Therapist Assistant in the State of Nevada.

It is alleged that Ms. Kohnert violated the Consent Decree by not providing a copy of the signed Consent Decree to her employers and to the Board and knowingly providing a false employment start date to the Board.

Ms. Kohnert was not present at the Hearing and has indicated by email that she has moved from the state of Nevada. Ms. Kohnert has previously complied with a payment plan for assessed fine/legal fees; however, has missed the March payment deadline.

Henna Rasul, Board Counsel instructed the Board that two items must be addressed; determine if there was a violation of the Consent Decree and if so, what discipline will be imposed.

After Board discussion, Vice Chair Liebl made the motion that Ms. Kohnert violated the terms of the Consent Decree, seconded by Melanie Minarik. The motion passed.

Chair Castillo asked the Board Members for discussion on proposed disciplinary action.

Phil Seitz made the motion to impose a 5-year revocation of license, with reinstatement option after 5 years if terms of Consent Decree are met, legal fees are paid in full, and current license requirements must be met. Melanie Minarik seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Executive Director Report

Heather Hartley provided updates on Business & Industry, Legislative Activities including Board Regulation update, Office Administration, and the NOTA meet and greet in Reno, Nevada. There were no further comments.

Report from Deputy Attorney General

Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General had no report.

Board Activities & Reports from Members

Executive Director Hartley provided a Meeting and Activities Schedule for the Board with the June meeting focusing on the FY25 Budget and New Board Member Orientation. August will include further discussion of advanced practice areas and an NBCOT presentation to the Board. November meeting will be the Audit approval. There were no further comments.

Public Comment

Chair Castillo opened the floor for public comments, there were none.

Adjournment – Chair Castillo adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am