New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

March 11, 2010

The New Jersey State Occupational Therapy Advisory Council held its meeting on March 11, 2010, at the State Office Building at 124 increand 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 9:30 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 five (5) members of the public present.
- I. <u>MINUTES</u> The Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, voted to approve the January 14, 2010, Public Session Minutes as presented.
- II. LEGISLATION
- A. SENATE BILLS
 - 1. Bill S-848

This bill requires health service corporations to encrypt certain information

Submitted to the Council for discussion; bill previously sent to members via e-mail so comments received by the Division of Consumer Affairs deadline.

The Occupational Therapy Advisory Council recognizes the importance of protecting patient records and generally supports actions taken to ensure patient's privacy. The bill requiring health services corporations as defined by <u>N.J.S.A</u> 17:48E-1 to encrypt information appears appropriate.

To the extent the provisions of S-848 would require use of encryption software by small providers, the Council asks that the financial burdens associated with the acquisition of software be considered.

Council's comment forwarded to Regulatory Analyst Charles Manning.

Upon the motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council voted to ratify the Council's comments submitted through the point person.

2. Bill S-89

This bill requires licensed health care professionals and facilities to bill Medicare beneficiaries within six months of providing health care services.

Upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Mariann E. Moran , the Council while understanding the need for prompt billing and appreciate the assistance that this may provide to the beneficiary, believes this may prove administratively and unnecessarily burdensome for small service providers.

3. Bill S -1351

This bill revises requirements concerning meetings of public bodies to provide greater public access to meetings and to information about meetings.

Upon motion made by Tiffany Charles and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, the Council noted that it recognizes the benefits of increased access, the technology currently available may limit the agency's ability to comply with the law.

B. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

1. The Fourth Quarter October 1, 2009-January 19, 2010, Legislative report submitted for review.

After reviewing the report, the Council asked the executive director to obtain information about the process used by the Division of Consumer Affairs to transmit the Council's (and other agencies) comments to the Legislature.

2. The Council was presented with a Legislative report of Bills reintroduced for the new legislative session.

The Council accepted this as informational, The Council noted that there may be bills that affect the Council and have not been presented for the Council's consultation.

III. FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET REPORT

The Council reviewed Budget report for the first half of Fiscal year 2010 prepared by Darlene Kane, Budget officer.

The Council accepted this as informational.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE.

A. Request for Modalities Courses approval from Licensees

The Council reviewed modalities courses taken and presented for approval by the following licensees:

Catherine Lavin Lic # 46TR00012700

Upon the motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council directed that a letter be sent to Ms. Lavin advising that the courses in modalities she submitted were incomplete, did not meet the requirements as some of the hours were taken on line. The Council asked that the letter to Ms. Lavin contain guidance and description of the courses able to be approved pursuant to N.J.A.C 13:44K-5.4.

Vote: Unanimous

Leigh Ann Bruder Lic # 46TR00009800

Upon motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council directed that a letter be sent to Ms. Bruder explaining that the law and regulations governing the occupational therapy profession in New Jersey do not require continuing education. The courses presented were not PAMs courses.

Vote: Unanimous

Nancy Vigorita Lic # 46TR00327200

Upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council determined that although some of the courses may be approved, Ms. Vigorita's material is incomplete. The Council asked she be sent the form to be completed and suggested she re-submit a complete course for approval.

Vote: Unanimous

Nancy Nicolau Loring Lic# 47TR00497900

Upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council determined that although some of the courses may satisfy the regulatory requirements, the licensee's submission does not include a breakdown of the hours for each type of modality. Ms. Loring will be advised that the laws and regulations do not require continuing education. She will be sent form to complete.

Vote: Unanimous

B. Request for approval of modalities courses by providers.

Pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C</u>. 13:44K-5.4 Use of physical agent modalities, Council reviewed committees's recommendation on physical agent modalities courses submitted by:

1. Selena Schereiber, OT Rehab Education, LLC

Upon motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee to approve the course

presented by Selena Schereiber, at Rehab Education, LLC. The Council asked that the company submit a brochure for approval before the course will be posted on the State's website.

Vote: Unanimous

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Occupational Therapy Services offer in Public Schools in New Jersey

Licensee requesting clarification through "askconsumeraffairs" regarding the services rendered within public schools without an occupational therapy evaluation.

The school where she practices, advertises this service as "direct services" for classified and non-classified children.

The Council determined that the licensee be sent a letter requesting more information, including identifying the specific school before responding to the inquiry.

2. **Telephone Orders from Physician**

The Council reviewed an inquiry concerning the regulations regarding the occupational therapy services rendered through a telephone order from a physician.

Upon discussion and motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Tiffany Charles, the Council noted that an occupational therapist does not need a prescription for treatment, and that, regarding orders from a physician over the telephone, the Council's statutes and regulations do not address this issue.

VI. **Modalities - OFF AGENDA**

Pursuant to the utilization of physical modalities, the Council confirmed the receipt of two (2) letters from Nova Care and Genesis concerning comments and recommendation to propose an amendment to current regulations.

The Council advised the individuals present at the meeting and representatives of both companies that the letters will be forwarded to the regulatory analyst and will place the discussion for May 13, 2010.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. Strigh, Meghan A.

Applicant ID # 1480510

The Council, upon the motion made by Tiffany Charles and seconded by Aida Mendez-Boud, voted that Megan Strigh be issued a Uniform Penalty Letter (UPL)with a civil penalty in the amount of \$ 100.00 (one hundred dollars)for the unlicensed practice of occupational therapy.

Vote: Unanimous

2. Kones, Kimberly

Lic # 46TR00249600

The Council, upon the motion made by Tiffany Charles and seconded by Marian E. Moran, that Kimberly Kones be issued a Uniform Penalty Letter (UPL) with a civil penalty in the amount of \$ 100.00 (one hundred dollars) for the unlicensed practice of occupational therapy.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Gallagher, Lauren Labrecque

Lic # 46TR00302900

The Council, upon the motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles voted that Lauren Labrecque Gallagher be issued a Uniform Penalty Letter (UPL) with a civil penalty in the amount of \$ 200.00 (two hundred dollars) for the unlicensed practice of occupational therapy.

Vote: Unanimous

4. Manger, Danielle

Lic# 46TR00188800

The Council, upon the motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Tiffany Charles, voted that Danielle Manger be issued a Uniform Penalty Letter (UPL) with a civil penalty in the amount of \$ 200.00 (two hundred dollars) for the unlicensed practice of occupational therapy.

Vote: Unanimous

5. Hunt, Stephanie (Off Agenda) Lic # 46TR00376200

The Council, upon the motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Aida Mendez-Boud, that Stephanie Hunt be issued a Uniform Penalty Letter (UPL) with a civil penalty in the amount of \$ 100.00 (one hundred dollars) for the unlicensed practice of occupational therapy.

Vote: Unanimous

VIII. <u>APPLICATIONS REVIEW (INITIAL)</u>

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

1.	Liron Sherer	46TR00514300
2.	Yehuda Rappaport	46TR00514400
3.	Amid R. Patel	46TR00514500
4.	Kristen M. Sanderson	46TR00514600
5.	Jacqueline E. Thaw	46TR00514700
6.	Lileith G. Campbell	46TR00514800
7.	Susan Liu Chan	46TR00514900
8.	Suzanne Gabriele	46TR00515000
9.	Jenny Liu	46TR00515100
10.	Anna Liza Dimacali Bautista	46TR00515200
11.	Megan C. Rella	46TR00515300
12.	Jessica E. Simao	46TR00515400
13.	Eder Charles	46TR00515500
14.	Jee Yoon Chong	46TR00515600
15.	Dennis Alphonsus Gerard R. Chua	46TR00515700
16.	Michelle C. Davidoff	46TR00515800
17.	Gloria Duarte	46TR00515900
18.	Tessa C. Loffredo	46TR00516000
19.	Michele Martino	46TR00516100
20.	Yiwei Xie	46TR00516200

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS

Kindell M. Saunders 46TA09076000
Jennifer C. Muehlen 46TA09076100

Vote: Unanimous

At 11:05 A.M. the Council, upon motion made by Tiffany Charles 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 11:05A.M. the Council, upon motion made by Tiffany Charles and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, voted to adjourn the public session.

Upon return from executive session, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Anderson Executive Director