



**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**  
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**TELECONFERENCE  
BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
COMMITTEE ON FIELDWORK  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018**

Committee Members Present

Sharon Pavlovich, OTA, Board Member, Chair  
Jeff Ferro, Public Board Member  
Matt Lege, SEIU-UHW  
Ada Boone Hoerl, OTA, Program Director, Sacramento City College  
Joyce Fries, OT, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Grossmont College  
Michele Parolise, OT, Program Director, Santa Ana College

Board Staff Present

Heather Martin, Executive Officer  
Jody Quesada, Staff Services Analyst

Committee Member Absent

Teresa Davies, Board Member

1. Call to order, roll call and establishment of a quorum.

Chairperson Sharon Pavlovich called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m., and contact was made with all teleconference sites. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

2. Introduction of Committee members.

Ms. Pavlovich identified each participating location and the committee member present at the location.

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

The Committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Government Code Sections 11125 and 11125.7(a))

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

4. Review and approval of the January 23, 2018, Ad Hoc Committee on Fieldwork meeting minutes.

Ms. Boone Hoerl and Mr. Lege pointed out two areas that needed amendments to better reflect the accuracy of their comment.

- Ada Boone Hoerl moved to approve the January 23, 2018, minutes as amended.
- Joyce Fries seconded the motion.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

<b>VOTES</b>	Sharon Pavlovich	Jeff Ferro	Joyce Fries	Ada Boone-Hoerl	Matt Lege	Michelle Parolise
	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>

- 5. Discussion and exploration of alternative approaches to increasing the availability of fieldwork sites in California for students completing academic requirements for licensure (Business and Professions Code section 2570.6). Consideration of possible recommendations to the Board.

Julie Holt, Deputy Health Sector Navigator, North Region, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, (Chancellor’s Office) stated that she recently became aware of challenges in placing occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) to complete their fieldwork. Ms. Holt offered that a combined effort of the Strong Workforce approach and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office may be able to gather accurate labor market data.

Chairperson Sharon Pavlovich referenced the materials and asked for a pulse of the committee.

Executive Officer Heather Martin mentioned that she met with John Dunn, Assistant Secretary, Labor & Workforce Development Agency at the Workforce Excellence and Sustainability for Healthcare Symposium and he suggested the committee explore students being placed with state agencies that utilize occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) to complete their fieldwork requirements.

The committee members said that stakeholder input is needed and the state agencies that have the ability to employ OTs and OTAs should be invited to attend a future committee meeting.

Michele Parolise expressed her concern as to where the money would come from, how monies would be disbursed between the employer and the apprentice and how many students would get to take part.

Jeff Ferro questioned how an apprentice would be able to bill for services and wondered if legislative changes would be required.

A committee member raised concerns about the OTA curriculum not qualifying under the apprenticeship standards.

Ms. Pavlovich stated that there are so many unknowns and the committee had to start small. Ms. Pavlovich expressed her hope for the committee to conclude the meeting with a recommendation for the Board.

Matt Lege stated his focus was statutory barriers to establishing apprenticeships, authorizing language, and whether the Board wanted to acknowledge apprenticeships.

Jeff Ferro expressed his support of the apprenticeship program but encouraged the committee to gather the workforce data to instill confidence in the stakeholders. Joyce Fries agreed that accurate workforce data is needed.

Ms. Martin stated that the Committee wouldn't know if the Chancellor's office approved the request for the funding of the workforce data/research for a couple months. Ms. Martin said that if the committee wished to move forward on the apprenticeship model, she would suggest the committee work on the apprenticeship model and simultaneously gather the workforce data which accurately identifies the needs of the profession.

Michele Parolise asked if the apprenticeship program would have to be approved by ACOTE.

Ms. Pavlovich questioned whether a pilot apprenticeship program for the OTAs parallels what's happening with OTs and their residency pilot that is changing the OT fieldwork model. Ms. Pavlovich stated that the OTA pilot should be treated the same.

Ada Boone Hoerl recalled that Don Merrill, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, presented information at a previous Board meeting where he offered that making a hybrid program was a possibility. Ms. Boone Hoerl commented that ACOTE has not made its final decision regarding the mandatory entry point of the baccalaureate degree for the OTAs. Ms. Boone Hoerl stated that it is her opinion that the addition of a pilot program without having to change the curriculum is feasible in light of all the innovative changes that are occurring.

### **Public Comment**

Janice Johnson of American Career College and the Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Council stated that in terms of an answer to solving the fieldwork problem immediately, the apprenticeship model is not on the top of her list.

Jim Collins, Dean of Science and Allied Health, Sacramento City College, stated that the Los Rios Community College District (District) and Sacramento City College was supportive of a pilot program for OTAs completing their fieldwork as part of an apprenticeship. The District is working actively with the Department of Corrections on an apprenticeship program for the LVN to RN program. Mr. Collins stated that the administrative side of the District is willing to assist with establishing a pilot apprenticeship program.

Victor Rodriguez, Senior Apprenticeship Consultant, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, said that he liked the pilot program idea and that the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology has an apprenticeship model that utilizes an interim license in order for an apprentice to bill for services.

Brian Clifford, Senior Planning and Implementation Manager, Department of Consumer Affairs, informed the committee that he is currently working on AB 2105, Workforce Development and that he and his team are looking to identify the barriers to establishing earn and learn programs for allied health professions and how to overcome them.

Jeff Ferro added that he wanted information about which state agencies besides Corrections use OTAs.

- Matt Lege moved that the committee continue to meet to explore various funding sources, review ACOTE guidelines, identify accurate Labor Market data.
- Jeff Ferro seconded the motion.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

<b>VOTES</b>	Sharon Pavlovich	Jeff Ferro	Joyce Fries	Ada Boone-Hoerl	Matt Lege	Michelle Parolise
	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>

6. Suggestions for future agenda items.

Mr. Ferro suggested inviting a representative(s) from the Department of Corrections or any other state agency that utilizes OTAs to attend future meeting.

Mr. Lege suggested inviting an ACOTE representative to a future meeting.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.