

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
Low Country Room
Friday, May 2, 2025

Board Members Present

Lesly W. James, Ph.D., OTR/L, Chairperson
Ricardo Holmes, Sr., OTR/L, Vice-Chairperson
Rebecca Coleman, OTR/L
Nadine K. Hanner, OT

Board Members Absent

Melissa Hevia, OTA

Staff Present

Theresa Brown, Program Director
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator I
Mary League, Esquire, Advice Counsel
LeAnna McMenamin, Esq, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Amelia Leeks, Office of Investigation & Enforcement

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, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval / Disapproval of Absent Members:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve Ms. Hevia's absence. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Hanner.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve the February 7, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Coleman.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE/IRC) Report: Ms. Leeks presented the OIE statistical report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Ms. Leeks presented the IRC cases to the Board. Case #'s 2024-1 and 2024-2 are recommended for Formal Complaints.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2024-1 and 2024-2 as Formal Complaints. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Hanner.

ODC Report: Ms. McMenamin presented the ODC Report. The Board accepted the ODC report as information.

Finance Report: Ms. Brown, Program Director, presented the financial report. The Board accepted the report as information.

Application Hearings:

Renewal Applications

Franklin Morrison: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Mr. Morrison should be granted a license renewal as an occupational therapist assistant. Mr. Morrison made a personal appearance and was not represented by counsel.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

(10:27 am – 10:44 am) – No votes were taken in executive session.

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

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Hanner made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

(10:56 am – 11:07 am) – No votes were taken in executive session.

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

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to grant the license renewal under the conditions that Mr. Morrison remain in compliance with the Georgia Board order and must submit the quarterly report from the employer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Carolyn Politi King: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. King should be granted a license renewal as an occupational therapist. Ms. King made a personal appearance and was not represented by counsel.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

(11:25 am – 11:32 am) – No votes were taken in executive session.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanner.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to grant the license renewal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanner.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Nikki Rudd: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Rudd should be granted a license renewal as an occupational therapist. Ms. Rudd made a personal appearance and was not represented by counsel.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanner.

(11:54 am – 12:20 pm) – No votes were taken in executive session.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to grant the license renewal with the conditions of one (1) year probation, workplace supervision of an approved supervisor, and must submit quarterly reports to the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

Zoe Marley Kanas: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Kanas should be granted a license renewal as an occupational therapist assistant. Ms. Kanas made a personal appearance and was not represented by counsel.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Motion: In closed session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to grant the license renewal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Reinstatement Application

Amy Cordell: The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Cordell should be granted a reinstatement as an occupational therapist assistant. Ms. Cordell made a personal appearance and was not represented by counsel. The issue was that Ms. Cordell's South Carolina OTA license has been inactive for more than twenty (20) years and does not have a current license in another state.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

(12:36 pm – 12:45 pm) – No votes were taken in executive session.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Holmes made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanner.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to grant Ms. Cordell a provisional license based on SC Code of Regulations Section 94-7 (3). Ms. Cordell must obtain five-hundred (500) hours of clinical practice under direct supervision; she does not have to pass an exam as she is current with the NBCOT; and complete an additional fourteen (14) hours of continuing education. It is preferable that the courses are within her area of practice. All of the aforementioned requirements must be completed within one year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanner.

AOTA 2025 Conference Update: The update was deferred to the next meeting due to Ms. Hevia's absence.

2025 Election of Board Officers:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Hanner made a motion to accept the nomination of Mr. Holmes as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleman.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Coleman made a motion to accept the nomination of Dr. James as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

OT Licensure Compact (Update):

Dr. James updated the Board on the OT Licensure Compact. This is a joint venture with Counseling and Speech-Language Pathology. The revenue was pooled to create the database system. A soft launch is expected to be in August or early September. Some states are willing but do not have a criminal background check process in place. There will be an application and fee for the privilege to practice. The continuing education requirement for the Compact will be based on their home licensing state. There are now thirty-two states that are part of the Compact and another four that are expected to join.

Legislative Update:

The bill, H. 3974, proposes allowing licensed health professionals to conduct evaluations and provide services to public school students during school hours, contingent upon parental or guardian request. The bill defines “private providers” to include licensed professionals such as speech-language pathologist, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychiatrists, psychologist, clinical social workers, and licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists. The State Department of Education will be tasked with developing a model policy to facilitate the implementation of the provisions, which local school districts must adopt.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: In open session, Dr. James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Holmes. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32pm.