



AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Committee Members Present

Richard Bookwalter, Board Member & Chair
Sharon Pavlovich, Board Member
Joyce Fries

Board Staff Present

Heather Martin
Jeff Hanson

Public Attendee

Judy Palladino
Yeaphana LaMarr, DCA

1. Call to order and roll call.

At 3:13 p.m. contact was established between all teleconference locations.

2. Discussion and consideration of request from California Fieldwork Council to increase the number of PDUs earned for supervising students completing their Level II Fieldwork.

Heather Martin opened with a brief overview describing the events and circumstances which brought the committee together. At the Board's November 13, 2014, meeting in San Diego, the Board formed this committee to further discuss and develop regulatory language to increase professional development units for therapists that supervise students completing Level II Fieldwork assignment. This matter was initiated as a result of a written request from the California OT Fieldwork Council (Council) dated August 7, 2014.

Richard Bookwalter, Committee Chair, referenced a chart that he prepared which identified and compared credit that other states allow for supervising OT and OTA fieldwork. A majority of states allow credit for supervising Level II OT/OTA fieldwork. Some even allow credit for supervising Level I fieldwork. The total number of continuing education units required in other states varied, as did maximum limits that other state licensees allow toward their continuing education requirements for supervising OT/OTA fieldwork.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding the appropriateness of allowing professional development credit for this activity when essentially it could be construed as a licensee simply performing their job duties. Joyce Fries and Judy Palladino offered that in most cases therapists do not receive extra compensation from their employer for supervising OT/OTA students. The underlying problem that the California Fieldwork Council is attempting to address is decreasing accessibility to therapists that are willing to supervise OT students and the current trend is not sustainable. By increasing credit for this activity it is hoped that it will become more attractive for therapists to train OT/OTA students. Ultimately students would benefit as

an increase in clinical instructors would provide more training opportunities and promote diversification in various practice settings that occupational therapy practitioners deliver services.

Sharon Pavlovich indicated she saw a benefit in the Council's proposal. The proposal ultimately promotes and translates to better services being provided to California consumers.

Discussion also delved into situations where multiple therapists provided or teamed to provide fieldwork training to an OT or OTA student and what type of documentation Board staff might rely on when conducting continuing education audits.

There was a consensus amongst the committee members to recommend to the Board the following:

- Use the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) standards as a guide to assist in developing language to increase continuing education credit for supervising an OT student.
- Increase the credit for supervising Level II fieldwork pursuant to the California Fieldwork Counsel's request from .5 PDU for 60 hours of supervision to 1 PDU for one week or 40 hours of supervision.
- Allow credit for supervising Level I fieldwork students.
- Apply the cap of 12 PDUs for continuing education activities that fall under California Code of Regulations Section 4161(c) that is pending regulatory approval with the Office of Administrative Law. Thus assuming the pending regulations will be approved, a licensee would only be able to apply 12 PDUs of activities identified in Section 4161(c), which includes and is not limited to supervising OT fieldwork students, toward the overall continuing competency requirement of 24 PDUs.
- Incorporate language that would identify the type(s) of evidence or documentation a licensee would need to provide if they were audited for continuing education compliance when they have supervised an OT/OTA student (e.g. signed fieldwork evaluation forms, letter from the college or university fieldwork coordinator, etc.)

3. Public Comment session for items not on the agenda.

There was no public comment provided pertaining to items not on the agenda.

4. Adjournment.

At 4:18 the meeting adjourned.