

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
January 14, 2010

The New Jersey State Occupational Therapy Advisory Council held its meeting on January 14, 2010, at the State Office Building at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, N.J. The meeting was convened in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act with previous notification having been sent to the Secretary of State and the following publications: The Record in Bergen County, The Star Ledger, Camden Courier Post, Trenton Times, Aisling Swift Press of Atlantic City and Asbury Park Press, to advise of the scheduling of this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Betty Thomas at 9:35 a.m.

Opening Statement - Regarding compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

Present Council Members: Betty Thomas, O.T., Chairperson
Aida Mendez-Boud, O.T.A., Vice-Chairperson
Mariann E. Moran, O.T.
Tiffany Charles, O.T.

Also, Present Deputy Attorney General, Nancy Miller, and
Executive Director, Laura L. Anderson

I. They were eight (8) members of the public present.

I. **MINUTES** The Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, voted to approve the November 12, 2009, Public Session Minutes as amended.

I. **CORRESPONDENCE.**

A. **Request for Modalities Courses approval from Licensees**

The Council reviewed courses taken by the following licensees:

1. **Eliza Simkovitz**

The Council reviewed courses attended by Ms. Simkovitz.

The Council is unable to approve the courses as the submission regarding the Advanced Rehabilitation Services, Inc.,(ARS) training did not show instructor's

name, curriculum vitae, and qualification, and also lacked a statement of learning objectives and teaching methods.

The training taken at Bioness, Inc., did not have a course description, instructor's name, curriculum vitae or qualifications of instructor. In addition there were no learning objectives and teaching methods.

The Council also indicated that she submitted courses that did not reveal any hours in modalities using light and heat.

Upon careful review of a brochure from Therapy Network, Inc., submitted by Ms. Simkovits the Council approved this modality course.

2. Michelle Meaney
Lisa M. Koo

Upon review of material submitted by Ms. Meaney and Ms. Koo, for continuing education courses taken at Bergen Pediatric Therapy Center, Inc., the Council will advise Ms. Meaney and Ms. Koo that occupational therapists are not required to complete continuing education.

3. Carey A. Wright

The Council approved the training courses showing in the brochure presented from a Therapy Network, Inc.,

The material submitted for training taken at Bioness Inc., lacks a course description, instructor's name, curriculum vitae, and qualifications of instructor. In addition, there were no learning objectives and teaching methods.

The training material submitted by Ms. Wright for participation in Therapeutic Modalities in Philadelphia at the Cross Country Education, lacks the instructor's name, curriculum vitae, qualifications and hours completed. In addition there were no learning objectives or teaching methods.

4. Jaunlette Simmons

The material submitted for the training course presented does not state the learning objectives. The courses were on-line.

B. Request for approval of Modalities Courses by providers.

1. SAINT BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER.

The Council reviewed a Physical Advanced Modalities (PAM) training course presented by Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

Upon a complete review of the course for PAMs training presented by Saint Barnabas Medical Center, and on motion made by Marian E. Moran and seconded by Aida Mendez-Boud, the Council determined to approve the course. It complies with all requirements established by the regulations. The Council requested that notice of the approval be posted immediately as soon as the contact name and number is submitted by Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

2. BACK SCHOOL OF ATLANTA

The Council reviewed material presented by Back School of Atlanta.

The Council asked a letter be sent to Back School of Atlanta explaining that the law and regulations governing the occupational therapy profession in New Jersey do not require continuing education. The courses presented were not Physical Advanced Modality courses.

III. OLD BUSINESS- UPDATE

A. Modalities courses approved and partially approved

1. GENESIS REHAB SERVICES

At its November 12, 2009, meeting, the Council approved a PAM training course presented by Genesis Rehab Services, provided the brochure advertising the course be submitted prior to its publication.

Genesis's representative presented the brochure, which was approved by the Council with minor changes. Genesis will forward information regarding contact information to be posted on the Council's website.

Genesis representative informed the Council that the courses are being filled very fast.

2. ACCELERATED CARE PLUS (ACP)

The Council reviewed once again the material presented by ACP with additional information and concluded that the submission includes over nineteen (19) courses primarily geared to geriatric patients. The Council noted that while some the courses may contain a portion of the requirements, the regulation contemplates a more unified course that will cover the areas necessary for the safe and efficacious use of PAMs. The Council will review additional information from this provider and asks that the revised submission contains a detailed description of which courses will cover the specific breakdown of hours as set in the regulations.

3. PHYSICAL AGENT MODALITIES PRACTITIONER CREDENTIAL AGENCY (PAMPCA)

The Council reviewed again the material from PAMPCA. The materials show that the didactic portion is on line. The course work if presented live (as in a workshop) would likely meet the regulatory requirements.

The Council asked that a letter be sent to PAMPCA to advise of the Council's determination.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. N.J.A.C. 13:44K-5.4 Use of physical agent modalities-

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44K-5.4 , a licensed occupational therapist who has not been trained in the use of advanced modalities, will not be able to utilize these modalities if such training is not completed by May 4, 2010. Since these regulations were published in May 4, 2009, only three (3) courses have been met the regulatory requirements and have been approved by the Council. The Council discussed the possibility of an extension of the deadline and steps necessary to implement an extension, including presenting the issue to the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

The Council, upon motion made by Marian E. Moran and seconded by Aida Mendez-Boud, voted to take the necessary steps to extend the deadline for completion of training pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44K-5.4 from May 4, 2010 until

May 4, 2011.

2. The use of “R” and “L” after the OT designation.

The public requested a clarification regarding the use of L and R after the OT designation in New Jersey.

The Council indicated that New Jersey regulations do not prohibit or impose the use of letter “R” for registered or “L” for licensed. As the Council is charged to protect the citizens in New Jersey, the Council believes that use of the “R” should be accompanied by a statement that the designation means registered with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Pursuant to the Occupational Therapy Licensing Act, only persons licensed in New Jersey may use designation O.T., therefore, the “L” is redundant.

V. APPLICATIONS REVIEW

John Damiao Lic # 46TR00513400

Council discussion moved to executive session.

VI. APPLICATIONS REVIEW (INITIAL LICENSES)

The Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, voted to approve licensure to the following applicants:

Occupational Therapists

Samantha M. Adams	46TR00509000
Charety R. Aristoff	46TR00509100
Anita L. Ball	46TR00509200
Christine A. Boffa	46TR00509300
Adina C. Gastwirth	46TR00509400
Dawn A. Kennedy	46TR00509500
Nora E. Stattel	46TR00509600
Sarah E. Margiotta	46TR00509700
Anita Swarup	46TR00509800

Stephanie P. Altman	46TR00509900
Faygie Silberberg	46TR00510000
Bernice D'Souza	46TR00510100
Stacy J. Hoogsteden	46TR00510200
Suzan Hameed	46TR00510300
Laura M. Zagacki	46TR00510400
Bergson Louis-Jacques	46TR00510500
Lindsay M. West	46TR00510600
Leah Weiss	46TR00510700
Michelle A. Parlapiano	46TR00510800
Nicole M. Spaldo	46TR00510900
Pushpa Bhivasan Vanere	46TR00511000
Laura A. Rutigliano	46TR00511100
Erica M. Cline	46TR00511200
Kerry Elizabeth Lanigan	46TR00511300
Preeti Vithal Jadhav	46TR00511400
Shree H. Parekh	46TR00511500
Christine M. Lamoutte	46TR00511600
Natasha Rohinton Buhariwalla	46TR00511700
Cynthia L. Taylor	46TR00511800
Anushka Bhushan Paithankar	46TR00511900
Amalia Gewirtz	46TR00512000
Betchie R. Hermoso	46TR00512100
Nighat Jan	46TR00512200
Linda A. Savino	46TR00512300
Ruby J. Singh	46TR00512400
Christina M. Wong	46TR00512500
Dana M. Maurer	46TR00512600
Cynthia T. Saxl	46TR00512700
Asha Subramaniam	46TR00512800
Albert Acuna Villacorta	46TR00512900
Leah Klein	46TR00513000
Meghan K. Sullivan	46TR00513100
Fritzi H. Bolles	46TR00513200
Diana Mocarski	46TR00513300
John A. Damiao	46TR00513400
James A. Prince	46TR00513500
Susannah L. Sohl	46TR00513600
Katrina B. Dodson	46TR00513700
Danielle Marie Duddy	46TR00513800
Melissa A. Kelly	46TR00513900
Kathleen D.O. Kho	46TR00514000

Jennie E. Maher 46TR00514100
Hadassah Rivka Oratz 46TR00514200

Occupational Therapy Assistants

Karen Lisa Hirsch 46TA09075200
Laurie A. Rebelo 46TA09075300
Erin C. Wilcox 46TA09075400
Kelly M. Clark 46TA09075500
Lissette Adriana Hartigan 46TA09075600
Lily Mastronardi 46TA09075700
Renee L. Bolduc 46TA09075800
Yvette C. Hunte 46TA09075900

At 12: 50 P.M. the Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, voted to move into the Executive Session to consider and to review consumer complaints, investigative reports and other information receive pursuant to the Council’s regulations. The result of these deliberations will be made known when and if the Council’s determines to initiate disciplinary or other enforcement action. If the Council determines to issue any sanction, disciplinary action will be taken in public session immediately after the executive session.

At 12: 50 P.M. the Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, voted to adjourn the public session.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Anderson
Executive Director