



**BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

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**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 2008

**Board Members Present**

Mary Evert, President  
Nancy Michel  
Bobbi Jean Tanberg  
Christine Wietlisbach

**Board Staff Present**

Heather Martin, Executive Officer  
Norine Marks, Legal Counsel  
Jeff Hanson, Analyst  
Scott Forrington, Office Technician

**Board Members Absent**

Patti Horsley

**Guests**

Paul Grace, Executive Director, National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)  
Shaun Conway, Director for Credentialing Services, NBCOT  
Neil Harvison, Director of Accreditation and Academic Affairs, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education  
Charles Willmarth, Director, State Affairs, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
Gigi Smith, Chairperson, Governmental Affairs Committee, Occupational Therapy Association of California

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establishment of a Quorum**

President Mary Evert called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. establishing contact with all teleconference sites. Secretary Bobbi Jean Tanberg called the roll. A quorum of the Board was present.

**B. Introductions**

Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

**C. Discussion and consideration of educational requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (Business and Professions Code {BPC} 2570.6)**

The Board discussed the fact that the original enabling statutory language was based on the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) Model Practice Act. Thus, the educational requirements set forth mirrored the educational standards of American Occupational Therapy Associations' Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) that were in effect at the time. Unfortunately, the language failed to take into account educational eligibility standards that existed prior to ACOTE's inception in 1994. Since there is was no consideration for the accrediting and/or approving entities that preceded ACOTE, discussion ensued regarding the need to modify the statute to recognize all era-appropriate educational programs that met the standards for taking the national certification examination and take into account ACOTE's predecessor components.

Board members, staff, and representatives from NBCOT, ACOTE, and AOTA, discussed the evolution of the educational requirements to sit for the national certification examinations and the evolution of accrediting and approving entities. Discussion included recognition of the AOTA Career Mobility Program and training in Military schools. There was consensus among participants that the new language should be broader, all-inclusive in respect to the educational programs that qualified practitioners to take the national certification examination, and less specific to allow era appropriate educational programs and take into consideration the historical changes in accrediting or approving entities prior to ACOTE's inception.

- ◆ **Christine Wietlisbach moved to direct Board staff to develop draft language to amend Business and Professions Code Section 2570.6 and provide the language at the next Board meeting.**
- ◆ **Bobbi Jean Tanberg seconded the motion.**

Roll call vote

Mary Evert:	Aye
Nancy Michel:	Aye
Bobbi Jean Tanberg:	Aye
Christine Wietlisbach:	Aye

**D. Discussion and consideration of educational requirements for Therapists and Assistants Trained Outside of the United States (BPC Section 2570.15).**

BPC Section 2570.15 states occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants trained outside the United States shall be required to satisfy the examination requirements set forth in Section 2570.7. BPC 2570.15 also states that the Board shall require that these applicants have completed educational and supervised fieldwork requirements that are "substantially equal to those contained in Section 2570.6," before taking the examination. The Board recognizes a need to define and clarify the term "substantially equal" to enhance the implementation of this Section.

Ms. Martin reminded the Board that proposed regulatory language was presented for consideration at the December 6, 2007, Board meeting. Due to concerns that the World Federation of Occupational Therapy has not adopted the entry-level Master's degree program as a minimum education requirement, the Board was unable to approve the language as presented. Ms. Martin recommended that staff could revise the proposed regulatory language for foreign-trained applicants and bring it back to the Board for consideration.

- ◆ **Christine Wietlisbach moved to direct Board staff to draft regulatory language for foreign-trained applicants and present for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting.**
- ◆ **Bobbi Jean Tanberg seconded the motion.**

Roll call vote

Mary Evert:	Aye
Nancy Michel:	Aye
Bobbi Jean Tanberg:	Aye
Christine Wietlisbach:	Aye

**E. Public comments for items not on agenda.**

There were no public comments.

**F. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

