

AGENDA ITEM 21

INFORMATION ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY REGARDING LICENSE PORTABILITY.

DRAFT MINUTES
OF
THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

APRIL 7, 2016

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Representative Assembly Recorder

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AOTA SUPPORTS STATE LICENSURE MODELS THAT ALLOW LICENSURE PORTABILITY

10:45 AM: Whereas, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted licensure laws for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;

Whereas, the Association currently encourages the use of the Association Definition of Occupational Therapy Practice for State Regulation and The AOTA Model Occupational Therapy Practice Act to ensure state-by-state uniformity of standards of practice, scope of occupational therapy practice, supervision standards, entry-level licensing requirements, and consumer protection, as well as to facilitate geographical mobility of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;

Whereas, the expanded mobility of occupational therapy practitioners and clients, the expanded geographic footprint of health care systems, and the use of advanced communication technologies such as telehealth as part of our nation's health care delivery system require greater coordination and cooperation among states in the areas of licensure and regulation;

Whereas, the uniformity of licensure requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants throughout the states promotes public safety and public health benefits;

Whereas, many members consider the current system of obtaining licensure for occupational therapy practitioners in multiple states to be time consuming, expensive, and burdensome;

Whereas, licensure portability models are being implemented by other health professions and federations of state licensure boards that include adequate safeguards to protect the public;

Resolved, the American Occupational Therapy Association supports state licensure models that allow for licensure portability, including but not limited to an Interstate Licensure Compact for Occupational Therapy.

10:47 AM: Discussion primarily addressed concerns about involvement of state licensure boards and opening of licensure acts.

10:56 AM: Motion was approved.

MOTION ADOPTED: 2016AprC7

SUPPORT EXPEDITED LICENSURE PROCESS FOR OTS/OTAS IN OTHER STATES

10:57 AM: Whereas, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted licensure laws for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;

Whereas, the expanded mobility of occupational therapy practitioners and clients, the expanded geographic footprint of health care systems, and the use of advanced communication technologies such as telehealth as part of our nation's health care delivery system have increased the opportunity and the demand for practitioners to hold licenses in more than one state, either concurrently or sequentially;

Whereas, occupational therapy practitioners who currently hold unrestricted licenses in one state are faced with barriers when applying for licensure in a new state;

Whereas, many members consider the current system of obtaining licensure for occupational therapy practitioners in multiple states to be time consuming, expensive, and burdensome;

Whereas, revising state licensure laws to provide for expedited licensure could be an interim measure to implementing licensure portability;

Resolved, the American Occupational Therapy Association supports an expedited licensure process for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who hold an unrestricted license in one state or jurisdiction that seek to become licensed in another state or jurisdiction.

10:59 AM: Lively discussion primarily involved adequate resources to support this initiative in addition to licensure portability, potential confusion for licensure boards over AOTA taking two different stances, and information provided that the Ad Hoc Committee's goal was licensure portability.

11:08 AM: Motion was defeated.

MOTION DEFEATED: 2016AprC8

11:08 AM: Speaker Baxter recognized Task Group 3 Leader Kimberly List, who then recognized the members of Task Group 3.

11:10 AM: Speaker Baxter informed the Assembly the Ad Hoc Committee on License Portability had a third motion "I move to charge the Speaker to deliver the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Licensure Portability to the AOTA Board of Directors (BOD) so that they may review the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations and consider implementation of activities to facilitate licensure portability, including additional research activities and convening a meeting of stakeholders with an interest in licensure portability for the occupational therapy profession." Speaker Baxter reported that she presented the report at the February 2016 BOD meeting.

11:11 AM: Speaker Baxter recognized Christine Merchant, Representative from Arizona and Leader of Task Group 4, who presented agenda items on behalf of the group.

BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATION OF OTAS AT ASSOCIATE AND BACCALAUREATE LEVEL

11:11 AM: On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Entry-Level Education Ad Hoc Committee, I move that the RA Speaker charge the Commission on Education to develop and disseminate a blueprint for education for associate and baccalaureate entry-level programs for the occupational therapy assistant. The Task Group recommended defeat of this motion.

Substitute Motion: Revise Blueprint for Entry-Level Education to Reflect Current Practice Framework

On behalf of Task Group 4, I move that the RA Speaker charge the Commission on Education revise the AOTA Blueprint for Entry-Level Education, to reflect the latest edition of the Occupational Therapy Domain and Practice Framework; and to consider the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) bachelor's degree, along with the OTA associate's, OT master's, and OT doctoral degrees, in crafting this new edition.

11:12 AM: Discussion on the Original Motion opened with clarification of the role of the Commission on Education (COE) and role of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education provided.

11:24 AM: Discussion on the Substitute Motion ensued about the limitation to one document without including others, the complexity of the process to develop documents, and clarification of the Blueprint for Model Curriculum document. At 11:17 AM an amendment to the Substitute Motion stated: "RA Speaker charge the COE to revise the Blueprint for Entry-Level Education to reflect the current relevant AOTA documents and to consider all levels of OT and OTA education."

11:30 AM: Amendment passed.

11:31 AM: Substitute Motion passed with the amendment, which resulted in the defeat of the Original Motion.

ORIGINAL MOTION DEFEATED: 2016AprC9

SUBSTITUTE MOTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED: 2016AprC15

REVISION OF OTA MODEL CURRICULUM TO ADDRESS BACCALAUREATE ENTRY-LEVEL PROGRAMS

11:31 AM: On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Entry-Level Education Ad Hoc Committee, I move that the RA Speaker charge the Commission on Education to update the AOTA Model OTA Curriculum (2008) and add the necessary requirements for a bachelor's degree. The Task Group recommended defeat of this motion.

Substitute Motion: Revision of OTA and OT Model Curriculum to Address Different Entry-Level Degree Programs

On behalf of Task Group 4, I move that the RA Speaker charge the Commission on Education to consider the different entry-level degrees when reviewing and revising the AOTA Occupational Therapy Assistant Model Curriculum (2008) and the Occupational Therapy Model Curriculum (2008).

11:35 AM: After discussion the Substitute Motion passed, which resulted in the defeat of the Original Motion.

Summary of the Spring 2016 RA Meeting: April 7, 2016

5/12/2016

The Representative Assembly (RA) met on Thursday, April 7, 2016, in Chicago. The Assembly passed substitute motions for two that were initiated by AOTA members. The first motion charges the Commission on Practice (COP) to investigate professional policy and practice issues related to telehealth and occupational therapy in conjunction with content experts and AOTA staff to make recommendations to the RA for the spring 2017 meeting. The second motion charges the Speaker, with recommendations from the Board, to establish an ad hoc committee to:

- 1) develop a fact sheet that highlights the benefits of, and supports occupational therapy intervention in the area of seating and wheeled mobility (SWM)—including durable medical equipment (DME) and complex rehabilitation technology (CRT); and
- 2) develop a plan for educational materials that will support practitioners working at an advanced level in SWM.

Recruitment for candidates for the SWM ad hoc will be done in the near future by the Volunteer Leadership Development Committee (VLDC).

In addition, a number of motions brought forward by the ad hoc committees on licensure portability, case management, and OTA entry level education were adopted, most with some changes in language. The final motions include:

- AOTA support for state licensure models that allow for licensure portability, including but not limited to an Interstate Licensure Compact for Occupational Therapy
- A letter to state licensure boards conveying AOTA support for recognition of continuing education courses/workshops/seminars related to case management as acceptable to meet licensure renewal requirements for occupational therapy practitioners working in case management roles
- An official document on the role of occupational therapy practitioners in case management
- Development of an online forum on OT Connections under SIS sponsorship for OT practitioners interested or working in case management roles
- A charge to the Commission on Education (COE) to revise the AOTA Blueprint for Entry Level Education to reflect the latest edition of the relevant AOTA documents; and to consider the OTA bachelor's degree, along with the OTA Associates, OT master's, and OT doctoral degrees, in crafting this new edition
- A charge to the COE to consider the different entry-level degrees when reviewing and revising the AOTA Occupational Therapy Assistant Model Curriculum (2008) and the Occupational Therapy Model Curriculum (2008)
- A request from the Speaker to the Board to direct the AOTA Executive Director to identify and implement strategies to develop qualified occupational therapy assistants to be educators in entry-level occupational therapy assistant programs

Lastly, the following official document was adopted: *Assistive Technology and Occupational Performance*.

Minutes

Read the full minutes from the April 2016 RA meeting here (pdf) - attached

- See more at: <http://www.aota.org/Publications-News/AOTANews/2016/Representative-Assembly-Summary-Chicago.aspx#sthash.k0rQEbtW.dpuf>