

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



STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SUMMARY MINUTES PUBLIC BOARD MEETING July 19, 2025

Members Present: Christopher Liebl, Philip Seitz, Jocelyn Pereira, Chelsea Gonzalez,

Members Absent: Scott Oakley

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

Public Present: Lea Cartwright, Peggy McElgunn, Robert Porter, Sabrina Schnur,
Deanna Yates

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Liebl called the Board meeting to order at 9:37 am. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Chair Liebl called for public comments, there were none.

Approval of Minutes

Jocelyn Pereira made the motion, seconded by Chelsea Gonzalez, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2025. The motion passed.

Legislative Activities

Lea Cartwright of Cartwright Nevada Government Affairs (formerly Belz & Case Government Affairs) provided a written Legislative Report with an update of the 2025 Legislative Session, Governor Actions, and Interim Activities. Bills of particular interest to the Board were discussed and included SB78, SB425, SB507, AB601, AB64, AB106, AB125, AB506, AB484, SB113 and SB274.

The Board members did not have any additional questions or comments.

Disciplinary Matter – Consideration of Consent Decree, Katherine Schweitzer, OT-3520, C25-03

Executive Director Hartley confirmed that Board members had received and reviewed the proposed Consent Decree for Katherine Schweitzer, 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 Phil Seitz to approve the Consent Decree for Katherine Schweitzer, OT in complaint case C25-03 as presented. The motion passed.

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Disciplinary Matter – Consideration of Consent Decree, Taryn Bergman, OTA-3167, C25-04

Executive Director Hartley confirmed that Board members had received and reviewed the proposed Consent Decree for Taryn Bergman, OTA. Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General, summarized the terms of the Consent Decree. Chair Liebl called for a motion. Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Phil Seitz to approve the Consent Decree for Taryn Bergman, OTA in complaint case C25-04 as presented. The motion passed.

Hearing for Determination of Violation of Disciplinary Order, Robert Porter, OTA-3546, C25-05

Robert Porter appeared before the Board at their meeting on August 24, 2024, for consideration of application of license. The Board approved the issuance of a Nevada OTA license to Robert Porter with probation for two (2) years and the terms and conditions as indicated in the disciplinary order. A Supervisory Audit was conducted on April 30, 2025. Board staff was informed on May 15, 2025, that Robert Porter's Supervising OT and employment had terminated on March 14, 2025. Board staff contacted Highland Manor of Fallon Rehabilitation to receive a second confirmation of employment dates for Robert Porter. An email response indicating that Robert was employed from December 16, 2024, to March 14, 2025.

On May 29, 2025, Robert Porter was sent the Notice of Disciplinary Hearing Letter. Robert responded to the email indicating receipt of the notice and that he was unaware of the need to contact the Board regarding his change in employment as he did not quit. Robert stated that he was not terminated as he asked to take a break and not be scheduled until July 1st due to a family matter. Robert also indicated that this was discussed with his supervisor, and he plans to reach out at the end of June to see if he is needed.

Board staff conducted further investigation to discover that Robert Porter was employed with Highland Manor of Fallon in a PRN capacity as he did not have a set schedule but was scheduled as needed. Robert had not shown up for multiple shifts in March. Robert informed his supervisor that he no longer had availability to work at the facility for the foreseeable future. Robert was notified by his supervisor that he would be terminated due to resignation secondary to his change in availability. The facility administrator and on-site director of rehab were then notified of Robert's resignation.

As indicated in the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order; 7. Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, within five (5) days of any change in employment status. Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, within five (5) days if he is terminated from any occupational therapy or healthcare related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination.

Mr. Porter was in attendance at the Hearing and extensive discussion and questions were raised by the Board. Mr. Porter felt that the confusion stems from working in a per diem capacity and the difference between not working for a period of time vs. resigning/terminating employment. Mr. Porter indicated that he must work per-diem positions to allow for flexibility to manage family matters.

Chair Liebl reiterated that the Board must determine if a violation of Mr. Porter's 2024 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order had occurred. Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General, referred the Board to items 5 and 7 of the disciplinary order and Ms. Hartley read them into record. Mr. Porter stated that because he travels from state to state for family/personal matters, he needs specific guidelines from the Board as to what type of information must be reported.

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Vice Chair Seitz made the motion to continue the original terms of Mr. Porter's 2024 Disciplinary Order in addition to a 1-year suspension – stayed. Mr. Porter must also report to the Board if he has not been scheduled to work within 30 days. Further violations will result in the automatic suspension of Mr. Porter's license. Jocelyn Pereira seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion, Review and Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Executive Director Hartley presented the FY26 Budget and Reserve Funds Analysis provided in the Board Packet. Discussion centered around budget deviations and measures to reduce costs through legislative services and board education/travel. Vice Chair Seitz made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira, to approve the FY26 Budget and Reserve Funds Analysis as presented. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Hartley provided a report on Board Administrative Activities to include licensure statistics, 4th quarter FY25 financial statements, Wells Fargo investments, Department of Business & Industry, legislative items, and an update on current complaints.

Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira, to approve the Executive Director's Report and 4th quarter FY25 financials as presented. The motion passed.

Board staff have prepared a Supervision Guideline resource to be posted on the Board's website as requested by the Board. Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira, to approve the Supervision Guidelines 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 noted that upcoming Board meetings will be held on September 13, 2025 and November 8, 2025.

Ms. Hartley informed the Board that she will not be attending the FARB Conference July 24-26 in Denver, Colorado, as previously approved by the Board. The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) will be holding a more suitable online conference in September 2025 that Ms. Hartley would like to attend.

Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira, to approve Executive Director Hartley attending the virtual conference through CLEAR instead of the previously approved FARB Conference. The motion passed.

Further discussions were held regarding the upcoming NBCOT Forum and NOTA Advocacy Committee Meeting.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment – Chair Liebl adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.