



Meeting Minutes



Meeting Title:	Mississippi Council of Advisors in Occupational Therapy Meeting	
Meeting Location:	Zoom - CC/PL Conference Room – 143B LeFleurs Square, Jackson, MS 39211	
Meeting Date:	January 20, 2021	
Time:	1:00 P.M.	
Called to Order:	1:05 PM by Mr. Cockroft, Quorum was established.	
Next Meeting Date/Time/Location:	19 January 2022 1:00 P.M. Zoom - CC/PL Conference Room / 143B LeFleurs Square, Jackson, MS 39211	
Meeting Adjourned	2:15 P.M.	
Attendees:	<u>Council Members Present</u> Scott Cockroft Megan Ladner Michelle Pierce Tina Melton Kristy Cole	<u>Council Members Absent</u> Cynthia Senior Cheri Nipp
	<u>MSDH Staff Present</u> Festus Simkins Amirah Saleem Felicia Wang	<u>Council Members Absent</u> Yolanda Morrow Cassandra Walter
	<u>Attending Via Phone Conference</u>	
	<u>Members of the Public Present</u> Macey Lea	



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	New Business	NOTES
1.	Approval of January 22, 2020 minutes	A correction to add Tina Melton (via phone conference) to minutes to approve minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Ladner and seconded by Ms. Pierce to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meetings once corrected. The motion passed.
2.	Election of Chair and Vice-chair	The Council elected Scott Cockroft as chair and Michelle Pierce as secretary for the 2022 term.
3.	2020 Renewal Report	Ms. Saleem informed the Council about the number of licenses that were renewed in 2020. OT: 1227/OTA 685 Ms. Ladner informed the Council that MSOTA's membership is about 20% of licensees.
4.	LARS Update	Mr. Wang informed the Council that the new database has been up and running since mid-January 2020 and is running smoothly. The 2020 renewals were conducted through LARS. Ms. Wang also informed the Council that the IT department is working on the online applications and will hopefully be in production by the end of the year. Ms. Ladner informed the Council that MSOTA members will be informed about email capturing, as Ms. Wang informed the Council that all future communication will be via email.
5.	Appointments/Reappointments	Mr. Simkins informed the Council that all appointments and reappointments have been approved, and the Department is waiting on paperwork confirmation.
6.	Complaint Report	Ms. Wang informed the Council regarding two (2) complaints received. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An OTA complaint was submitted by the employer that the OTA was falsifying documentation regarding patient visits. Ms. Wang informed the Council that previously spoke with Mr. Cockroft, and a consent agreement had been drafted and approved. Ms. Wang went over the terms of the consent agreement and informed the Council that the licensee is requesting leniency and a monetary penalty. Ms. Wang informed the Council that the Department cannot issue a monetary penalty; the Council unanimously agreed that the consent agreement is lenient. 2. Ms. Wang informed the Council that another complaint had been submitted on an OTA by a student at a college regarding stealing money and canceling classes, but that the licensee did not renew, so the complaint was closed unresolved.
7.	AOTA Survey	The topic was tabled for the next meeting. The survey is suggesting wording changes, deletions, and others that will significantly restrict pediatrics and psychotherapy. Ms. Lander is wanting to take it to UMMC staff and MSOTA. The Council will discuss this by email.



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8.	Online Continuing Education	Ms. Wang asked the Council if they would like to make a regulation change to have all continuing education hours online. The Council unanimously voted no. The Council decided that all continuing education can be accrued online during the pandemic and that this can be placed on the website in late summer/early fall, as we are unsure how the pandemic will be. Mr. Cockroft stated that 80% of licensees are NBCOT members, and can submit their NBCOT certification for proof of continuing education hours, and thus can accrue all hours online anyway (20% of licensee are inactive or non-NBCOT members)
9.	OT Licensure Compact	Mr. Simkins informed the Council that this is a legislation vote, and just wants the Council to be informed. Mr. Cockroft stated that this has been discussed, and there are several items in disagreement, such as if the licensee has a disciplinary action in another state, they will not have to notify the Department and that is an expense to the state. Ms. Ladner asked when it will come up in legislation, Mr. Simkins informed it is unknown, Ms. Ladner stated will add this topic to the MSOTA agenda.
10.	Other	Ms. Lander informed the Council that the MSOTA conference is in April.

	Old Business	NOTES
1.	Random Audits	Ms. Lander informed the Council that this topic is on the MSOTA conference agenda. Mr. Cockroft stated that he has heard positive responses regarding random audits.
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	Public Comments	NOTES
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Minutes Submitted by:



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	Other Business	NOTES
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Scott Cockroft
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Council Chairperson

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Festus E. Simkins
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MSDH Representative

6/3/2021 | 9:50 AM CDT

Date