

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD – SCOPE OF PRACTICE WORK GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD **MAY 4, 2023**

Date:	May 4, 2023
Time:	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location:	Virtual
Attending:	Board Members: Valerie Phelps, PT, ScD, and Lindsey Hill, OTD, OTR/L, CHT Work Group Participants: Cary Moore, PhD, OTR/L – AKOTA; Chad Ross, PT, DPT, COMPT – APTA-AK. Staff: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner; Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor
Absent:	Cary Moore, PhD, OTR/L absent from the meeting from 10:30 am – 11:15 am.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call - By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Scope of Practice Work Group was called to order at 9:01 am and Roll Call was done by Valerie Phelps. Present: Board members Valerie Phelps, PT, ScD and Lindsey Hill, OTD, OTR/L, CHT; Work Group Participants: Cary Moore, PhD, OTR/L – AKOTA; Chad Ross, PT, DPT, COMPT – APTA-AK; Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations and Advisor.	
2. Review / Amend / Approve Agenda	
Brief Discussion:	<i>Review of agenda completed by Valerie Phelps.</i>
3. Public Comment	
Brief Discussion:	No public members connected; no public comment given.
4. Professional Licensing Scope of Practice Evaluation Worksheet - Review	
Brief Discussion:	Reviewed completed worksheet. No updates to add for physical therapy or occupational therapy per work group members.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No action items.</i>
5. Review Legal Opinions – OT/OTA - Dry Needling	
Brief Discussion:	Discussion for pathway forward based on legal opinion provided – statute change vs. regulation development. Sara Chambers provided overview of follow-up with AAG Harriet Milks on 04/27/2023 re: legal opinion regarding dry needling. Extensive investigation/evaluation of current scope of practice definition for occupational therapy, legal opinion, and discussion of definition of dry needling. Conclusion - work to update scope of practice for occupational therapy with the intent of strategically encompassing future advancements in technological and cultural shifts as well as issue of dry needling and write the regulations to support dry needling at the same time as statutory changes.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify weaknesses within Alaska scope of practice for occupational therapy to achieve broadest scope definition – Lindsey Hill</i> • <i>Collect other state scopes for sample language – Cary Moore</i>

Break 10:20 am – 10:30 am. Roll call taken upon return from break: Lindsey Hill, Valerie Phelps, Chad Ross, Sara Chambers. Absent: Cary Moore

6. Regulation Development – PT/PTA – Dry Needling

Brief Discussion:	Discussion regarding development of physical therapy regulations with no requirement by state to register or certify (no additional administrative burden); lists nationally accepted standards for training (provides quality assurance); includes criteria needed by physical therapy practitioners to clearly identify the ability to perform dry needling established in Alaska statute. Montana Board of Physical Therapy regulations finalized September 23, 2016 reviewed as framework.
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>National Data on PTAs performing Dry Needling - Chad Ross</i>• <i>Data on CAPTE + ACOTE accredited educational opportunities for dry needling; post-grad continuing education course curriculum requirements; practice requirements; List of “No” statements in other state regulations – Valerie Phelps</i>

Cary Moore rejoined the meeting at 11:15 am.

7. Meeting Summary – Next Steps

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Identify weaknesses within Alaska scope of practice for occupational therapy to achieve broadest scope definition – Lindsey Hill</i>2. <i>Collect other state scopes for sample language – Cary Moore</i>3. <i>National Data on PTAs performing Dry Needling - Chad Ross</i>4. <i>Data on CAPTE + ACOTE accredited educational opportunities for dry needling; post-grad continuing education course curriculum requirements; practice requirements; List of “No” statements in other state regulations – Valerie Phelps</i>
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Next Meeting:	Monday, May 15, 2023 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.
Adjournment:	The State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Scope of Practice Work Group meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am AKDT on Thursday, May 4, 2023.