

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING & REGULATION
South Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Dr, Columbia SC 29210
Upstate Room

Friday, May 17, 2024

Board Members Present

Lesly W. James, Ph.D., OTR/L, Chairperson
Ricardo Holmes, Sr., OTR/L, Vice-Chairperson
Rebecca Coleman, OTR/L
Melissa Hevia, OTA

Board Members Absent

Nadine K. Hanner, OT

Staff Present

Mack Williams, Board Administrator
Mary League, Esquire, Advice Counsel
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Board of Occupational Therapy Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building 110 Centerview Drive, provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Call to Order

Dr. James, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04am. The meeting was held via video/teleconference.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion is seconded and approved.

Approval / Disapproval of Absent Members:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to approve the absence of Ms. Hanner. The motion is seconded and approved.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve the February 9, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE/IRC) Report: Mr. Bond presented the statistical report and training report to the Board. The Board accepted both reports as information.

Office of General Council (ODC) Report: Ms. McMenamain presented the ODC Report. The Board accepted the ODC report as information.

Finance Report: Mr. Williams, Board Administrator, presented the financial report.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Hevia made a motion to accept the finance report.

Application Hearing:

Maureen Sweeney: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Sweeney should be granted licensure as an Occupational Therapist in South Carolina. Ms. Sweeney made an appearance and was not represented by legal counsel.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to go into closed session to protect personal health information. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to grant Ms. Sweeney an occupational therapy license. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hevia made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Geralda Swaringen: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Swaringen should be granted reinstatement as an Occupational Therapist in South Carolina. Ms. Swaringen made an appearance and was not represented by legal counsel.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to grant reinstatement upon completion of two hundred-fifty (250) hours of clinical practice under the supervision of a licensed Occupational Therapist and the completion of sixteen (16) hours of in-person, Board approved continuing education. Ms. Swaringen will be issued a provisional license to obtain the two hundred-fifty hours of clinical practice. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes motioned applicants that have multiple misdemeanors ten (10) years prior to the application date does not need to appear before the Board. These applications may be directed to the Chair. The motion was seconded and approved.

Disciplinary Hearing:

Memorandum of Agreement:

2023-6: The respondent made a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by legal counsel. Ms. McMenamain presented the memorandum of agreement to the Board. Ms. McMenamain requested that the hearing be closed to protect personal health information.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal counsel. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session: No votes taken during executive session [11:26 am – 11:58 am]

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hevia made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to accept the memorandum of agreement and issue a public reprimand with the conditions of a \$500.00 civil penalty to be paid within sixty (60) days of the order and pass and complete the jurisprudence/ethics exam within ninety (90) days. The motion was seconded and approved.

Formal Complaint:

2022-3: The respondent did not make a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by legal counsel. Ms. McMenammin presented the formal complaint to the Board.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hevia made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal counsel. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session: No votes taken during executive session [1:09 pm – 1:42 pm]

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to issue a public reprimand with the conditions of a \$1000.00 civil penalty for each violation for a total penalty of \$2000.00 and pass and complete the jurisprudence/ethics exam. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded and approved.

ACOTE Action (Update): Mr. Williams updated the Board on South University's ACOTA action.

2024 SCOTA Update: Ms. Coleman and Ms. Hevia discussed the SCOTA convention with the Board.

2024 NAP Update: Mr. Holmes and Mr. Williams discussed the NAP conference with the Board.

2024 AOTA Update: The Board discussed IRC members. The Board will consider two names for IRC. The Board deferred the vote until the next meeting.

OT Licensure Compact (Update): Dr. James and Mr. Holmes discussed the update of the OT Compact with the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09pm.