



AK PT/OT Board - Regulations Committee Mtg - September 26, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
9/26/2025 9:00 AM AKDT
Videoconference

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members: Valerie Phelps; Alternate - Tori Daugherty

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, September 26, 2025 at 9:06 am by Valerie Phelps.

Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Valerie Phelps and Tori Daugherty.

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

Guest: Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, AOTA

2. Review/Approve Agenda

Agenda amended to move #7D - Questions from Examiner to after #5 - Dry Needling Position Statement. Amended agenda for 09/26/2025 accepted by consensus.

3. Approve Minutes - 08/15/2025

Motion to approve minutes from August 15, 2025 as submitted. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Public Comment

No public comment given.

5. Dry Needling Position Statement

Acupuncture Association sent a letter to the AKOTA Task Force voicing their concerns that "dry needling is acupuncture". A draft board position statement was reviewed by committee members that that dry needling is not acupuncture. Modifications were made to the draft to present to the full board at the October 2-3, 2025 meeting for review with the recommendation to approve and have reviewed by the Department of Law. If the review is favorable, post both the letter and review in OnBoard for board approval. If edits required, convene board meeting to discuss, review and approve.

Action items:

- Tori Daugherty to send updated draft position statement to staff to put on letterhead and add to October 2-3, 2025 board meeting for review.

6. Questions from Examiner

- Late renewal/reinstatement penalty fee – recommend adopting regulations project to board
- Add “teaching” to 12 AAC 405(c) and 12 AAC 54.705(c) – recommend adopting regulations project to board
- Separate number for temporary permits and permanent licenses – staff to do additional research and bring question back to committee
- Require license verifications if licensed as any provider type PT/PTA or OT/OTA – add to agenda at October 2-3, 2025 board meeting for discussion. No regulations project required if staying within same therapy practice. Regulations project required if requiring both PT and OT license verifications.
- 12 AAC 54.420(c) + 12 AAC 54.715(c) – refer to Continuing Competency Committee for consideration with future changes
- Require registration of Persons who practice in AK Tribal Health Program due to Federal Licensure Exemptions – recommend adopting regulations project to board

Action Items:

- Valerie Phelps to include recommendations and discussion items in Regulation Committee Report for October 2-3, 2025 board meeting.
- Staff to research separate number for temporary permits and permanent licenses
- Staff to refer 12 AAC 54.420(c) + 12 AAC 54.715(c) to Continuing Competency Committee for consideration with future changes

7. 12 AAC 54.610 - Foreign-Educated Occupational Therapy Applicants

Committee discussed conflict between AS 08.84.032(b) and 12 AAC 54.610 where there appears to be no provision for someone to apply by examination because 12 AAC 54.610(3) requires current license in good standing in another state. There also does not include pathway for someone who does not have work history in the past 24 months. Committee drafted regulatory language to recommend at Oct. 2025 board meeting to adopt a regulations project to clarify pathway for foreign-educated OT applicants by examination for licensure and with no work history. Concern expressed that [NBCOT OTED](#) does not allow for foreign educated OTA to apply to take the COTA. See FAQ – OTED Review Results – “Since I have a bachelor’s degree in OT from my country, am I eligible to take the NBCOT Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA®) examination? No. Only individuals who have an occupational therapy

assistant (OTA) degree from an accredited OTA school in the U.S. are eligible to take the COTA examination.

Action Items:

- Valerie Phelps to forward draft regulatory language to staff to add to October, 2025 board meeting for review.

8. Regulations Projects

- A. OTA/PTA Supervision - Review of previous Board Actions + Materials – tabled/no discussion.
- B. OTA/PTA supervision discussion - tabled/no discussion.
- C. Definition of Employment and Professional Reference Requirements for licensure by credentials - PT and OT – previously completed; to be recommended to the board at October 2-3, 2025 meeting.

9. Next Steps

- A. Tori Daugherty to send updated draft position statement to staff to put on letterhead and add to October 2-3, 2025 board meeting for review.
- B. Valerie Phelps to include recommendations and discussion items in Regulation Committee Report for October 2-3, 2025 board meeting.
- C. Staff to research separate number for temporary permits and permanent licenses.
- D. Staff to refer 12 AAC 54.420(c) + 12 AAC 54.715(c) to Continuing Competency Committee for consideration with future changes.
- E. Valerie Phelps to forward draft regulatory language to staff to add to October, 2025 board meeting for review.

10. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am on Friday, September 26, 2025.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, November 21, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Approved by the Regulations Committee December 19, 2025 by majority vote.