



AK PT/OT Board - Regulations Committee Mtg December 20, 2024 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
12/20/2024 10:00 AMAKST
@ Juneau - Zoom

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members: Valerie Phelps, Rebecca Dean; Alternate = Tori Daugherty

The State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Regulations Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 9:59 am by Valerie Phelps. Roll call taken:

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

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

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

2. Review/Approve Agenda

Rebecca Dean moved to approve the meeting agenda as submitted. Seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes

- October 11, 2024
- November 22, 2024

Rebecca Dean moved to approve the minutes for the October 11, 2024 and November 22, 2024 meetings as written. Seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Public Comment

No public comment given.

5. Regulations Projects - awaiting next steps

- A. PT/OT Dry Needling - Recommendation for board at January 23-24, 2025 Board mtg

Committee members reviewed the final draft physical therapy and occupational therapy language as crafted at the November 22, 2024 committee meeting. Regulations Specialist provided clean copy without markups. No substantive changes made to the language. Committee's intent to recommend to the board that the physical therapy and occupational therapy language be duplicated in content and that only physical therapists and occupational therapists be allowed to perform dry needling and not PTAs or OTAs.

Action Items:

Staff to forward required motion to Valerie Phelps for January board meeting to move draft language forward.

- B. Opening Questionnaires - DRAFTS

1. 6-month post graduate FE internship - Valerie Phelps
2. OT licensure by examination and credentials - Rebecca Dean
3. Supervised Service Delivery - Valerie Phelps
4. SB74 - Valerie Phelps and Rebecca Dean to both work on collaboratively through staff (2) = SB74 + Jurisprudence
5. Examiner Recommendations - Rebecca Dean (7)

Committee discussed sectioning of current regulations project and submitting Project Opening Questionnaires.

Action Items:

Staff to make any required changes to POQs, complete corresponding Staff POQs, and submit to Regulations Specialist. If additional Board - Regulations POQs are required, staff to inform committee members as soon as possible.

6. New Regulations Projects

- A. Greater clarification on supervision of OTAs and PTAs - 12 AAC 54.510 and 12 AAC 54.810

Committee summarized questions they want to address with OTA/PTA supervision.

What is the problem we are trying to solve?

- All of the letters of correspondence that come in
 - o Who can write case notes, progress reports
 - o Who can sign off on progress/discharge notes
 - o Can a PTA supervise a PT as a clinic (not patient) manager
 - o How many can be supervised full time versus part time?
 - o Telehealth questions when an assistant is alone

- o Can an aide or assistant perform evaluations for a PT/OT on the other end of a telehealth visit. Can this be cross professional
- o Under what circumstances is a co-signature needed/required?

What are our questions or what do we want to address?

1. Specifics to documentation
 - a. Who can do what? Specific to documentation
 - b. Who's required and when to cosign notes
2. Number that can be supervised
3. Transitions in supervision – what is the ensured quality of the supervisor if/when it changes. Does that supervisor have to have met that patient before?
4. Treatments
 - a. Evaluation?
 - b. Establish/change in plan of care?
 - c. Discharge vs discharge summary?
5. Levels of supervision
 - a. Who could supervise?
 - i. In the absence of an OT, a PT could supervise
6. Supervision in Telehealth
7. Supervision of aides
8. Supervision of advance practice,
 - a. Certifications, MLD
 - b. LMT's
 - c. ATC's
 - d. Ex physiologist

Do we seek stakeholder in put?

Looking at best intentions...

Would need a variety of areas: home health, villages, outpatient,

Considerations to Alaska:

1. Unique in practice locations and situations
2. What is common practice
3. What is the best situation in Alaska for patient protection?
4. Consideration of equal access for Alaska natives
 - a. Access to care
 - b. Treating what needs to be treated

- c. What do we do about remote communities
 - i. Fulfilling school requirements
 - ii. Primary care situations
- d. Consider broadening telehealth with an assistant/aide/nurse/CHAP who can be the hands and eyes of an OT on the other end. (is this a strategic plan item?)
 - i. Consider this in descriptions of rehab aid

NOTE: if we are too prescriptive, it might be difficult to find a supervisor

AOTA – paper on supervision

Action:

Look at volunteer vs paid employment in application by credentials, removing professional reference options (school teacher doesn't apply)

What are the points we want to consider for CEU's

Simplifies the world for many

Supervision.... Strategize next steps for that....

- Give who would we want to invite to a work group?

- B. Definition of employment and professional reference requirements for licensure by credentials - PT and OT

Tabled to January 10, 2025 meeting for discussion.

- C. Expand CEU opportunities for OT and PT

Tabled to January 10, 2025 meeting for discussion.

7. Next Steps

Next mtg. January 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm Discussion:

- CEU Opportunities
- Discuss employment definition
- Strategize OTA/PTA supervision next steps

8. Adjourn

The State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Regulations Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am on Friday, December 20, 2024. Next meeting Friday, January 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

Approved by unanimous vote 01/10/2025.