



State Board for Occupational Therapy
Tel. (518) 474-3817 ext. 100
Fax (518) 473-0532
E-mail: otbd@nysed.gov

BOARD MEETING NOTES

Date: Friday, February 19, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: New York City, Albany, Syracuse Offices and via WebEx

In Attendance:

Rebecka Cox, Chair

Jaime Spencer-Edelmann

Janet Falk-Kessler

Richard Sabel

Kelly Van Auken

Christina Amato, Staff

Eric Andrus, Staff

Kellie Murphy, Executive Secretary

Jeff Tomlinson, NYSOTA

Michele Scanlon, NYSOTA

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:17am.

Murphy provided board office updates which included updates on license statistics, there are three Doctor of Occupational Therapy programs pending with our program review office with RIT and Touro University in Central Islip and Manhattan receiving provisional candidacy according to ACOTE's website. Currently, there are 10 OTA programs registered in New York State with one that has gone inactive and two that are on probation with the accreditor. Licensure numbers for both OT and OTA showed a slight decline from 2023 to 2024 which is concerning.

Murphy also shared the status of the Social Worker examination and how this has led to a larger conversation regarding the evaluation of professional examinations for implicit bias. The Board shared some programs provide additional resources to support graduates in passing the examination. Also recommended reaching out to NBCOT for any needed examination data.

The Board discussed the current continuing education requirement. Murphy shared that the Department's restriction on self-directed online study and how it often will hold up licensees applying for delayed and/or conditional registrations. Currently Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants are required to complete 36 continuing education hours every three years and no more than 24 of those hours may be self-directed online learning. The Board recommended we review NBCOT requirements but understood that in person requirements may be difficult for rural practitioners and those with technology challenges.

Tomlinson provided legislative updates and potential bills that are introduced for the 2025-2026 legislative session. Some items that were discussed were: the workers compensation bill which allowed OTAs to receive 85% reimbursement and added additional supervision requirements beyond what is required in their scope, a bill is introduced that would OT personnel as a pupil personnel title within school districts, issues within the EI Hub persist, the licensure compact has been reintroduced, proposed changes to corporations law and limited liability corporations. It was also shared that NYSOTA advocacy day is February 25th.

During open discussion Murphy shared the potential for Department of Health to take over the licensing of Physicians, Physician Assistants, and Specialist Assistants as they currently discipline these professions. It was also shared that the Child Abuse workshop has had a revision to its content and all mandated reporters must re-take the workshop. This does not directly impact licensed Occupational Therapists; however, those that work in a school setting will most likely need to meet this requirement.

Murphy shared some information on discipline statistics for the 2024 year, 3 cases were opened in 2024 against OTAs, and 13 cases against OTs. The unprofessional conduct noted ranged from Negligence/Incompetence, Refusal of Service, Fraud, Conviction of a Crime, and Substance abuse. The Board then voted to enter Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned and next meeting will be June 27, 2025.