

Board of Occupational Therapy Virtual Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

1. Roll call

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Chair, called the virtual meeting of the Board of Occupational Therapy to order at 9:02 a.m. on January 28, 2025, in the lower-level Otoe Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on January 13, 2025.

Walsh-Sterup announced that this is an open meeting and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present:

The following members answered roll call:

Mary Walsh-Sterup, Chair
Dr. Marcus Doughty, Vice-Chair
Nancy Peetz, Member
Dr. Alfred Bracciano, Secretary (via Webex)

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kirsten Coniglio, Health Licensing Specialist
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Kat Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney

Members of the Public Addressing the Board

Erin Westover, Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association President
Melissa Kimmerling, Nebraska Ambassador to the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Peetz moved, seconded by Doughty to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, Peetz. Voting nay, none. Motion carried.

3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot

Reaffirmation of the mail ballot approving the meeting minutes of August 27, 2024, will be reported at the next Board meeting.

4. Closed Session

Motion: Doughty moved, seconded by Bracciano, to move into closed session at 9:10 a.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, Peetz. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Board returned to open session at 9:49 a.m.

5. Board Recommendations on Applications

No recommendations were made.

6. Application Timeframes/Stakeholder Outreach

The addition to applications of a statement from the Department addressing timeframes for application processing was discussed.

a. Licensure Application Processing Report

The Application Processing Report is offered for informational purposes only.

7. Legislative Update

The content and progress of LB 630 and the Board's role in the legislative process was discussed.

8. Notice of Meeting Publication

Doughty moved, seconded by Walsh-Sterup, that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Open Meetings Act, the notice of meetings of this Board be posted virtually on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Licensure Board Meeting Agenda page, posted physically on the Board Meeting Agenda billboard in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building, and disseminated to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, Peetz. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

9. Per Diem

Motion: Peetz moved, seconded by Walsh-Sterup, that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-171, each member of the Board shall receive in 2025 a per diem of \$50.00 and that each Board meeting shall include one half-day of preparation for which each member of the Board shall receive 50% of this per diem. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, Peetz. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

10. Election of Board Officers

Motion: Peetz moved, seconded by Bracciano, to elect the following slate of officers and consultants to a one-year term pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-169 and Department request: Dr. Marcus Doughty, Chair; Dr. Alfred Bracciano, Vice Chair; Mary Walsh-Sterup, Secretary; Dr. Alfred Bracciano, Educational Consultant; Mary Walsh-Sterup, Investigative Consultant. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, Peetz. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

11. Delegates to national meetings

Motion: Peetz moved, seconded by Doughty, to elect Walsh-Sterup as delegate to the 2025 American Occupational Therapy Association conference and exposition (INSPIRE) held April 3 through April 5 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Voting aye: Bracciano, Doughty, Walsh-Sterup, Peetz. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

12. Occupational Therapy Compact Update

Covert-ByBee stated that the 2024 Occupational Therapy Compact Commission Annual Report had been provided to the Board and shared that the Compact's goal is to become operational in August 2025.

13. Occupational Therapy Credentialing Review Update

Covert-ByBee stated that the latest available minutes of the Occupational Therapists Technical Review Committee had been provided to the Board. Kimmerling provided an update on the credentialing review process.

14. NOTA Updates

Westover provided an update on the current priorities on the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association and shared that the 2025 annual conference will be held on March 22 at College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

15. NBCOT Updates

Kimmerling provided an update on upcoming staffing and officer changes at the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy and called for topics from the Board to be taken to the NBCOT.

16. Licensure Database Transition Update

Covert-ByBee provided an update on the licensure database transition and shared that the Licensure Unit's goal is to go live with the new database on February 27, 2025.

17. Topics for Next Meeting

Topics identified for the next meeting include Occupational Therapy Compact update, legislative update, National Occupational Therapy Association update, Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association update, credentialing review update, American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE update, application processing report, and licensure database transition update.

18. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

19. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Alfred Bracciano