



State Board for Occupational Therapy
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BOARD MEETING NOTES

Date: Friday, June 27, 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
Janet Falk-Kessler
Richard Sabel
Kelly Van Auken
Kim Ann Mahoney
Jaime Spencer-Edelmann
Sharon Sedlak

Christina Amato, Staff
Eric Andrus, Staff
Kellie Murphy, Executive Secretary

Jeff Tomlinson, NYSOTA
Michele Scanlon, NYSOTA
Beth Jordan, NBCOT
Francelle Pineda, NBCOT

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Due to lack of quorum, meeting minutes from June 27, 2025 were not reviewed and finalized.

Murphy shared that we have been invited to the NYSOTA conference and shared details on the presentation seeking input and insights from the board. Murphy also shared information regarding the Professional Assistance Program (PAP) seeking members. The PAP is a confidential, treatment-based alternative to disciplinary program. It is available to professionals whose actions have not resulted in patient harm and allows the licensee to voluntarily surrender their license(s) while seeking substance abuse treatment. You do not need to be a Board Member to become a member of the PAP. Those interested, or those who may know of someone who is interested are encouraged to contact Murphy for further information and details on how to apply.

Discussion continued regarding the decline in New York State graduates and new licenses issued in Occupational Therapy. We have received approval to reach out to OTA program directors to learn more about potential pipeline issues.

A continued conversation on Artificial Intelligence continued with a statement under review by the Board. Further review was recommended after the state board had the opportunity to review a presentation by NBCOT which discusses AI technology use in OT practice. The statement was tabled for the time being.

Spencer-Edelmann led a discussion on the role of OTs in vision within schools. OTs are uniquely positioned to screen students, or identify red flags, for potential vision issues and refer or recommend they seek a formal vision examination/evaluation.

Falk-Kessler raised concerns regarding the change in form to align with statutory requirements for the Limited Permit. The form previously allowed programs to attest an applicant has completed their education requirements rather than reporting the date of degree conferral. Review of the form and the statutory requirement found allowing programs to report the date program requirements were completed was not in alignment with the statutory requirement. Board members raised concerns about this change as it inhibits applicants who may wait months to receive their degree from obtaining their Limited Permit. This can cause delays or disruptions in patient care.

Continued open discussion included difficulties obtaining OTs in early intervention due to low reimbursement rates, Why Choose OT? Campaign and website established by NBCOT, see a need for civil service reform when hiring OTs including in schools. It was shared that OTs recently moved from a grade 18 to a state grade 20.

The meeting adjourned and next meeting will be October 24, 2025.