

*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 May 26, 2026

Members Present: Chelsea Gonzalez, Christopher Liebl, Scott Oakley, Jocelyn Pereira, Katherine Varughese

Members Absent: None

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

Public Present: Lester John Buenviaje, Julia Graham, Karissa Herrera, Kristen Neville, Matt Olivier, Robyn Otty, Mary Angela Terencio

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

Chair Gonzalez called the Board meeting to order at 1:03 pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

#### **Public Comment**

Chair Gonzalez called for public comments, there were none.

#### **Consideration of Application for Standard License pursuant to NRS 640A.120 and Citation for Unlicensed Practice; Administrative Fine pursuant to NRS 640A.230 Lester John Buenviaje, OT**

Executive Director Hartley explained to the Board that these two agenda items, 3 and 4, will be combined and provided the Board with an overview. The Board received an application for licensure from Mr. Buenviaje on May 2, 2026. The application indicated that Mr. Buenviaje had been employed and practicing in Nevada as an Occupational Therapist for Orange Tree Staffing from January 2025 – May 2025 and Clark County School District from July 2025 to present. Mr. Buenviaje holds current certification as an OTR with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy since October 2024.

Board Staff issued a Cease and Desist to Mr. Buenviaje on May 7, 2026, and a subsequent notice that his application would have to go before the Board. Mr. Buenviaje was very remorseful for his oversight and immediately stopped practicing when notified by the Board.

Chair Gonzalez called for a motion to issue Mr. Buenviaje a citation for unlicensed practice. Vice Chair Liebl made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira. Katherine Varughese abstained due to knowledge of the applicant. The motion passed.

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Chair Gonzalez called for a motion to approve the application for licensure for Mr. Buenviaje. Vice Chair Liebl made the motion, seconded by Jocelyn Pereira. Katherine Varughese abstained. The motion passed.

Chair Gonzalez opened the meeting for discussion on administering Mr. Buenviaje an administrative fine for unlicensed practice. Executive Director Hartley explained the process and that NRS allows an assessment of no more than \$5,000. Board members expressed concern regarding the extensive length of time of unlicensed practice and felt that \$750 to \$1,000 would be appropriate.

Vice Chair Liebl made the motion, seconded by Scott Oakley to issue Mr. Buenviaje a \$1,000 fine for unlicensed practice. Katherine Varughese abstained. The motion passed.

The Board also advised Mr. Buenviaje to address any billing concerns with his employers during the period of unlicensed practice. There were no further questions or comments.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Hartley provided a brief report on licensure statistics, office operations, and proposed regulations.

The Commission on Professional Standards in Education has redrafted Regulation LCB File No. R102-25. The redraft now indicates that occupational therapists must hold a license with the OT Board and have a bachelor's degree or higher in occupational therapy to receive an endorsement.

The Department of Business and Industry, Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions, and Councils Standards held a hearing for Regulation LCB File No. R074-25 on May 11, 2026. The regulations were adopted as presented at the hearing.

Ms. Hartley provided an update on the Board's regulation R094-25 that the adopted regulation has been submitted to LCB to be placed on the agenda for the Legislative Commission meeting scheduled for June 30, 2026 for review and approval.

Big Picture has begun working on the Board's website to meet ADA Compliance.

Ms. Hartley provided an update on current complaints. There were no further questions or comments.

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

Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General, had no report.

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

Executive Director Hartley presented the Board meeting and activities schedule for the remainder of 2026. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is July 18, 2026. There were no further reports or comments from the Board Members.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Gonzalez called for public comment. Kristen Neville, AOTA thanked Executive Director Hartley for her time and efforts in collaborating with the Nevada Department of Education on their proposed regulations of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education. Ms. Neville requested that Board staff send current license statistics for Active Licensees. Ms. Hartley indicated that was not a problem and would follow up. There were no further comments.

**Adjournment** – Chair Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 1:31pm.