CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
444 North Third Street, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 322-3394; FAX: (916) 445-6167
E-mail: cbot@dca.ca.gov; Web: www.bot.ca.gov

State of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2006
Sacramento, CA

Committee Members Present
Pamela Roberts, Acting Chair
Luella Grangaard
Roberta Murphy
Mary Kay Gallagher
Barbara Rodrigues

Committee Members Absent
Janet Jabri
Debra Bolding
Judy Palladino

Staff Present
Norine Marks, Legal Counsel
April Freeman, Association Analyst

A. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chairperson Pamela Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. and called the roll. A quorum was established.

B. President's Remarks

The President did not make any remarks.

C. Approval of the February 23, 2006, Committee meeting minutes

- Luella Grangaard moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2006, Committee meeting.
- Mary Kay Gallagher seconded the motion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

D. Discussion of Committee Structure, Roles, and Responsibility

Ms. Grangaard discussed the possibility of having the individuals on the Advanced Practice Certification Review Committee be an ad hoc group to the Practice Committee. She also stated that the Practice Committee will begin reviewing the Applications for Post-Professional Education.

Ms. Grangaard stated that the review of post-professional education courses was an issue raised during the Board's recent audit. The Committee discussed the procedures for reviewing post-professional education courses and applications for advanced practice approval and whether a conflict of interest exists if Board members review the applications. Ms. Marks cautioned that Board members should not review applications to prevent a conflict of interest should the applicant dispute the outcome.

The Committee discussed the following items as possible functions of the Practice Committee:

1. Review of Applications for Post-Professional Education (Advanced Practice Courses)
2. Review initial license/certificate applications for individuals who have not been engaged in the practice of occupational therapy for five years.
3. Review and respond to various practice issues.

The Committee directed staff to define the role of the Practice Committee for discussion at the next meeting.

E. Discussion of Applications for Advanced Practice Certification and Advanced Practice Courses

1. Establish Review Standards for Advanced Practice Courses

The Committee discussed the procedures for reviewing advanced practice applications and applications to provide post-professional education. It was determined that applications to provide post-professional education should be reviewed by the entire Practice Committee. The Committee would make a recommendation and then staff would make the final determination as to whether the applicant met the statutory requirements. A minimum of three Committee members would need to vote on each application; tie votes would go to the Board for review.

Ms. Marks suggested that a procedure be developed so that review is consistent. Committee members would also be provided with a cover sheet to complete and return.

Ms. Grangaard pointed out that even though not all Committee members are working in the advanced practice areas, the courses are entry-level so the content could be evaluated by members based on their knowledge of occupational therapy.

2. Consider Review Standards for Statements of Learning

The Committee discussed the audit findings regarding whether learning statements and courses meet the statutory requirements for subject matter, and if those subject matter areas are being verified in the application.

The Committee directed staff to revise the Application for Advanced Practice Certification to set out standards to learning statements. Staff will provide draft of the revised application to the Committee at its next meeting.

3. Establish Subcommittee for Review of Advanced Practice Applications

This item was discussed under Item D – Discussion of Committee Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities.

F. Discussion of Business and Professions Code Section 2570.14, *Procedure for Applicant Not Engaged in Practice for Five Years*

The Committee discussed section 2570.14 which requires that applicants have practiced in the field of occupational therapy within the five years immediately preceding receipt of their application.

Ms. Freeman explained that the law provides two options for applicants who have not practiced within five years of applying for a license. The first option is completing 24 hours of continuing education, and the second option is taking the national examination. She explained that completion of 24 hours of continuing education may not be appropriate for applicants who took the examination 10-20 years ago and haven't practiced since that time. Staff would like standards to be established that would determine which applicants would be required to take the exam versus those who could complete continuing education. These standards would be based on the time elapsed since passing the exam and the total amount of work experience.

The Committee discussed the original intent of the law and the number of applications of this type received currently. Ms. Grangaard reminded the Committee that the law used to include an option of taking a refresher course, several of which were available at the time. That language was removed from the law when the course became unavailable.

Ms. Grangaard pointed out that if an applicant chooses to take continuing education, they only need 24 hours regardless of how long they've been out of practice. Ms. Freeman added that, according to the continuing education regulations, only 12 of the 24 hours required would have to be directly related to the practice of occupational therapy. The Committee discussed the option of amending the continuing education regulations to differentiate between continuing education for license renewal versus initial license qualification. They also requested that staff research the possibility of having the "re-entry" program added back into the statute.

- Luella Grangaard moved to recommend to the Board that the continuing education regulations be amended to require that all 24 hours of continuing education for license qualification be directly related to the delivery of occupational therapy services.
- Mary Kay Gallagher seconded the motion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

G. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.