



AK PT/OT Board - Scope of Practices Committee

Mtg - July 8, 2024 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Monday, July 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM AKDT
@ Juneau - Zoom

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Committee Members: Tina McLean, Enlow Walker, and Tori Daugherty

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Scopes of Practice Committee meeting was called to order at 10:05 am on Monday, July 8, 2024 by Tina McLean. Roll call done by Tina McLean. Committee members present: Tina McLean, Enlow Walker, and Tori Daugherty. Lindsey Hill has resigned from this committee. Staff present: Sheri Ryan, License Examiner and Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1. Guest present: Kristen Neville, Manager, State Affairs, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

2. **Review/Approve Agenda**

 [PHY - Agenda - SOP Mtg - 07-08-2024.pdf](#)

Motion made by Tori Daugherty to amend the agenda to include discussion of changing time and date of future committee meetings as previously scheduled specifically to accommodate previous committee member's schedule. Seconded by Enlow Walker. All in favor; none opposed. Agenda amended to include discussion on time/date of future committee meetings.

3. **Approve Minutes**

Minutes from previous meeting 05-13-2024 not submitted for approval.

4. **Public Comment**

No public comment given.

5. **Correspondence Items**

A. OT Scope Questions

 [OT Research request - 02-27-2024.pdf](#)

 [OT Scope of Practice - Pelvic Floor Training - 06-19-2024.pdf](#)

 [COTA Requirements for telehealth - 06-02-2024.pdf](#)

- OT Research Request - 02-27-2024
 - Not within the board's purview to solicit on behalf of others. Cannot endorse projects - don't have enough understanding of project/facts of submission. Board's duty is public protection and licensing.
 - State makes some licensee information public and available. Ability to contact directly without going through the board.
 - Staff to compose draft and put in OnBoard for full board review and approval.

- OT Scope of Practice - Pelvic Floor Training - 06-19-2024
 - CE approval portion of question was previously answered by licensing examiner. Board to answer "Is pelvic floor training within occupational therapist scope of practice and can it count as CE?"
 - AS 08.84.190(3) and 12 AAC 54.715(c) citations - Tori Daugherty to draft response and forward to staff to put on letterhead. Draft to be reviewed at next committee meeting.


- COTA Requirements for Telehealth - 06-02-2024
 - How often is in-person treatment required by COTAs when providing telehealth? 12 AAC 54.825 and 12 AAC 54.810 citations. No in-person requirements for COTA when providing telehealth.
 - Standard supervision requirements for OT with COTA apply.

Action Items:

1. Sheri Ryan to compose response letter re: OT Research request – 02-27-2024 - not within Board purview and put in OnBoard for full Board approval/vote.
2. Tori Daugherty to draft response letter for OT Scope of Practice – Pelvic Floor Training – 06-19-2024 – Pelvic floor within OT scope referring to statute 05.84.190(3) and because within scope, meets requirements of 12 AAC 54.715(c) and therefore eligible for continuing education for occupational therapists. Draft to be put in OnBoard for full Board approval/vote.

3. Tori Daugherty to draft response letter for COTA Requirements for telehealth – 06-02-2024 – no in-person requirements for COTA per telehealth requirements of regulation 12 AAC 54.825 and must comply with all normal supervision requirements per regulation 12 AAC 54.810. Draft to be put in OnBoard for full Board approval/vote.

B. PT Scope Questions

 [PT Telehealth Scope question - 06-05-2024.pdf](#)

 [PTA as Director of Rehabilitation - 06-14-2024.pdf](#)

- PT Telehealth Scope Question - 06-05-2024
 - Extensive discussion regarding 12 AAC 54.530 Standards for Practice of Telerehabilitation by Physical Therapists and the specific passage [to provide physical therapy to patients who are located in this state and do not have access to a physical therapist in person due to "geographic constraints or health and safety constraints"] Department of Law to review draft letter.
- PTA as Director of Rehabilitation - 06-14-2024
 - Can a PTA be a Director of Rehab in a long term care facility? AK PT/OT practice act does not prohibit PTA from being employed as a Director of Rehab. Anyone can be Director of Rehab - does not have to be licensed individual - administrative duty. Problem arises because PTA still subject to supervision by licensed PT. PTA serving as director does not increase their scope of practice or ability to perform services outside their scope of practice.

Action Items:

1. Tina McLean to draft response letter for PT Telehealth Scope question – 06-05-2024 – Board’s interpretation of “geographic constraints” for Anchorage area. Health/safety constraints do not exist as patient in long term care facility. Questions exist such as in-house staffing availability of PT/PTA. Sheri to forward DRAFT to Department of Law for review. SOP committee to review Draft and DOL response at next meeting 8/16/2024.
2. Tina McLean to draft response letter for PTA as Director of Rehabilitation – 06-14-2024 – anyone can perform administrative duties as AK Practice act does not prohibit (or is silent on matter). Role of PTA as supervisor does not increase their scope of practice to perform any duty/action such

as performing evaluations. SOP committee to review Draft at next meeting 8/16/2024.

Additional agenda item discussed - Future committee meeting time/date. Motion by Tori Daugherty to move all Scope of Practices committee meetings from Monday to Fridays at 9:00 am. Seconded by Enlow Walker. All in favor; none opposed. Motion to move all meetings from Mondays at 10:00 am to Fridays at 9:00 am approved unanimously.

6. Next Steps

Action Items:

1. Sheri Ryan to compose response letter re: OT Research request – 02-27-2024 - not within Board purview and put in OnBoard for full Board approval/vote.
2. Tori Daugherty to draft response letter for OT Scope of Practice – Pelvic Floor Training – 06-19-2024 – Pelvic floor within OT scope referring to statute 05.84.190(3) and because within scope, meets requirements of 12 AAC 54.715(c) and therefore eligible for continuing education for occupational therapists. Draft to be put in OnBoard for full Board approval/vote.
3. Tori Daugherty to draft response letter for COTA Requirements for telehealth – 06-02-2024 – no in-person requirements for COTA per telehealth requirements of regulation 12 AAC 54.825 and must comply with all normal supervision requirements per regulation 12 AAC 54.810. Draft to be put in OnBoard for full Board approval/vote.
4. Tina McLean to draft response letter for PT Telehealth Scope question – 06-05-2024 – Board’s interpretation of “geographic constraints” for Anchorage area. Health/safety constraints do not exist as patient in long term care facility. Questions exist such as in-house staffing availability of PT/PTA. Sheri to forward DRAFT to Department of Law for review. SOP committee to review Draft and DOL response at next meeting 8/16/2024.
5. Tina McLean to draft response letter for PTA as Director of Rehabilitation – 06-14-2024 – anyone can perform administrative duties as AK Practice act does not prohibit (or is silent on matter). Role of PTA as supervisor does not increase their scope of practice to perform any duty/action such as performing evaluations. SOP committee to review Draft at next meeting 8/16/2024.
6. Sheri to reschedule all future SOP meetings in Zoom, OnBoard, PHY Website, and Public Notices system and send email to board with dates/times.

7. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practices Committee meeting adjourned at 11:05 am on Monday, July 8, 2024. Next Scope of Practices committee meeting scheduled for Friday, August 16, 2024 at 9:00 am.

Minutes approved by the Scope of Practices Committee August 16, 2024 by unanimous vote.