**GOTA Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes**

**Monday, December 13, 2021**

**7:30 - 8:30 PM**

\*Board members, please review prior meeting minutes and add agenda items and your reports for discussion

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| **Attendance** | **Name** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| **Voting Members** | | | |
| President | Stephanie Johnson | x |  |
| Vice President | Patty Watford | x |  |
| Secretary | Jade Gross | X |  |
| Treasurer | Elizabeth Burch-Halligan | x |  |
| Atlanta Region Chair | Kyle Oatis |  | X |
| Middle GA Region Chair | Betsy McDaniel |  | X |
| East Region Chair | Pam Hartle |  | X |
| South Region Chair | Katie Dixon |  | X |
| North Region Chair | Ben Keeling |  | X |
| **Standing Committees: Non-Voting Members** | | | |
| Research Committee Chair | Laura Carpenter | X |  |
| Research Committee Member |  |  |  |
| OTA Liaison | LaDonna Nash |  | X |
| Membership Committee Chair | Kelsey Taylor | X |  |
| Communication Committee Chair | Marissa Mirecki | X |  |
| CEU Approval Chair | Tamara Mills |  | X |
| Conference Co-Chairs | Jennifer Boyette    Ruth Bourque |  | X  X |
| Legislative Chair | Aileen Deogracias | X |  |
| TriAlliance Representative | Nicole Walker Geringer |  | X |
| **Special Liaison: Non-Voting Members** | | | |
| Ethics | Sarah Shirley |  | X |
| Education Liaison |  |  |  |
| Liaison to the GA Licensure Board | M. Irma Alvarado | x |  |
| Nominations & Recognitions | Suzanne Masino |  | X |
| OCCUITY co-chairs | Rebekah Buehler, Frederica Kennedy | X FK | X RB |
| Student Liaison |  |  |  |
| AOTA RA Representative | Helene Smith-Gabai | x |  |
| **Student Representatives** | | | |
| Albany State University | Daniel Walton |  | X |
| Augusta University | Emily Holton |  | X |
| Augusta Tech College | Carol Kadamani |  | X |
| Brenau University | Gainesville- Amber Boyd  Norcross- Lauren Peterson | X-Amber | X -LP |
| Chattahoochee Tech College |  |  |  |
| Georgia State University | Amanda Glass | X |  |
| Middle Georgia State University |  |  |  |
| **Ad Hoc Committees** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Silent Auction | Margaret Corcoran |  | X |
| Workshop Committee |  |  |  |
| **Additional** | | | |
| Management Office | Tiffany Wilson |  | X |
| Was a quorum attained (must have 51% of the voting members present to vote) | |  |  |
|  | | | |

**Secretary: 1st order of business: Motion to approve Executive Board meeting minutes (date of previous meeting) : \_10.16.21\_\_\_\_. \_\_Elizabeth\_\_\_moved to approve the minutes, and \_\_\_\_Jade\_\_\_ seconded it. Motion \_\_\_approved\_\_\_. Minutes \_\_\_\_\_approved\_\_\_\_.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **President’s Report** | **Discussion** | **Action/Due Date** |
| Stephanie Johnson  President  sjohnson8@augusta.edu | GOTA initiative for licensure issues  Dry Needling Discussion  Call for Volunteers: CE Committee, Conference Committee; Education Liaison; legislative committee  Management Support Potential  Meetings with Committee’s | Letters, Contact legislation to rally support/funding for licensure and delays; possible shift to electronic  Rob to provide info regarding EBP and literature. Helene to provide info regarding RA position paper  TIffany vetting possible assistance  CE committee: Mallory Rosche has agreed to serve with Tamara; another possible would be Dr. Yi-An Chen from GSU [ychen102@gsu.edu](mailto:ychen102@gsu.edu)- SJ EMAILED 1-4-2022 |
| **Vice President** |  |  |
| Patty Watford |  |  |
| **Treasurer** | | |
| Elizabeth Burch | Review/Vote on budget  Thank you gift for Tiffany  Socio App: $1300 (Increased of +500): Self Tier Level  -Importance of Cont to Host CEU for a balance budget  -Vote to remove paying yearly dues via checks and only accept CC payments (unless required for employment reimbursement) | Will need to vote for motion to only allow credit card payment (unless special circumstances for business compensation) |
| Secretary | | |
| Jade Gross | Requesting all members review the following document to ensure updated and accurate information: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GDTh7noD-wwQ2xK-f4q-sIlZZNlR5darpdrij6ntlRw/edit?usp=sharing>   * [GOTA Board Members Roster](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GDTh7noD-wwQ2xK-f4q-sIlZZNlR5darpdrij6ntlRw/edit?usp=sharing) |  |
| **Region reports** | **Discussion**  **ALL REGION CHAIRS-PLEASE ADD YOUR REGION REPORT & UPCOMING MEETINGS** | **Action/ Due Date** |
| **Atlanta**  Kyle Oatis |  |  |
| **East**  Pam Hartle |  |  |
| **Middle**  Betsy McDaniel |  |  |
| **South**  Katie Dixon |  |  |
| **North**  Ben Keeling |  |  |
| **All Region Chairs** | ***Please submit any upcoming meetings/events with dates, locations, and how/who to contact to rsvp for event/meeting- submit to*** [***info@gaota.com***](mailto:info@gaota.com) |  |
| **Standing Committees: Non-voting** | **Discussion** | **Action/Due Date** |
| **Membership Chair**  Kelsey Taylor | 1. First Draft of Digital Accessibility Guide is completed. Working towards the final draft and list of researches for future improvements. 2. Relaunched GOTA T-shirt Sales; and created a new design 3. Contact Alexis Mallis starting in Feb-April ([alexismallis1@gmail.com](mailto:alexismallis1@gmail.com)) |  |
| **Communication Chair**  Marissa Mirecki | Pushing back January newsletter deadline for submission |  |
| **CEU Approval Chair**  Tamara Mills |  |  |
| **Conference Co-Chairs**  Jennifer Boyette  Ruth Bourque | Potential to make hybrid  Investigating locations currently- possible schools \_OT/OTA schools to host |  |
| **Legislative Chair**  Aileen Deogracias | ABA Bill  Legislative Day   * likely virtual in Jan or Feb 2022 * Committee members * Thank you to those who signed up but we still need volunteers * Legislative Day * Fundraising for OTPAG |  |
| **TriAlliance Representative**  Nicole Walker Geringer | regular meeting with CMO  Peachstate claims continue to be problematic  MPPR |  |
| **Research Committee Chair**  Laura Carpenter | Nothing to report |  |
| **Education Liaison**  Patty Watford | Need a faculty representative from Brenau: Laura Volunteered!! |  |
| **GOTA Advisory Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity in Occupational Therapy** | had a well attended session at GOTA conference, and hope to meet as a committee in early 2022 to plan 2022 initiatives/events  Exploring additional guest speakers and professional development opportunities |  |
| **OTA Liaison**  LaDonna Nash |  |  |
| **Special Liaison** | **Discussion** | **Action/Due Date** |
| **GA Rep to the AOTA RA**  Helene Smith-Gabai | AOTA Board of Directors established a task force to refine and streamline AOTA governance structures and processes. The task force submitted their report with a list of recommendations, including changing the structure of the RA to make it more streamlined, efficient, and inclusive, so better able to represent key practice areas and issues. AOTA members will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan and vote on it. | Early 2022 the proposed changes will be open to AOTA member for feedback. |
| **Recognitions & Nominations**  Suzanne Masino |  |  |
| **Ethics**  Sarah Shirley |  |  |
| **Licensure Board Liaison**  M. Irma Alvarado | Liaison to the GA Licensure Board Report: The OT Licensure Board met Nov. 5, 2021.  **Licensure Applications**: Happy to report that Administrative support which vets all Applications then forwards completed applications to OT Board for approval is catching up. There has been a backlog of applications due to short staffing and the Admin. Office is reporting they have been working overtime to catch up. NOTE: OT Licensure Board members CANNOT discuss any licensure issues with anyone.  Many applicants have contacted GOTA and were advised to be sure their paperwork is complete and to contact their legislators when the licensure process takes too long (over 3 months in some cases).  **Practice**: The OT Licensure Board will reopen the OT Practice Act to correspond to ACOTE standard for OT/OTAs who are Faculty members in GA OT programs to be licensed as OT/OTA.  The OT Lic. Board has completed revising rules on passing the OT Certification exam; for example those passing the Cert. exam on their **4th** try will be required to show proof of an additional 320 hours shadowing in clinical practice. Those passing the Cert exam on their **5th** try or more will be required to take NBCOT Navigator Modules which are to be assigned on a Case by Case basis. The revised rules have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General and are now in the Governor’s office.  The OT Lic. Board is also revising the Physical Agent Modalities (PAMS) language to assure OT/OTA applicants’ competency  Georgia St Brd of OT ***Board Members:***   * Rachele Branson, OT - Chair * Robert McClellan, OT - Vice Chair * Casey Shaefer Vance, Consumer Member * Marla Marlowe, OT * Pamela Reddick-Collins, OT * Rafael Salazar, OT   IS THIS INFO CURRENT? This is address on SOS webpage:  [Georgia Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.](http://www.gaota.com/)  PO Box 1495  Gainesville, GA 30503  Phone (770) 435-5910  Fax (770) 433-2907  https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/36/professional\_associations18#:~:text=Georgia%20Occupational%20Therapy,770)%20433%2D2907 |  |
| **Ad Hoc Committees** | **Discussion** | **Action/Due Date** |
| **Silent Auction**  Margaret Corcoran |  |  |
| **Workshop Committee** | Valentine’s Workshop? Stephanie needs the information - contact her. |  |
| **OTA Initiative**  M. Irma Alvarado | No action |  |
| **Student Representatives** | **Discussion** | **Action/Due Date** |
| \*Albany State University  \*Augusta University  \*Augusta Tech College  \*Brenau University  \*Chattahoochee Tech College  \*Georgia State University  \*Middle Georgia State University |  |  |
| **New Business** | **Discussion** | **Action/Due Date** |
|  | Tiffany’s gift:  Elizabeth: Send Check  4994 Beresford CT NW  Peachtree Corners, GA 30092  Kelsey: Venmo: @kelsey-reeves-4  678-977-3725 | Please let us know by Friday 12/17 |
|  |  |  |

\_\_\_Elizabeth\_\_\_\_\_made a motion to adjourn the meeting. \_\_\_\_Patty\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at \_\_8:48\_\_PM\_.

**Addendum:**

Tom Bauer 4th Quarter Report:

**M E M O R A N D U M**

December 7, 2021

TO: GOTA Board

FROM: Tom Bauer

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report

This memorandum will serve as my fourth quarterly report for 2021. It is a bit early so that it may be available for the GOTA executive committee meeting on December 13. While the discussion below mainly focus on issues covered in past reports, this iteration will also serve as preparation for the 2022 Georgia General Assembly; the 2022 legislative session promises to be a busy one for issues affecting occupational therapy.

HB 412 (Dempsey): Applied Behavioral Analysts

HB 412 would regulate Applied Behavioral Analysts (ABA) by requiring them to be licensed. Applied Behavior Analysis is most often used to treat children with autism, and GOTA listed many concerns to GORRC, particularly with regard to Behavior Technicians (RBTs) who are paraprofessionals work under the supervision of Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts. The education, training, and supervision of RBTs required in HB 412 is insufficient for persons working (often in the private home setting) with children with a significant behavior disorder.

Now that that this bill has been discussed by the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council (GORRC), the executive branch group which discusses and makes recommendations on bills which seek to regulate previously unlicensed professions in Georgia, it is ready for consideration at the General Assembly. GOTA input along with that of other affected professions (psychology and speech therapy) resulted in a: conditional” approval by GORRC:

*“Based on.…findings, the Council recommends that the bill pass but recommends that the applicant group work with the legislature to address the accountability and supervision of the Behavioral Technicians.”*

This recommendation is close to the best GOTA could have expected and should yield the possibility of tightening regulation and supervision of behavior technicians who are the “front-line” providers of applied behavior analysis to children with autism.

In that regard I have prepared amendments to add accountability for behavior technicians, while leaving in place the concurrence that that the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis should be regulated and that Applied Behavior Analysts should be licensed, The proposed amendments to HB 412 particularly contain the following key elements:

• Authorize the Georgia Behavior Analyst Licensing Board (Board) to directly regulate technicians

• Require Behavior Technicians to register with or be certified by the Board

• Add a statement to HB 412 that the Applied Behavior Analyst supervises and is responsible for the actions of the Behavior Technician

• Provide for Board to know whom the Analyst is supervising

• Establish a reasonable maximum number of Behavior Technicians an Analyst can supervise at any one time.

HB 627: Athletic Trainers (LaHood)

As noted previously HB 627 would substantially expand the scope of practice of Athletic Trainers (ATs) by changing the definition of “athletic injuries” treated by ATs so that they need not be the result of participation in “exercises, sports, games, or recreational activities”. It would also change “injury” to “condition”, which in many instances would further expand the AT scope of practice. This change ostensibly is necessary because the licensure board feels it lacks sufficient authority to discipline persons for practicing athletic training without a license. However, neither the AT association nor the licensing board has provided instances where a change in the scope of practice is necessary to taking disciplinary action

I continue to work to coordinate with the PTAG lobbyist on this issue, which should re-surface in the 2022 General Assembly

Medicaid Children’s Intervention Services (CIS)

Aileen and I continue to monitor the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) policy

which changes the PeachState reimbursement policy, stating that when multiple procedures/units are billed, full payment (100%) is made for the unit or procedure with the highest valued paid amount, and payment for subsequent procedures/units is reimbursed at 90% of the paid amount allowance. Additionally, if more than one service is provided by the same company, on the same day, these services will only be paid at 90% of the allowed amount, essentially cutting rates for providers 5-10% depending on the number of units and or services provided.

Since the Department of Community Health has essentially declined to become involved and since-in addition to the MPPR issue-PeachState continues to delay and/or deny “clean” claims from providers, it may well be necessary to consider the introduction of legislation with the following elements as a starting point:

· Legislation to prohibit MPPR

· Legislation requiring more (or real) oversight of the Medicaid program, especially the CMOs

In light of the financial implications of both MPPR and the continued stalling in reimbursing therapists, it may also be advisable for the Trialliance to seek increases in the reimbursement rate for CIS services. Both he PTAG lobbyist and I have had some conversations with Rep. Jody Lott (whose husband is a PT) about legislation to address the issues above.

GOTA Legislative Day

I have heard nothing official, but it looks as if there will still be no onsite events at the Capitol, and Legislative Day will need to be virtual again this year.