

## MINUTES

### UTAH RECREATIONAL THERAPY BOARD MEETING

September 16, 2008

Room 402 – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – 9:00 A.M.  
Heber Wells Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

**CONVENED:** 9:00 A.M.

**ADJOURNED:** 10:38 A.M.

**Bureau Manager:**  
**Board Secretary:**

Noel Taxin  
Karen McCall

**Board Members Present:**

Gwen T. Nelson, Chairperson  
Shawna Peterson  
Patrick R. Park  
Susan P. Call

**Board Members Absent:**

Megan Roth

**Guests:**

Sydney Post  
Amy Stoeger  
Kami Hardcastle

**DOPL Staff Present:**

David Stanley, Division Director  
Wayne Holman, Chief Investigator

#### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

#### DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

##### MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 24, 2008 Board meeting were read.

Ms. Call made a motion to approve the minutes with minor revisions. Mr. Park seconded the motion. **The Board vote was unanimous.**

##### BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

##### 9:15 am to 9:45 am

Board Member Training

Ms. Taxin conducted the annual Board member

training.

Ms. Taxin reviewed the Open and Public Meetings Act guidelines with formal Board meetings for business and reminded the Board that all Board meetings are recorded with the recording being retained for a year. She reviewed the guidelines for Board meetings and explained that Board business must be conducted in the formal Board meeting with an agenda having been posted 24 hours in advance for any interested public people to be able to attend. She explained that a quorum of Board members is required to make decisions with motions and votes. She explained that agenda items cannot be added after that 24 hours prior to a Board meeting period and will have to wait for the next scheduled Board meeting. Ms. Taxin explained the purpose for closing a meeting and stated that with the Open Public Meetings Act there are very few reasons to close a meeting and have the public leave. Ms. Taxin reviewed electronic (telephonic) participation by Board members and for interviews. She stated that Board members and public visitors may be requested to leave a Board meeting if they are being disruptive. Ms. Taxin covered the issue of requesting a probationer, an applicant or any individual to leave the meeting for Board discussion and stated that meetings are open and comments should be made to the individual in order for them to understand the issues. She stressed the importance of Board members being professional, remembering that they are here to protect the public, to be fair, attentive and balanced in their comments and decisions. She stated that Board members should be respectful to each other as well as any visitors or people with appointments. She stated that they should listen and consider other view points; sometimes being creative but clear and open in communication and hold judgment until after all the facts have been presented. Ms. Taxin recommended that the Board review and be familiar with the Recreational Therapy Laws and Rules in order to make correct decisions. She stated that they should be positive role models.

**The Board thanked Ms. Taxin for the information.**

**9:45 am**

## Update on TRT Examination

Ms. Taxin updated the Board regarding the TRT examination. She stated that TRT's, TRS's and MTRS's, a public person and a researcher worked for two days and came up with the new TRT Theory examination for the new provider, PSI, to use. Ms. Taxin stated that there were no resources for some of the questions so new questions were written. She stated that the committee believed it was a fair examination but would challenge the applicants. Ms. Taxin stated that the Utah Law and Rule examination was included in the application for the TRT applicant as there was no other examination at that time.

She stated that the examination is now available and applicants must have a passing score on the examination in order to apply for the license.

Ms. Taxin informed the Board that about 10 temporary TRT licenses were issued and currently 6 of those have not yet taken the TRT Theory examination. She explained that letters have been sent to these people stating that the examination is ready and they should plan to take it as soon as possible. She stated that she has received phone calls regarding problems with the testing center and failing the examination and, as a result the examination questions were reviewed again. Ms. Taxin stated that 12 people have taken the examination and 6 passed the first time. She stated that due to the complaints the examination agency conducted an analysis and discovered that too many questions were in the easy category. Ms. Taxin stated that some of those questions were changed.

**Ms. Post, MTRS, commented that she has had several complaints from those who have failed saying the examination is very difficult. She stated that she wants to be sure the examination is not trying to make junior TRS's out of TRT's as there needs to be a different body of knowledge in the education. She stated that all the books referenced on the examination are available to her students.**

Ms. Taxin responded that she requested Sandy Negley to review the examination to be sure it was not too difficult for the TRT applicant. She stated that Ms. Negley reported that it is a fair examination and not

too difficult.

**Ms. Post stated that some of the test questions were on SOAP and TRT's don't write those notes.**

**Ms. Nelson commented that she does write SOAP notes and does not change the objectives for the patients but does write her narrative to the objective. She stated that when they have an activity she does not write that the patient had a good time but observes if they are staying on track with conversations, manipulative, interacting with others, can add in their head, etc., depending on the activity.**

Ms. Taxin reminded the Board and guests that the examination is a secured examination and questions and answers should not be discussed by supervisors, applicants or Board members as it compromises the examination.

**Ms. Hardcastle, MTRS, stated that she is starting a new class with the new curriculum and that should make a difference for those who are now taking the examination.**

**10:00 am**

Review R156-40-302b and R156-40-302c Rule regarding TRT Time Frame to Take the Examination after Education/Practicum Requirements

Ms. Taxin explained that there is a concern regarding TRT's completing their education and practicum and then continuing to work without applying for the TRT license.

**Ms. Post commented that this issue has been a constant complaint of hers as there are many who are continuing to work without the license. She stated that Administrators will not support notification without a letter from DOPL regarding a time frame for licensing.**

Ms. Taxin explained that the Rule says the 125 hours of practicum must be completed in not more than 9 months. She stated that continuing to practice after the 9 months is unlicensed practice. Ms. Taxin stated that she has tried to figure a way to write a Rule that is simple as possible and put a deadline on becoming licensed after requirements have been met. She stated

that this is the only profession that allows continued practice as others require an individual to stop practicing until licensed after requirements are met.

**Ms. Post commented that she believes if a person fails the examination they should not be allow to continue working.**

Ms. Taxin voiced concern regarding the 6 TRT temporary licensees who have not yet taken the examination. She stated that those the Division staff have talked with think they can work for the 10 months of the temporary license and then take the examination. Ms. Taxin stated that if these people fail the examination they will not be able to continue working as the temporary license cannot be renewed or extended. She stated that the goal is for all potential TRT applicants to complete all requirements and become licensed with the 9 months.

**Ms. Nelson and Ms. Post asked if there would be any exceptions regarding the 9 month deadline.**

Ms. Taxin responded that 9 months should be more than adequate time to complete the TRT requirements for licensure.

**Ms. Post stated that she believes there should be language in the Rules that if the process is not completed within the 9 months the applicant must retake the whole program.**

**Ms. Nelson suggested a waiting period before the individual can start the process over again.**

Ms. Taxin suggested the following:

A TRT applicant who does not complete the education, practicum and examination within 9 months is not eligible to be employed as a TRT in a therapeutic recreation department. If not licensed within 2 years after completion of the education course a TRT applicant shall retake the education and practicum and pass the required examination.

**Mr. Park made a motion to accept the amendments**

**as suggested.**

**Ms. Call seconded the motion.**

**The Board vote was unanimous.**

Ms. Taxin stated that she will write the suggested revision and submit it for review. She stated that she will try to arrange a Rules Hearing and Board meeting for November or December.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Board Chairperson

Ms. Call made a motion for Patrick R. Park to serve as Board Chairperson. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. **The Board vote was unanimous.**

FYI

The Board noted that Gwen T. Nelson and Shawna Peterson were reappointed to the Board.

FYI

Ms. Taxin explained that Lacie Rane Elmer surrendered her license. She read the facts to the Board. **No Board action was taken.**

Tentative 2009 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board noted the following tentative dates for the 2009 Board meeting schedule: Tuesday, April 21 and Tuesday, September 22, 2009.

Ms. Call requested the April 21, 2009 date be changed.

The Board determined Wednesday, April 22, 2009 would work for their schedules.

Ms. Taxin recommended December 2, 2008 for the Rules Hearing and Board meeting. She explained that a quorum is not required for a Hearing but she would appreciate the Board being present for any questions that may be asked at that time. **Board members concurred.**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:**

April 22, 2009

**ADJOURN:**

The time is 10:38 am and the Board meeting is adjourned.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

September 22, 2009  
Date Approved

(ss) Patrick R. Park  
Chairperson, Utah Board of Recreational Therapy

September 22, 2008  
Date Approved

(ss) Noel Taxin  
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &  
Professional Licensing