The New Jersey State Occupational Therapy Advisory Council held its meeting on October 6, 2011, 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 prior 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

Members of the public were present.

I. MINUTES: The Council, upon motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Aida Mendez-Boud, voted to approve the July 19, 2011, Public Session Minutes as presented.

II. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Deputy Attorney General Miller discussed the Uniform Regulations proposed by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs regarding waivers of regulatory requirements and performance based outcomes.
III. MODALITIES COURSES APPROVAL

A. Request for approval of modalities courses by providers.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C 13:44K-5.4, Use of physical agent modalities, the Council reviewed training courses prepared by the following organizations:

1) Exploring Hand Therapy d/b/a/ Treatment 2Go

The Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, determined that the course offered by Exploring Hand Therapy does not meet the criteria set forth in the regulations N.J.A.C 13:44K-5.4, and is not approved.

2) Aegis Therapies

The Council, upon motion made by Tiffany Charles and seconded by Mariann E. Moran, determined that the Aegis Therapies course does not meet regulatory requirements. The instructor’s curriculum vitae was not provided. The Council asked that the letter to Aegis Therapies include a copy of the regulations.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1) SCHOOLS RECORDS RETENTION

Daily notes/records retention in schools

The Council noted that record keeping in the school setting needs to be addressed. The Council asked that other professional boards, such as Physical Therapy, Speech Language, Social Work, be contacted to determine how those Boards address record keeping in school systems, such as creating and maintaining daily and progress notes. The Council will then reach out to the State Department of Education.
V. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012

The Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, voted to accept the meeting schedule for calendar year 2012 as follows:

February 9, 2012
April 19, 2012
June 14, 2012
September 27, 2012
November 15, 2012

VI. APPLICATIONS REVIEW (Initial)

A. The Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boaud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, voted to approve the following applicants for licensure:

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

1. Peregrin, Emily A. 46TR00554200
2. Klics, Brian P. 46TR00554300
3. Babar, Misba 46TR00554400
4. Dapito, Denese H. 46TR00554500
5. Servakh, Lyubov 46TR00554600
6. Teodosio, Helen Santos 46TR00554700
7. Reynolds, Elizabeth M. 46TR00554800
8. Yantha, Charlotte A. 46TR00554900
9. Weinstock-Zlotnick, Gwen R. 46TR00555000
10. Celetti, Antoinette A. . 46TR00555100
11. Tasso, Tonya Domenico 46TR00555200
12. Watts, Patricia S. 46TR00555300
13. Aguaze-Aghahowa, Philomena 46TR00555400
14. Mampilly, Vidhya J. 46TR00555500
15. Anillo, Grace 46TR00555600
16. Castronovo, Anthony J. 46TR00555700
17. Schwartz, Marisa I. 46TR00555800
18. Mason, Melissa Allison 46TR00555900
19. Leung, Jacquelyn F. 46TR00556000
20. Altman, Tarrah M. 46TR00556100
21. Mehta, Sejal D. 46TR00556200
22. Katzman, Jaime S. . 46TR00556300
23. Levinson, Rachel Erin 46TR00556400
24. Leary-Remich, Margaret A. 46TR00556500
B. Corrine Z. Cabanilla (Off Agenda)

The Council reviewed correspondence received from Corrine Cabanilla regarding denial of her initial application for licensure in August 2009, and also denial of her new request for licensure based on her Advanced Master’s degree obtained on-line from A.T. Still University, in Arizona. Ms. Cabanilla attended Emilio Aguinaldo College in Philippines, which at the time of her graduation was not an accredited school.

The Council noted that the course work completed by the applicant at A.T. Still University in Arizona, does not cure the deficiency in the fieldwork which must have been completed in an accredited school pursuant to N.J.S.A 45:9-37.61.

The Council, upon motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Tiffany Charles, voted to re-affirm the Council’s previous determination and asked that a letter be sent to Ms. Cabanilla explaining the process and the reason for denial.

VI. Off Agenda

1. Student Supervision

The Council reviewed inquiry from Thomas Jefferson University with regard to supervision of occupational therapy students.

The Council asked that the ACOTE standards regarding supervision of students be obtained.

2. Fieldwork Experience vs. Military Service
Camille Sauerwald, the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, asked about time limit requirement for the completion of fieldwork experience within 24 months of completion of the academic requirements for a degree. N.J.A.C. 13:44 K-3.1(a)(iii) due to military service.

N.J.S.A. 45:9-37-61 requires 24 weeks of supervised fieldwork approved by the educational institution. The Council’s rules imposed the 24 months requirement. It is expected that upon the adoption of the Uniform Rules regarding waiver, a person who has been unable to complete the fieldwork requirements in the regulatory time frame based on military service, may apply for a waiver from that time requirement. The Council would expect the educational institution to submit its position at that time.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cornelia von Lersner Benson, from NovaCare, expressed her appreciation for getting persons licensed quickly. In response to question regarding the use of physical agent modalities by occupational therapy assistants, the Council noted that the rule is awaiting publication as an adoption.

At 10:40 A.M. the Council, upon motion made by Mariann E. Moran and seconded by Tiffany Charles, 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 determines to initiate disciplinary or other enforcement action. If the Council determines to issue any sanction, action will be taken in public session immediately after the executive session.

At 1:20 P.M. the Council, upon motion made by Aida Mendez-Boud and seconded by Tiffany Charles, voted to adjourn the public session.

Upon return from executive session, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Anderson
Executive Director