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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

**F I N A L M I N U T E S**

MEETING OF:

**STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
EDUCATION AND LICENSURE  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

TIME: 10:31 A.M.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

September 2, 2021

1                   State Board of Occupational Therapy  
2                   Education and Licensure  
3                   September 2, 2021  
4  
5

6 BOARD MEMBERS:  
7

8 Kerri L. Hample, OTD, OTR/L, Chairperson  
9 K. Kalonji Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of  
10 Professional and Occupational Affairs - Absent  
11 Joanne M. Baird, Ph.D., OTR/L, Vice Chair  
12 Carolyn M. Gatty, MS, OTR/L, Secretary  
13 Edward J. Mihelcic, Ph.D., OTR/L - Absent  
14 Lisa Livingston, MS, OTR/L, SCDCM  
15

16  
17 BUREAU PERSONNEL:  
18

19 Nicole L. VanOrder, Esquire, Board Counsel  
20 Carole Clarke Smith, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel  
21 Kenneth J. Suter, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
22 Christina Townley, Board Administrator  
23 Marc Farrell, Deputy Policy Director, Department of  
24 State  
25

26  
27 ALSO PRESENT:  
28

29 Jen Smeltz, Republican Executive Director, Senate  
30 Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure  
31 Committee  
32 Jerry J. Livingston, Democratic Executive Director,  
33 Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure  
34 Committee  
35 Christine Daeschner, MOT, OTR/L, Pennsylvania  
36 Occupational Therapy Association  
37 Chelsea Churchfield, MOTR/L, Genesis Rehabilitation  
38 Services  
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2 State Board of Occupational Therapy

3 Education and Licensure

4 September 2, 2021

5 \*\*\*

6 [Nicole L. VanOrder, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
7 meeting was being recorded, and those who continued to  
8 participate were giving their consent to being  
9 recorded.]

10 Ms. VanOrder stated that no Executive Session was  
11 held prior to the Board meeting because there were no  
12 matters for discussion.]

13 \*\*\*

14 Meeting Instructions

15 [Christina Townley, Board Administrator, provided  
16 instructions to be followed during the virtual Board  
17 meeting.]

18 \*\*\*

19 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
20 Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure  
21 was held on Thursday, September 2, 2021. Kerri L.  
22 Hample, OTD, OTR/L, Chairperson, officially called the  
23 meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

24 \*\*\*

25 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

1 Do I have a motion to call the meeting  
2 to order?

3 DR. BAIRD:

4 I move.

5 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

6 Could I have a second?

7 MS. LIVINGSTON:

8 Second.

9 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

10 Thank you, Lisa.

11 \*\*\*

12 Introduction of Board Members/Guests

13 [Kerri L. Hample, OTD, OTR/L, Chairperson, requested  
14 an introduction of Board members and guests.]

15 \*\*\*

16 Approval of Minutes

17 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

18 The first item on the agenda is a  
19 backlog of minutes that need to be  
20 approved.

21 If we could start with the minutes  
22 from December 10, 2020, are there any  
23 comments, discussions related to the  
24 minutes from December 10? Hearing none.

25 Can I have motion to approve the

1 minutes of December 10, 2020?

2 MS. GATTY:

3 So moved.

4 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

5 Second?

6 MS. LIVINGSTON:

7 Second.

8 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

9 Can I have a vote to approve the minutes  
10 from December? All in favor, aye? Any  
11 opposition to that?

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 \*\*\*

14 Approval of Minutes

15 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

16 Can we move on to the minutes from March  
17 4, 2021? Any discussion, questions,  
18 changes?

19 [The Board discussed corrections to the minutes.]

20 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

21 Can we have a motion to approve the  
22 minutes from March 4, 2021, with the  
23 amendments made?

24 MS. LIVINGSTON:

25 Motion to approve.

1 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

2                   How about a second?

3 MS. GATTY:

4                   Second.

5 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

6                   All in favor of passing those minutes as  
7                   amended, say aye. Any opposition?

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9   \*\*\*

10 Approval of Minutes

11 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

12                   Next is the minutes from June 2, 2021.

13 [The Board discussed corrections to the minutes.]

14 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

15                   Any other changes on that set of  
16                   minutes? Hearing no further discussion,  
17                   I'm going to ask for a motion to pass  
18                   the minutes from June 4, 2021, with the  
19                   amendments suggested.

20                   May I have a motion?

21 MS. LIVINGSTON:

22                   Motion to approve.

23 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

24                   How about a second?

25 DR. BAIRD:

1 I second.

2 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

3 All in favor of passing those minutes,  
4 aye? Any no?

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6 \*\*\*

7 Adoption of Agenda

8 MS. VANORDER:

9 Would the Board chair entertain a motion  
10 to adopt today's agenda?

11 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

12 Could I have a motion for that?

13 DR. BAIRD:

14 I'll move to adopt the agenda.

15 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

16 How about a second?

17 MS. LIVINGSTON:

18 Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

20 All in favor? Any opposition?

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 \*\*\*

23 Report of Board Counsel

24 [Nicole L. VanOrder, Esquire, Board Counsel, addressed  
25 16A-6712 regarding educational programs. Ms. VanOrder

1 informed the Board that the proposed regulatory  
2 package was approved with no comments. She mentioned  
3 that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
4 (IRRC) provided a no comment letter, and there was no  
5 opposition or substantive changes that needed to be  
6 made.

7 Ms. VanOrder referred to the final regulatory  
8 package, noting the annex and the preamble. She  
9 stated the changes conform with the regulatory  
10 process, primarily from the Legislative Reference  
11 Bureau, and it has also been changed from a proposed  
12 regulation to a final regulation.]

13 MS. VANORDER:

14 Assuming the Board would like to  
15 continue along this regulatory process  
16 and have the regulation published as  
17 final, I would need you to make a motion  
18 to approve the final regulatory package  
19 for 16A-6712 Educational Programs to be  
20 published as final.

21 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

22 Is there any discussion? Hearing none.  
23 Is there a motion to move forward with  
24 the proposed legislation?

25 MS. GATTY:



1 So moved.

2 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

3 So moved from Carolyn. I need second?

4 MS. LIVINGSTON:

5 I'll second.

6 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

7 All in favor, say aye. Any no?

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 \*\*\*

10 Miscellaneous

11 [Nicole L. VanOrder, Esquire, Board Counsel, referred  
12 to Act 65 of 2021. She noted changes to the Sunshine  
13 Law. She addressed additional notice requirements,  
14 where any changes to the agenda must be made and  
15 posted within 24 hours. She mentioned that a last  
16 minute change to the agenda needs to be specifically  
17 explained and accepted on the record with a motion.

18 Ms. VanOrder noted Commissioner Johnson would not  
19 be available today but that he provided information to  
20 her to pass along to the Board. She stated the  
21 waivers would expire on October 1, 2021, and the Board  
22 will no longer have the ability to extend regulatory  
23 or statutory requirements. She noted any additional  
24 change would need to come from the legislature.

25 Ms. VanOrder announced that all meetings will be

1 in person starting October 1, noting some adjustments  
2 would be made and precautions would be taken in light  
3 of COVID resurgence. She mentioned there still may be  
4 an online option for participants, but Board members  
5 are expected to attend in person.

6 Ms. VanOrder informed the Board that in-person  
7 travel requests are back to pre-COVID standards of up  
8 to two members. She stated that virtual attendance  
9 was strongly preferred, noting additional people could  
10 attend virtually without the cost of sending people in  
11 person. She noted the department is asking that  
12 physical travel requests be submitted as soon as  
13 possible due to staffing shortages.

14 Ms. VanOrder, on behalf of Commissioner Johnson,  
15 thanked the Board for their hard work and thanked  
16 guests for joining the meeting as well.

17 Chair Hample addressed telehealth, stating that  
18 there is confusion concerning the waiver because it  
19 sounds like everyone cannot continue telehealth beyond  
20 September 30. She informed everyone that there is  
21 nothing in the occupational therapy guidelines,  
22 regulations, or statutes that prohibits telehealth.

23 Ms. VanOrder commented that it is a question all  
24 of the boards are asking because the acts and  
25 regulations do not include requirements or speak to

1 telehealth at all and will be a hot topic brought up  
2 in the legislature.

3 Jerry J. Livingston, Democratic Executive  
4 Director, Senate Consumer Protection & Professional  
5 Licensure Committee, stated the telehealth part has  
6 been something the legislature has been attempting to  
7 pass to put in the statute. He noted Chair Hample is  
8 correct, where there is nothing prohibiting telehealth  
9 medicine in the commonwealth.

10 Mr. Livingston stated it did exist prior to  
11 COVID, but those agreements are tentative based on  
12 agreements that practitioners or health care systems  
13 and hospitals have with health insurers, noting health  
14 insurers are not required to reimburse for telehealth.  
15 He commented that the legislature is still trying to  
16 work to address that issue.

17 Chair Hample mentioned that most of the questions  
18 are whether someone can provide telehealth or not,  
19 where there is nothing in the license that says  
20 someone cannot, but there is also nothing that says  
21 the insurance company has to pay the bill either. She  
22 stated it is not a licensure issues as to whether  
23 someone can perform telehealth or not, but it is a  
24 payment issue. She noted the importance of whoever is  
25 responsible for paying the bill to ask whether the

1 carrier or federal government is still going to pay.

2 Mr. Livingston agreed with Chair Hample, stating  
3 that he and Ms. Smeltzer sit in on a lot of meetings,  
4 and it is certainly a question that has come up and  
5 has been a big topic of conversation. He mentioned  
6 that most of the laws have nothing prohibiting the  
7 continuation of telehealth treatment, but if the  
8 patient's health care provider does not have the  
9 preexisting authorization or agreement, then the  
10 patient is paying out of pocket for treatment.

11 Jen Smeltz, Republican Executive Director, Senate  
12 Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure  
13 Committee, commented that several insurers are going  
14 to continue to pay for it, and the Department of  
15 Health has put out guidance for programs under their  
16 jurisdiction. She offered to send the information to  
17 Ms. VanOrder.

18 Ms. Smeltz mentioned that the committee is  
19 looking at doing legislation on a number of things,  
20 including being able to continue clinical hours for  
21 students to do that as virtual supervision. She  
22 informed the associations and organizations that have  
23 specific requests to inform the committee as soon as  
24 possible.

25 Chair Hample stated the central Pennsylvania area

1 fieldwork is still very complicated and tremendously  
2 backlogged and assumes it is the same across  
3 Pennsylvania. She noted being confident that  
4 professional associations would back anything that  
5 enables students to continue to keep moving through  
6 the system.

7 Chair Hample stated Pennsylvania is blessed with  
8 the largest number of occupational therapy (OT)  
9 schools in the country but also cursed because all of  
10 those students have to move through the system and  
11 fieldwork is an issue. She mentioned that there will  
12 be plenty of providers but getting them through is  
13 challenging.

14 Dr. Baird noted that Christine Daeschner is in  
15 attendance and suggested that there may be an  
16 opportunity as a representative from their  
17 professional organization at the state level to  
18 advocate from a legislative standpoint for fieldwork  
19 for clinicals or residencies to have the telehealth or  
20 virtual visit option continue.

21 Dr. Baird addressed the benefits from a consumer  
22 standpoint, where there will be a dip for future  
23 professionals in their ability to access clients  
24 physically, so this gives them an opportunity as they  
25 are moving through their training to hone their

1 professional skills in an equivalent manner.

2 Ms. VanOrder noted continuing education (CE)  
3 application information provided by Ms. Townley.

4 Ms. Townley presented information requested at  
5 the June meeting concerning revenue from continuing  
6 education applications for providers and individuals.  
7 She reported revenue of \$2,080 in 2019, \$920 in 2020,  
8 and \$1,280 up until August 6, 2021. She noted around  
9 50 applications with revenue around \$2,000 annually.]

10 \*\*\*

11 Report of Board Administrator

12 [Christina Townley, Board Administrator, noted current  
13 processing time is about 10-15 business days for  
14 initial applications.

15 Dr. Baird asked Ms. Townley how long it is taking  
16 to process the renewals.

17 Ms. Townley stated the renewals were all  
18 processed and finalized after June 30 with a little  
19 over 80 percent renewal for OTs and occupational  
20 therapy assistants (OTAs). She mentioned receiving  
21 reactivations for people who may have not renewed at  
22 that time or waited, which would change the licensee  
23 population numbers and offered to provide those  
24 numbers at the next meeting.]

25 \*\*\*

1 Report of Commissioner - No Report

2 \*\*\*

3 Report of Board Prosecution - No Report

4 [Kenneth J. Suter, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, had no  
5 formal report and no consent agreements to present but  
6 offered to address any questions from a general  
7 perspective.]

8 \*\*\*

9 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report

10 \*\*\*

11 [Nicole L. VanOrder, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
12 next scheduled Board meeting is December 10, 2021.  
13 She also noted March 3, June 2, September 1, and  
14 December 8 to be the 2022 Board meeting dates.

15 Chair Hample commented that the meetings would be  
16 in person unless something changes.]

17 \*\*\*

18 [Carolyn M. Gatty, MS, OTR/L, Secretary, announced  
19 that December 10, 2021, would be her last meeting as a  
20 Board member and thanked everyone for the experience.

21 She stated that serving on the Board for eight years  
22 had been an honor and a great experience.

23 Chair Hample noted her appreciation and thanked  
24 Ms. Gatty for her years of service.

25 Ms. VanOrder also thanked Ms. Gatty for her

1 service.

2 Ms. VanOrder commented that the Board's act does  
3 not appear to require in-person meetings, so they may  
4 be able to participate virtually but will await more  
5 guidance as that is finalized.

6 Ms. VanOrder again noted that the Board will be  
7 returning to in-person Board meetings as of October 1  
8 unless something changes. She mentioned there is no  
9 physical presence requirement in their act, so Board  
10 members may be able to participate virtually as well.  
11 She stated that certain boards have the physical  
12 presence requirement, so Board members have to appear  
13 once the waiver is gone.

14 Ms. VanOrder requested an introduction of those  
15 who joined the meeting after roll call.

16 Carole Clarke Smith, Esquire, Senior Board  
17 Counsel, introduced herself.

18 Chelsea Churchfield, MOTR/L, Genesis  
19 Rehabilitation Services, introduced herself.

20 Ms. Gatty stated Ms. Churchfield works for  
21 Genesis Rehabilitation Services and has an extensive  
22 resume. She mentioned that Ms. Churchfield was very  
23 interested in becoming a Board member, and she  
24 forwarded her the information that she received from  
25 Ms. Townley.



1 Christine Daeschner, MOT, OTR/L, Pennsylvania  
2 Occupational Therapy Association also introduced  
3 herself.

4 Chair Hample wished Ms. Gatty well, noting she  
5 will be attending the December meeting and will move  
6 forward from there. She thanked everybody for joining  
7 the meeting and all of the occupational therapists who  
8 are working hard to navigate through all of the  
9 changes and provide the best patient care that  
10 consumers deserve.]

11 \*\*\*

12 Adjournment

13 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

14 Can I have a motion to adjourn?

15 MS. LIVINGSTON:

16 So moved.

17 DR. BAIRD:

18 Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON HAMPLE:

20 All in favor of adjourning? Anyone no?

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

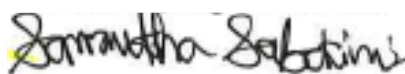
22 \*\*\*

23 [There being no further business, the State Board of  
24 Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure Meeting  
25 adjourned at 11:07 a.m.]

\*\*\*

## CERTIFICATE

1  
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4  
5 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary  
6 minutes of the State Board of Occupational Therapy  
7 Licensure and Education Meeting, was reduced to  
8 writing by me or under my supervision, and that the  
9 minutes accurately summarize the substance of the  
10 State Board of Occupational Therapy Licensure and  
11 Education Meeting.



Samantha Sabatini,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
EDUCATION AND LICENSURE  
REFERENCE INDEX

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TIME	AGENDA
10:31	Official Call to Order
10:31	Introduction of Board Members/Guests
10:34	Approval of Minutes
10:39	Adoption of Agenda
10:39	Report of Board Counsel
10:43	Miscellaneous
10:57	Report of Board Administrator
11:07	Adjournment