



# AK PT/OT Board - Regulations Committee Mtg - March 13, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

3/13/2025 1:00 PM AKDT

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members:

Valerie Phelps

Rebecca Dean

Alternate - Tori Daugherty

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 1:04 pm by Valerie Phelps. Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Valerie Phelps and Rebecca Dean. Tori Daugherty absent.

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

Guest: Kristen Neville, Manager State Affairs, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

## 2. Review/Approve Agenda

**All in favor to accept agenda as submitted for March 13, 2025 Regulations Committee meeting by consensus.**

## 3. Approve Minutes - 2/21/2025

Minutes are tabled for 02/21/2025 as not submitted as of this date.

## 4. Public Comment

Kristen Neville, Manager State Affairs, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) asked if PT/OT dry needling draft language was put forth at February 27-28, 2025 board meeting. OTAs contribute to an evaluation but do not initiate evaluations. AOTA position is that both OT and OTAs should be able to perform dry needling but understands states position to limit to occupational therapists only. Supports additional

training requirement for any therapist before performing dry needling as not an "entry level" capable service.

## 5. Regulations Projects

### A. Strategize OTA/PTA supervision next steps

Committee brainstormed - what problem are they trying to solve? Looked at board correspondence received:

- delegation of services to PTA/OTA
- progress notes
- discharge notes
- can PTAs/OTAs contribute to the evaluation
- telehealth questions
- supervision of techs
- use of PTAs/OTAs in school delivery systems
- dry needling

#### **Action Items:**

- Kristen Neville to share state by state chart re: supervision language related to unlicensed personnel for aides and techs and chart for CE requirement for OT by state

### B. Definition of Employment and Professional Reference Requirements for licensure by credentials - PT and OT

Currently 60 hours of physical therapy or occupational therapy services requirement in 12 AAC 54.100(5)(A) and 12 AAC 54.600(6)(A) has to be "paid" work experience (employment) when applying by credentials. Want to look at what can be done to translating that 60 hours of physical therapy or occupational therapy services similar to volunteer service in renewal requirements under 12 AAC 54.405(b) + (c) and 12 AAC 54.405 (b) + (c) where it could be services where a therapist was not financially compensated. Example - volunteer for a non-profit or care for aging parents or disabled child. Concerns expressed regarding verification requirements.

Use language "having provided physical therapy services for at least 60 hours" instead of "been employed in physical therapy".

Use language "having provided occupational therapy services for at least 60 hours" instead of "been employed in occupational therapy".

Professional Reference - Regulation language would need to be updated to remove outdated reference allowances. Head of physical therapy or occupational therapy school or instructor would be more relevant when applying by examination, not when applying by credentials. Change language in PT, OT, and Foreign-educated by credentials regulations to read "Supervisor with whom there is a direct professional relationship". 12 AAC 54.100; 12 AAC 54.110, 12 AAC 54.605 (new addition SB74), 12 AAC 54.610.

**Action Items:**

Staff to write up language and put for review for next meeting.

- C. Expand CEU Opportunities for OT and PT

Dispatch this item to Continuing Competency Committee to address.

- D. Explore Supervised Service Delivery by Examination - PT and OT

Table item until SB74 Draft is completed/enacted to plug and play for use as template for by examination.

- E. SB74 DRAFT (Presenters: Alison Osborne)

Item tabled as Regulations Specialist not available.

6. Next Steps

- Staff to resend Board action items from February board meeting to Rebecca Dean per request
- Cancel meeting scheduled for April 18, 2025
- Supervision to be primary discussion at May 14 meeting. Valerie Phelps to forward list of questions as outlined at this meeting for research re: PTA/OTA supervision topics. Staff to forward to committee members + build in OnBoard for upload of materials (contributors). Each member to create a chart based on 3 or 4 most important questions and drop in what other states say about it; include supervision of technicians in research. Each member assigned specific states based off previous listing. Staff to locate states assigned to each individual previously and notify. Each committee member to research and upload.
  - Research Assignments:
    - Tori Daugherty - MN, WA, CT
    - Valerie Phelps - AZ, UT, TX
    - Rebecca Dean - OH, CA, NC

7. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 10:00 am.

**Approved by Regulations Committee by vote at 05/14/2025 meeting.**