



AK PT/OT Board - Scope of Practices Committee Mtg - June 6, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

6/6/2025 8:00 AM AKDT

Videoconference

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members: Tori Daugherty and Jonathan Gates

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Scope of Practices Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, June 6, 2025 at 8:01 am by Tori Daugherty.

Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Tori Daugherty and Jonathan Gates.

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner. Shane Bannarbie, Project Coordinator joined at 8:30 am.

Guest: Kristen Neville, Manager State Affairs, AOTA

2. Review/Approve Agenda

Jonathan Gates motioned to accept the agenda for the June 6, 2025 Scope of Practices Committee meeting as written. Tori Daugherty seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes - 12/20/2024 and 03/07/2025

Jonathan Gates motioned to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2025 Scope of Practices Committee meeting as written. Tori Daugherty seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

December 20, 2024 minutes still outstanding. Staff to complete before July meeting.

4. Public Comment

No public comment given.

5. NEW Board Correspondence

A. OT Scope Questions

OT Reevaluation Question - 05-25-2025 - Committee reviewed questions and discussed response. Initial Evaluation via telehealth? 08.02.130(a) discussed along with 08.02.130(h) + (i). 12 AAC 54.825 is specific OT regulation for telerehabilitation but statute overrides regulation, if in conflict. Reimbursement issues are outside jurisdiction of the board.

Action Item:

Tori Daugherty to compose draft response to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

OT Practices in Schools - 05-14-2025 - Committee reviewed question and discussed request for PHY Board position statement regarding licensure needed for practicing occupational therapy when working in schools.

AS 08.84.150 License required; exceptions - only exemption from licensure when working in schools is in (6) employed as teacher or teacher's aid by an educational institution and is required to use occupational therapy skills during the course of employment, if

(A) the occupational therapy skills are used under a program implemented by the employer and developed by a licensed occupational therapist;

(B) the employer maintains direct supervision of the person's use of occupational therapy skills; and

(C) the person does not represent to

(i) be an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; and

(ii) practice occupational therapy.

Any occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant practicing occupational therapy is required to be licensed - *AS 08.84.150 (b) A person may not provide services that the person describes as occupational therapy without being licensed under this chapter unless the person is (5) licensed under this title and uses occupational therapy skills in the practice of the profession for which the license is issued.* A professional healthcare license issued by the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to practice is required in addition to the Type C Special Service Certificate issued by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Decision to write specific response for this letter and second generic letter that would cover both physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Action Item:

Tori Daugherty to compose specific draft response to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval. Generic letter draft to be reviewed and worked on at next committee meeting.

OT Professional Practices Requirement - Volunteer Hours Clarification - 4-30-2025 - 12 AAC 54.705 - Prior approval request under 12 AAC 54.705(b). Licensee has an active license in Alaska. Additional information needed for board to consider approval request.

Action Item:

- Staff to request a breakdown of 3 examples for each volunteering activity of how she will use OT therapy skill set when working with the specific clients.
- Tori Daugherty to draft response for full PHY Board review and approval through OnBoard when additional information is received.

B. PT Scope Questions

Request for Consideration of FCCPT CWT6 for PT Licensure - 05-20-2025 - Request is to use current CWT6 instead of CWT4 that was in effect at time of graduation. AS 08.84.032 Foreign-educated applicants and 12 AAC 54.040 and 12 AAC 54.110 do not specifically state which CWT to use.

12 AAC 54.040(a) An applicant under this section must be a graduate from a school of physical therapy with a resident course of study and professional instruction that is (1) substantially equivalent to a professional physical therapy education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE);

Interpretation - policy/procedure that PHY board utilizes Course Work Tool (CWT) in effective at the time of graduation. Committee discussed patient safety is addressed by meeting CWT6 as standards are higher with DPT requirement.

Action Item:

- Jonathan Gates to draft response for possible one-time exception so as not to set precedent as it does not impact public safety to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.
- Staff to add topic for discussion at next full board meeting to talk through possible modification of procedure for future applicants. Consider having FCCPT representative come present and answer questions.

DPT Student Supervision - 04-25-2025 - Billing related question - Jonathan Gates to draft response confirming reply sent by licensing examiner to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

PTA Supervision - 04-01-2025 - Committee reviewed 12 AAC 54.590(6)(a)(b), 54.590(1), 12 AAC 54.530, AS 08.02.130(h) + (i), and AS 47.05.270 definition of telehealth.

Action Item:

Jonathan Gates to draft response as discussed to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

Physical therapy - telemedicine - Active duty oversees - 03-19-2025 - telehealth provided to patient in a foreign country. Discussion possible situational exemptions - therapist is a military contractor. AK license only covers therapist while treating a patient in Alaska. If the patient is located outside of the state of Alaska, the Alaska State Board does not have jurisdiction.

Action Item:

Jonathan Gates to draft response for generic situation as discussed to be loaded into OnBoard for full PHY Board review and approval.

C. Generic

AK OT_PT Employment Verification Forms - 03-18-2025 - Verification of Working Experience form completion. Committee briefly discussed. Question - are submitted verifications public? Correspondence to be added to agenda for next full board meeting for discussion.

OT_PT - Skilled Nursing 01-21-2025 - Employment contract issue. No additional response required.

OT Professional Practice Requirement - 03-06-2025 - Licensing examiner informed committee members this board correspondence was resolved. No additional response required.

OT volunteering in Alaska for Health Fair - 01-23-2025 - temporary license required. Licensing Examiner response confirmed.

Action Item:

Staff to respond to correspondence that there is no further information to provide.

6. Legislative Initiatives

- A. PT Modernization Statutory Project
No discussion
- B. OT Modernization Statutory Project
No discussion
- C. DPT/OTD Term Protection Statutory DRAFT Language
previously tabled
No discussion

7. Next Steps

- 1. Confirm Jonathan Gates can attend July 11 at 8:00 am meeting date. If so, publicly notice meeting.
- 2. Staff to request additional information on OT Professional Practices Requirement - Volunteer Hours Clarification - 4-30-2025 and relay reply to Tori Daugherty when received.
- 3. Tori Daugherty to draft three (3) response as discussed and submit to staff to put on letterhead and load into OnBoard for full board review and approval.
- 4. Tori Daugherty to draft generic Board position statement for license required for physical therapist or occupational therapist practicing in the State of Alaska when working in a school district in addition to a Type C Special Service Certificate from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.
- 5. Staff to add topic for discussion at next full board meeting to talk through possible modification of procedure for future applicants. Consider having FCCPT representative come present and answer questions.
- 6. Jonathan Gates to draft three (3) response letters as discussed and submit to staff to put on letterhead and load into OnBoard for full board review and approval.
- 7. Add AK OT_PT Employment Verification Forms – 03-18-2025 to October 2-3, 2025 board meeting for discussion.
- 8. Staff to respond to OT Volunteering in Alaska for Health Fair – 01-23-2025 that there is no further information to provide.

8. Adjourn

The Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practices Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am on Friday, June 6, 2025.

Next virtual meeting to scheduled for August 1 at 8:00 am. Potential additional meeting to be scheduled for July 11 at 8:00 am. Public notice to be sent once date confirmed with all committee members.

Approved by the Scope of Practices Committee July 11, 2025.