

**North Dakota State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice  
April 15, 2024  
Regular Meeting  
Held by virtual means via Zoom.  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Janae Hughes.

**Present**

Board Members – Janae Hughes, Carol Olson, Wanda Lauer, Klancy Tindall, and Lori Novak.

Others – Jacinda Simmons, Administrator; Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General; Janeene Sibla, NBCOT Ambassador; Megan Boucher, NDOTA.

***{Lori Novak absent}***

**OT Compact**

Janeene Sibla, State Ambassador for NBCOT, spoke about the compact. Currently 64% of the OT/OTA positions in the state are filled. Pediatric therapists are especially needed, and employers are offering increased salaries of \$5-\$10 per hour more. NBCOT has started a “Why OT?” program, which is an initiative to get more young people interested in occupational therapy, giving talks in high schools and even elementary schools.

The surrounding states have adopted the compact. The compact requires a background check which the Board does not currently have. Olson said the compact is better than when it first debuted a few years ago. At that time, the Board had questions and concerns about the compact.

Sibla offered the Board any assistance she could provide the Board regarding the compact.

***{Novak present}***

**OT Compact Legislation**

Megan Boucher with NDOTA, spoke in place of Sheri Martin, concerning the compact.

Hicks stated in the past the Board has concerns about not having control over the license requirements once the compact is passed. The compact would require a completed background check which would actually delay licensure from the current timeline of about 1 week after all items are submitted.

If NDOTA proposes legislation, the Board can choose to support, oppose, or remain neutral.

Board would like more information on the compact. Sibla will investigate what resources NBCOT has available. Boucher will set up a presentation with AOTA to be held sometime in June.

**Introduction**

The Board welcomed new consumer member, Lori Novak, to the Board.

**Minutes**

**January 25, 2024 - A motion was made** to approve the minutes. (Lauer/Tindall/unanimous) [Roll Call Vote: Hughes (y), Olson (y)], Lauer (y), Tindall (y), Novak (y)] **[Bd. Office]**

**Financial Report**

Nine months into the 2-year budget, expenses and revenue are in line and are under budget. CDs will be renewed at the best rate. CD interest rates are currently around 4% to 5%. Renewal revenue has begun to come in and is most of the Board’s revenue.

**A motion was made** to approve the financial report. (Olson/Tindall/unanimous) [Roll Call Vote: Hughes (y), Olson (y)], Lauer (y), Tindall (y), Novak (y)]

**Military and Military Spouse Licensure**

New federal laws regarding military members and military spouse licensure were effective on January 5, 2023. This requires Boards to expedite licensure for military members and their spouses.

Hicks explained that the person must have a current license in good standing in another state and be in the state under active military orders. When licensed, the Board’s scope of practice, Code of Ethics, and CE requirements must be followed, and they can be disciplined if necessary. When the person is no longer under active military orders, they must apply and meet the Board’s licensure requirements.

**A motion was made** to bring all license applications for a military member or spouse with active military orders to the Board. (Olson/Novak/carried) [Roll Call Vote: Hughes (y), Olson (y)], Lauer (y), Tindall (y), Novak (y)]

**Law and Rules Changes**

Tabled until the next meeting when the OT compact is discussed again.

**2024 License Renewal**

Renewal notices were sent out by email on April 8, 2024, to all current licenses.

**Approved List of Licensees (1/17/2024 – 4/1/2024)**

**A motion was made** to approve the list of new licenses. (Lauer/Olson/unanimous) [Roll Call Vote: Hughes (y), Olson (y)], Lauer (y), Tindall (y), Novak (y)]

**NBCOT/AOTA Update**

Emails from both organizations were recently sent to the Board. The Board did not have any questions or concerns.

**Board Appointments**

Tindall does not wish to be reappointed for another term when her first term expires December 31, 2024. She will direct anyone interested in being a Board member to the Governor’s website or the Board office.

**2024 Meeting Dates**

June 2024	TBD	Zoom meeting and Board office
July 15, 2024	8:00 am	Zoom meeting and Board office
October 21, 2024	8:00 am	Zoom meeting and Board office

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Janae Hughes,  
Board Chair**

**Jacinda Simmons  
Administrator, NDBOTP Office**