

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 9, 2012

OPEN SESSION

The Open Session of the Board of Occupational Therapy was called to order at 3:00 pm on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board members in attendance: Board members not in attendance:

Kim Gilbert, Chair Eugene Leco

Janet Rivard Michaud

William Buonanno, MD Staff members in attendance:

J. Michel Martineau

Board members express interest in soliciting volunteers to fill the OT vacancy on the board and direct the administrator to forward to them the appropriate HEALTH website link (please see below) established to facilitate communications with an Assistant to the Director on this matter. <http://www.health.ri.gov/partners/licensingboards/index.php>

The minutes of the open and closed session held on January 11, 2012 were presented. On motion by Janet Rivard Michaud, seconded by Kim Gilbert, a motion was made to accept the minutes; the vote to pass was unanimous.

Board members review a communication from AOTA addressing updated language. Also reviewed was an email communication from Mr. Stang addressing alleged disrespect and exploitation of professionals.

Board members reviewed and discussed a communication from a RI licensed PT seeking clarification on the OT and OTA scope of practice. Board members direct the administrator to respond indicating an OTA follows the plans of the OT, the OTA may recommend changes, but may not change orders by themselves. The OTA is a qualified professional and should maintain communication with the OT as it pertains to observations relating to patient compliance and progress with therapy. Most significantly, it is important that the supervising OT review this matter of inquiry and all matters pertaining to the OT and OTA in the healthcare environment.

Board members review an inquiry from NBCOT as it pertains to Physical Agent Modalities (PAM). Members direct the administrator to respond advising that PAM is within the scope of practice for a RI licensed OT, no specific post graduation education or credentialing is

required, although the facility may choose to develop internal competency training for staff.

The HEALTH regulations writer asks if the board is considering extending the 90 day period of the Grad Status permit. This inquiry is the result of the PT board recently voting to seek to extend the Grad Status permit period from 90 days to 180 days. The department advises polling all boards with a similar Permit before pursuing changes. OT board members indicate they see no need to consider changes, but will reconsider in the future if the need arises.

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of Kim Gilbert, seconded by Janet Rivard Michaud, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michel Martineau

Administrator, Health Professions