



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

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
11/6/2025 8:00 AM AKST  
Videoconference

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members:

Tori Daugherty

Jonathan Gates

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Scope of Practices Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 8:11 am by Tori Daugherty.

Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Tori Daugherty and Jonathan Gates.

Staff present: Shane Bannarbie, Project Coordinator 1 and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3.

Guest: Kristen Neville, Manager State Affairs, AOTA and Kathryn Perez.

## 2. Review/Approve Agenda

**Tori Daugherty moved to accept the November 6, 2025 Scope of Practices committee meeting agenda as submitted. Motion seconded by Jonathan Gates. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

## 3. Approve Minutes - 08/01/2025

**Jonathan Gates moved to approve the August 11, 2025 Scope of Practices committee meeting minutes as written. Motion seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

## 4. Public Comment

Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager with American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) expressed concern regarding wording being utilized in the PT Scope Modernization draft statutory language on "functional training and self-care". AOTA to attend PT Scope Modernization work group meeting scheduled 11/12/2025 and submit written comments.

## 5. Committee Schedule

Tori Daugherty expressed that she had a work conflict for the next scheduled Scope of Practices Committee meeting on 02/05/2026. Committee decided to move date to Thursday, November 12, 2025 at same time 8:00 am - 10:00 am.

**Action Items:**

Staff to change public noticing and website posting for February, 2026 Scope of Practices Committee meeting from 02/05/2026 to 02/12/2026.

6. NEW Board Correspondence

A. OT Scope Questions

- Dry needling clarification - 07-29-2025 request - Ivy Caldwell. Committee discussed. Licensing examiner response dated July 29, 2025 confirmed. No additional response necessary.
- Vision Therapy Scope question - PT/OT - 10-28-2025 - Joy Backstrum. Committee discussed vision therapy and feels it is well within scope definitions AS 08.84.190 for both occupational therapy (3) and physical therapy (7) as part of comprehensive plan of care. Will recommend that provider consult payor for prior authorization requirements or co-management of plan of care with optometry. Committee feels board should not comment on employee/employer situations, business practice standards, or insurance requirements as not within purview of board. Tori Daugherty to write draft response for review/approval by full board through OnBoard.

**Action items:**

- Tori Daugherty to draft response for Vision Therapy PT/OT Scope question - 10-28-2025 as discussed.

B. PT Scope Questions

- PTA Scope and Dry Needling Ruling Request - 10-31-2025 - Cassidy Pehrson. Original question is related to physical therapy dry needling only. Response will be centered around physical therapy dry needling only and not encompass occupational therapy dry needling. Previous discussions by the board related to physical therapy dry needling state it is their intent that dry needling can only be performed by physical therapists per Board position statement posted 06-16-2023 and dry needling regulation discussions as well as approved dry needling draft regulatory language from February, 2025 board meeting. All regulation

committee and board discussion centered around constant evaluation requirements when performing dry needling and PTA definition per statute AS 08.84.190(6) that precludes a PTA from doing an evaluation.

- (6) “physical therapist assistant” means a person who assists in the practice of physical therapy or an aspect of physical therapy as initiated, supervised, and terminated by a licensed physical therapist; the responsibilities of a physical therapist assistant do not include evaluation;
- AK - CWT6 for Foreign-Educated PTs - 10-28-2025 – Requirement of which coursework tool is not written in statute or regulation but only listed in the application instructions. Board discussed at October 2-3, 2025 board meeting. Discussion of the board at that meeting was to change the interpretation of the instructions/process. Intent was that CWT equivalent to their graduation date (in place at time of graduation) or the newest one (CWT6), whichever is the applicant’s preference. While the board would permit use of the most current course work tool, they encourage the use of the course work tool that’s equivalent to the year the applicant graduated because that is the more lenient and achievable standard. Intent of the board not to be restrictive financially if the applicant had already received an evaluation using CWT6 due to another state’s requirements. Initial credentials evaluation – Alaska encourages use of the CWT in force at the time of graduation; if it’s a subsequent evaluation and happens to be CWT6, Alaska will accept it. Answer the same for PTA credentials evaluations. Staff to respond as discussed.

**Action Items:**

- Staff to forward any board minutes with discussion related to physical therapists only performing dry needling, board position statement and board approved draft dry needling regulatory language to Jonathan Gates to draft response for PTA Scope and Dry Needling Ruling Request - 10-31-2025.
- Staff to response to CWT6 for Foreign Educated PTs – 10-28-2025 as discussed.

C. Generic

- Request to Share Survey with Licensed Physical Therapists - 07-20-2025 - Matt Schumacher - Licensing Examiner response dated 07-21-2025 confirmed. No additional response required.

- Emergency Disaster Practice Privileges - 08-19-2025 - Megan Mitchell - National disaster declaration. Within Governor's statutory authority when state/national disaster is declared; Executive Order would declare requirements. Point to PT Compact privileges which allow for almost immediate licensure approval. Staff to respond to letter as discussed.

**Action Items:**

Staff to respond to Emergency Disaster Practice Privileges – 08-19-2025 as discussed.

7. PT Scope Modernization Update

Next set of PT scope modernization work group meetings scheduled for November 12, November 19, and November 26 from 11am – 1pm. National APTA and FSBPT representatives invited but still trying to confirm their participation. AOTA, AKOTA and APTA-AK representatives to participate. Discussed potential to ask other professional stakeholders to attend such as acupuncturists, chiropractors, primary care association, and medical association. Decision to wait to invite until related agenda items are discussed.

8. OT Scope Modernization Update

AKOTA working with their lobbyist David Parish. Potential sponsorship with House Labor and Commerce committee co-chair. Plan is to have bill sponsored by entire committee hopefully.

9. Next Steps

- Staff to change public noticing and website posting for February, 2026 Scope of Practices Committee meeting from 02/05/2026 to 02/12/2026.
- Tori Daugherty to draft response for Vision Therapy PT/OT Scope question - 10-28-2025 as discussed.
- Staff to forward any board minutes with discussion related to physical therapists only performing dry needling, board position statement and board approved draft dry needling regulatory language to Jonathan Gates to draft response for PTA Scope and Dry Needling Ruling Request - 10-31-2025 as discussed.
- AK - CWT6 for Foreign-Educated PTs - 10-28-2025 - Staff to respond as discussed.
- Staff to respond to Emergency Disaster Practice Privileges – 08-19-2025 as discussed.

10. Adjourn

The Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practices Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

Next virtual meeting scheduled for February 12, 2026 at 8:00 am (rescheduled from February 5, 2026).

**Approved by unanimous vote at the Scope of Practices Committee meeting  
February 12, 2026.**