

Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy – Scope of Practice Workgroup - Monday, May 15, 2023

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
May 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM AKDT to May 15, 2023 at 12:00 PM AKDT
Juneau Zoom



Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

9:00 AM

Meeting called to order by Valerie Phelps at 9:10 am. Recording started. Roll Call performed:

Workgroup participants present:

1. Valerie Phelps, PT, ScD - Board Member
2. Lindsey Hill, OTD, OTR/L, CHT - Board Member
3. Chad Ross, PT, DPT, COMT - APTA Alaska (left meeting at 10:27 am)
4. Cary Moore, PhD, OTR/L – AKOTA (joined at 10:28 am)

Guest:

1. Kristen Neville, Manager, State Affairs, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) (left meeting at 10:58 am)

Staff:

2. Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2
3. Sheri Ryan, Occupational License Examiner

2. Public Comment

9:03 AM

[Letter from Robert Calhoon OT, CHT, COMT](#) received via email advocating for dry needling for occupational therapists. Mr. Calhoon was a previous Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board member.

3. PT Regulation Discussion

9:18 AM

- Discuss using MT regulations as basic framework with adaptations
 - #PT schools teaching dry needling as part of base curriculum is not yet standard across all schools and the level of introduction to dry needling is unknown
 - Requirements to attend post-grad training = NO set requirements
 - how is curriculum determined? = NO standardized educational curriculum established nationally
- List of "No" statements in other state regulations = Incorporated

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- Discuss dry-needling services delegated to/performed by PTAs = requirement of therapy examination and diagnosis including real-time and constant evaluation for each technique and session
 - #PTAs actually performing? = Unknown
 - minimum educational requirements = not necessary – see above
- potential statute changes = none at this time

Chad Ross shared document from [APTA-AK with recommendations – AKAPTA position](#). VA regulation [54.1-3482 of the Code of Virginia](#) utilized in APTA-AK recommendation. Valerie Phelps shared recent WA regulations on dry needling effective July 23, 2023 – [1039-S2.SL DN WA state Recent](#) and [IAOM compilation by state of dry needling regulations](#) for PTs, OTs, and athletic trainers.

MT regulations used as basic framework [Source: [Montana Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - 24.177.413](#)] and modified as discussed to incorporate appropriate changes for Alaska.

Reviewed [APTA CE standards G11-03-22-69](#) and [FSBPT CE standards](#) referenced in MT regulations.

Recommendation to mirror physical therapy regulations for occupational therapy when required OT statute changes accomplished.

Completed regulations draft to be forwarded to all workgroup members by Tuesday, May 16, 2023, for review at next meeting.

4. OT Scope of Practice Discussion

10:30 AM

- Identify weaknesses in current AK OT Scope of Practice
- Compare w/other states' scopes
- Generate recommendation of general framework for statute changes for State Physical Therapy and Occupational Board

Cary Moore shared a document from AOTA with occupational therapy scopes of practice by state – [OT Scope of Practice chart 5-2023](#). Kristin Neville shared [AOTA Policy E.18: Interventions to Support Occupations](#) approved 4/2023 and [OT Chart of State Licensing Entity Actions on Dry Needling](#).

Discussion of New Mexico and Tennessee scope statute examples. Tennessee and Illinois recently changed statutes to incorporate dry needling. Wyoming and Mississippi updated regulations re: dry needling but not scope statute. Discussed statutory change process.

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Lindsey Hill and Cary Moore to work to craft draft language for OT Scope of practice statutory changes for review at next meeting on 5/22/2023.

Discussed and drafted language for recommendation to PHY Board for use to occupational therapists re: dry needling + scope of practice.

Completed draft to be forwarded to all workgroup members by Tuesday, May 16, 2023, for review at next meeting.

5. Next Steps

11:25 AM

1. Review DRAFT PT regulations for dry needling at next meeting + finalize for Board recommendation
 - a. Staff to share initial draft created 5/15/2023 with workgroup members by Tuesday, May 16, 2023.
2. Create draft language to recommend to the Board for use in physical therapist inquiries re: dry needling
 - a. Staff to share initial draft for occupational therapy created 5/15/2023 with workgroup members by Tuesday, May 16, 2023.
3. OT Scope of Practice Statute Update - Lindsey Hill and Cary Moore to craft draft language for review at 5/22/2023 meeting for OT scope of practice statutory change recommendation to Board.
 - a. AOTA Model Practice Act and State [OT Scope of Practice Chart 5-2023](#) to be used as resources
 - b. 1-2 pages - less prescriptive
 - c. keywords to include "neuromusculoskeletal" and "improvement"
 - d. Creighton group project style
4. Next meeting of workgroup scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2023, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

6. Adjourn

Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practice Workgroup meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.