

Occupational Therapy Scope of Practice Review Committee

November 13, 2023, 2:00-4:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Lynn Rapsilber, Judi Sheehan, Joyce Rioux, Karen Buckley, Jennifer Cox, Brian Cournoyer, Joe Grabiki

DPH Staff: Sara Montauti, Melia Allan, Chris Andresen, Gillian VanderVliet

Introduction

- The meeting began at 2:01pm
- Housekeeping items and logistics
- Overview of the previous meeting – the group presented their request, and it was not met with any large resistance
- There was a question about OT supervision of OTAs – Sara sent out a document on best practices provided by the requestors
- The requestors updated the language concerning pharmacological agents

Discussion

- Karen: raised concerns after looking through the language, and thinks we need to look at the drafting of the language and not so much the scope
 - If you read through the way it's drafted right now, she believes this language does not allow yoga teachers, coaches, mentors, personal trainer, etc. to do any jobs without an OT license
- Karen suggested that the statute exempt out others who are licensed and have it in their scope of practice – the way it is currently drafted, it is not clear that it allows for this - Karen suggests including language that says "other individuals can do these practices, but they cannot be called an OT"
 - Believes they should get rid of the long list of "includes but not limited to"
 - Sara: most scopes do not include an "including but not limited to" list, as it could limit their scope in the future, a lot of scopes do have language saying "this profession does NOT include"
- Suggests language that says if you are training and following the order of a licensed practitioner, you can do that for topical medications
 - Does not want it to be broader than topical
 - Also consider adding "consistent with manufacturing label and packet insert"
- Karen – asked about an accrediting board to list out the scope
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) - this is their national branch, and nationally a lot of states have it listed out
- If there is a pathway, not everyone gets licensure first

- The participants largely did not disagree with the scope that OTs wanted but were worried about the unintended consequences. OTs are reluctant to remove the laundry list of ideas because they do not want certain activities carved out from their profession.
- OTs are still concerned about being restricted in what they can do, they are encouraged to make their scope broad and reminded that if they do go with the “laundry list” and new technologies/treatments emerge that they want to do and are not on this list they would have to go through the scope process each and every time and the Department might not always have the resources to open up their scope for review.
- Discussion of pharmacology
 - Karen: we would suggest changing the language to say something like the OT can act at the direction of a prescriber with respect to topical drugs and biologicals
 - Jenn: add the consistent with training and education, and manufacture label
- Judi – last statement on their list is about emerging practices and they hope this would negate having to re-open their scope as technologies and treatments develop– Karen responded saying that this is unlikely to get passed by the legislature
- Judi suggested that the group comes back together for the third meeting, once they have reworked their language some
- Next meeting: December 14 (Thursday) at 2pm
 - Try to get tweaks to Sara by the 7th of December

Closing

- Plan is to reconvene in December to discuss the reworking of language.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.