



## STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

---

### SUMMARY MINUTES PUBLIC BOARD MEETING November 9, 2024

---

Members Present:	Christopher Liebl, Jocelyn Pereira
Members Absent:	Philip Seitz
Staff Present:	Heather Hartley, Executive Director Stacey Whittaker, Director of Licensing & Operations Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	Lea Case, Connie Christiansen, Julia Graham, Kristen Neville, Matt Olivier

---

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

Chair Liebl called the Board meeting to order at 9:33 am. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present; there are currently two Board Member vacancies pending appointment by the Governor's Office.

#### **Public Comments**

Chair Liebl called for public comments. Kristen Neville, AOTA stated that she received an email from Nevada Medicaid regarding their upcoming workshop on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Executive Director Hartley confirmed she received the email as well.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Jocelyn Pereira made the motion, seconded by Chair Liebl to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2024. The motion passed.

#### **Disciplinary Matter – Consideration of Consent Decree, Case 24-06 Vanessa Piggot, OT 12-0243**

Executive Director Hartley confirmed that Board Members had received and reviewed the proposed Consent Decree for Vanessa Piggot, OT. Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General summarized the terms of the Consent Decree.

Chair Liebl called for a motion. Jocelyn Pereira made the motion, seconded by Chair Liebl to approve the Consent Decree for Vanessa Piggot, OT in complaint case C24-06 as presented. The motion passed.

#### **Legislative Activities**

Lea Case with Belz and Case Government Affairs provided the Board with an update on Legislative Activities including the 2024 Election, Pending Legislative Seat Appointments, Governor Actions, and the Nevada Office of Boards, Commissions & Council Standards –

Business & Industry. The proposed restructuring of Nevada's Occupational Licensing Boards under Business & Industry was discussed and highlights of their proposal were presented. Chair Liebl called for questions or comments, there were none.

### **Work Session regarding Dry Needling**

Executive Director Hartley opened the work session, stating that the Legislative Counsel Bureau has determined that Dry Needling must be authorized through Legislation. The Board of Occupational Therapy currently has a position statement on Dry Needling drafted in 2019. Both the Nevada Physical Therapy Board and the Nevada Athletic Trainer Board have passed legislation authorizing Dry Needling. The question is whether the Board of Occupational Therapy wishes to pursue legislation for the 2027 Session.

Stacey Whittaker, Director of Licensing and Operations, read into record two written public comments in support of Dry Needling submitted by Sarah Taing, UNLV Student and Althea Rivera, UNLV Student.

Matt Olivier with the Nevada Occupational Therapy Association (NOTA) expressed his excitement with this discussion and feels that it will open up services for Occupational Therapy practitioners. His research shows that other State's efforts are varied with different avenues taken. Kristen Neville with AOTA stated that she has been following Dry Needling since 2017 and it has been codified in approximately 4 to 5 States. Ms. Neville further stated that AOTA's position on Dry Needling is that it is within the scope of practice of Occupational Therapy but is certainly not an entry level modality. There is an upcoming webinar on Dry Needling being presented by AOTA.

Chair Liebl voiced his concern that it is difficult to make any decisions with only two Board Members in attendance and two Board Member vacancies; there needs to be more input and full transparency. Board Member Pereira agrees that the item should be tabled until more Board Members are present. There was no further discussion.

### **Approval of Biennial Audit Report for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024**

Chair Liebl called on Connie Christiansen, CPA. Ms. Christiansen presented the Biennial Audit Report prepared by Christiansen Accounting Network for Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Ms. Christiansen stated she is pleased to report the Board received an overall clean report, very smooth and timely. Items of note were new accounting principles in place for this audit and the 2024 accrued leave payout to the outgoing Executive Director. There were no questions or comments.

Chair Liebl made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira to approve the Board's Biennial Audit for the period ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024 as presented. The motion passed.

### **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Hartley provided updates on Board Office Administrative Activities to include Licensure Statistics as of September 30, 2024, FY 25 Financial Statements, Office Operations, Department of Business & Industry, Board Member Vacancies and Complaint Status.

Revised Policies and Procedures were also presented for review and approval to include:

*Operating Policies and Procedures, Board Policy Manual, Personnel Policies & Procedures, and Board Member Manual.*

Jocelyn Pereira made the motion, seconded by Chair Liebl to approve the policy and procedure changes as presented. The motion passed.

### **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 Calendar Year 2025. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2025 followed by the Board Retreat/Strategic Planning Session in Carson City, March 27-29.

**Public Comment**

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

**Adjournment**

Chair Liebl adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.