



STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SUMMARY MINUTES PUBLIC BOARD MEETING November 8, 2025

Members Present: Christopher Liebl, Philip Seitz, Chelsea Gonzalez, Scott Oakley

Members Absent: Jocelyn Pereira

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

Public Present: Lea Cartwright, 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.

Public Comment

Chair Liebl called for public comments, there were none.

Approval of Minutes

Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Seitz, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2025. The motion passed.

Legislative Activities

Lea Cartwright of Cartwright NV Government Affairs provided both a written and verbal Legislative Report. The report provided an update on recent Governor's Actions, Elections, and Interim Legislative Activity. Ms. Cartwright also addressed the Legislative Special Session and the Department of Business and Industry's proposed regulations to streamline boards and commissions. There were no further questions or comments.

Disciplinary Matter – Recommendation for Dismissal of Complaint No. C25-06

Executive Director Hartley presented Case No. C25-06, alleging unprofessional conduct and violation of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. After review of all documentation received, it has been determined that there is insufficient evidence to file a formal complaint for hearing before the Board. Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Seitz, to dismiss Complaint Case C25-06. The motion passed.

Work Session regarding Dry Needling

Chair Liebl opened the work session by stating that the Legislative Counsel Bureau has determined that specific authority must be granted in law (Nevada Revised Statute), authorizing dry needling within scope of practice. Based upon this determination, the Nevada OT Board issued a Dry Needling Advisory Notice in 2019 that proclaimed dry needling was not within the scope of practice of Occupational Therapy.

The Nevada Board of Athletic Trainers and Board of Physical Therapy introduced legislation in 2019, and Senate Bill 186 was approved by the Legislature. Similar legislation would be required of the Board of Occupational Therapy to authorize dry needling within the OT scope of practice. The Board was provided with SB186 and the regulations implementing dry needling for the Nevada Athletic Trainer and Physical Therapy Boards. A State-by-State Licensing Entity Actions document on dry needling was also provided by AOTA for reference.

The Board discussed interdisciplinary education pathways and course standards and felt that Occupational Therapists are qualified to conduct dry needling with the implementation of education and training requirements. Vice Chair Seitz made the motion, seconded by Scott Oakley for the Board to pursue potential legislation for the 2027 Legislative Session to expand the scope of practice of Occupational Therapy to include the performance of dry needling. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of New and/or Revisions of Regulations

Recommendations for new and revised Board Regulations (NAC640A) were presented by Executive Director Hartley. Recommendations included establishing guidelines for self-reporting of complaints or legal charges, and revisions to NAC640A.062 Temporary Licensing. Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Seitz, to approve the regulation revisions as presented. The motion passed.

Revised Policies and Procedures

Executive Director Hartley presented in detail Board Policy Manual revisions to Section 2 - Continuing Education, Section 3 - Supervision, Section 4 - Compliance, Section 5 - Administrative Sanctions/ Complaints, Disciplinary Guidelines, and Challenges in School Based Practice. Changes to the Board's policies and procedures are to conform with recent regulation changes.

Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Seitz, to approve the revised policies and procedures as presented. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Hartley provided a report on Board Office Administrative Activities to include licensure statistics, FY26 financial statements, Department of Business and Industry, licensing database and website, NBCOT Forum and an update on current complaints. Ms. Hartley updated the Board on investment options for the Board and that correspondence has occurred with First Independent Bank and Aspire Capital Advisors regarding the purchase of CDs. Ms. Hartley has also researched local Credit Unions to compare current CD rates. Executive Director Hartley recommended keeping the Board's checking account and business credit card with Wells Fargo and move investment funds to First Independent Bank.

Vice Chair Seitz made the motion, seconded by Chelsea Gonzalez, to approve the investment of Board funds through First Independent Bank with authorized signatories as Heather Hartley, Christopher Liebl, and Chelse Gonzalez. The motion passed.

Chelsea Gonzalez made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Seitz, to approve the Executive Director Report and Board Financials as reported. 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 stated that the next Board meeting will be held on January 24, 2026 to appoint a new Board Chair and Board Officers in addition to a Regulation Workshop. March 14, 2026 meeting would include the Executive Director's Annual Evaluation and Regulation Hearing. Subsequent meetings will be held in June and September of 2026.

Vice Chair Seitz made the motion, seconded by Chelsea Gonzalez to approve the 2026 meeting schedule as presented, the motion passed.

Ms. Hartley presented Phil Seitz with a service award in recognition of his Board member service from 2020-2025. His term will end on December 31, 2025 and is not eligible for reappointment.

Public Comment

Chair Liebl opened the floor for public comments. Kristen Neville, AOTA asked whether Nevada is taking any action to address Medicaid's recent changes. Lea Cartwright was not on the line to respond, and Executive Director Hartley stated that she would follow up with both Lea and Kristen on the matter. There were no further comments.

Adjournment – Chair Liebl adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.