

**Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.**  
**Occupational Health Special Interest Group**  
**Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**CSM San Diego, California**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2006**

**OHSIG Board Members Present:** Deborah Lechner, Kathleen Rockefeller, Margot Miller, Dee Daley, Drew Bossen, David Miller, Barb McKelvy, and Jennifer Steiner

**Board Members Absent:** Linda Nicoli

**Call to Order:**

Deborah Lechner called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM and welcomed our guests, Ken Harwood and Mary Fran DeLuane

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Dee made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12.08.05 OHSIG Board Meeting which was completed via conference call. Margot seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.*

**Old Business:**

**OSHA Alliance Update: Deborah Lechner**

Mary Fran called Beth Sherify, our OSHA contact, regarding the template for an OSHA Alliance. Mary Fran stated this template should be used as a guide and Beth would be happy to help us with it as we go through the process.

The board reviewed the scope of the topic for the APTA OSHA Alliance as approved at the December 8, 2005 Board Meeting. It reads as follows:

*The OHSIG shall develop a Task Force to pursue the topic of injury prevention in patient handling in rehabilitation as our initiative for the OSHA alliance.*

The board agreed unanimously to keep this topic as moved with the option to fine tune it as we move forward.

Barb sent a request to our membership via email requesting volunteers to serve on the OSHA task force. The response was impressive. We have 10 strong candidates. The board has determined that we will select 3 to 4 people for the task force. Deborah suggested that we determine selection criteria to determine the best choices for the task force. Ken stated that that is the procedure we used for the Practice Analysis and it was viewed as a positive action by all involved.

The following criteria were agreed upon for determination of the task force members which will be scored on a scale of 0 to 3:

- I. Experience in the field of occupational health in various practice settings
- II. Political astuteness, which could or could not include OSHA experience
- III. A scholarly record, involvement in APTA, publications, etc.
- IV. Education and credentials
- V. Geographic location provides a mix of different area representation

Barb is developing an evaluation form and will forward the resumes to all board members with the scoring sheet for compilation.

The board agreed there should be one face-to-face meeting and several conference calls for completion of the process. Ken said the responsibilities do not seem to be huge. The template is almost written out for us by way of the specific OSHA template. Our statement of purpose may need to be expanded and the task force would be important in generating ideas. The task force will need to know what is already going on in this area within APTA, what we have done so far and what we are planning to do. It is a continuing education program that could be reproduced year after year. The purpose is to disseminate information regarding injury prevention and management. Also, it will be helpful in developing relationships with other industries. Ken said that we will have a better idea of the details by the end of February. It was agreed that the Board needs to be driving the entire process. This will have to go back through the APTA for approval. Kathy agreed to be the lead for the OSHA Task Force, due to her experience in this area. Drew agreed to assist Kathy as needed.

Dee and Barb volunteered to assist with the education manual and/or the specialization certification projects.

**Ken Harwood:**

NORA, National Occupational Research Agenda, NIOSH initiative. He suggested we look at their web site to view their schedule. They are asking for feedback. Janet Peterson presented to them regarding the role of PT and the initiatives that we should to be included for any kind of research projects.

Ken asked for us to look back at our Occupational Health Guidelines, pull the ones that need to be updated, and ask for permission to revise them. If these don't meet our standards, we need to address them. Dee stated that we need to ensure they are evidence based and this would take a long time to complete appropriately. Ken agreed and stated that we at least need to determine if they are still current. Deb reminded us that they originally took a great amount of time and work to complete and we needed to be up for the task.

**O'NET:** SSA has not accepted it, especially in the physical demands area and it is not being developed further.

**Practice Analysis and Certification Process:**

Deb reviewed that the Practice Analysis was completed and well received by APTA. We received 18% return and, although this is a low percentage, the number of respondents is

about the same as other Practice Analyses. So, the percentage is not the main problem. ABPTS requires there be some form of evidence that a minimum of 300 PTs would take the Certification Exam within a 5 Year period of its availability. Deborah suggested sending an email blast, asking if therapists would take the exam within this time period. We would also need 100 letters or signatures, stating that certification would be beneficial and is something therapists need. This would demonstrate the demand, the need, and the number of therapists interested in the specialization.

We would need to show that occupational health requires specialized knowledge; there are continuing education programs for this area; and there is information and research that supports it. We need to determine the budget process and could use the format utilized by the Women's Health Section. APTA usually bears about 50% of the cost. If we submit our petition before ABPTS before September it would go before HOD in 2008, if all goes well. We now have \$12,000 in discretionary fund. We will be refunded \$24,000 from the Practice Analysis.

David suggested we send the question regarding the interest to sit for certification examination in occupational health to everyone, even non-members to get the 300 people. Dee agreed and said we could also ask the percentage of workers' compensation patients the therapists treats to show the importance of the process. We can use online surveys to complete this process. The cost for this was estimated to be about \$20 per month. Then we would send out an email with the link to the web site. The information would need to put this into a spreadsheet. 2008 is a realistic but aggressive timeline.

*Dee moved that The OHSIG complete a petition to recognize occupational health as a specialty area for Certification in Occupational Physical Therapy by the September 2006 ABPTS meeting. The motion was seconded by David and approved by unanimous consent.*

Deborah suggested we needed a task force for this as well. We could split the 6 areas not already addressed by the Practice Analysis. Margot will chair as the board representative for the Specialist Certification Task Force and Deborah will be the lead non-board member. David and Jennifer agreed to assist with this project. Barb and Dee also volunteered to assist with this project or the Education Manual.

### **Education Manual:**

Kathy noted that The Manual Physical Therapist Education Manual is the model for this. It was developed to ensure physical therapists' place in manipulation in response to a stand taken by the Chiropractors. There was an emphasis to ensure it was an evidence based document. The turn around time was approximately one year. The cost is relatively low; however, it would take a lot of time and work from the authors. It is narrowly focused, on manipulation. The Occupational Health Physical Therapist Education Manual would be a more complex with a wider scope. Deborah stated she does not know how The Manual

Physical Therapist Education was received and if it is being used. Kathy and David said that they could gain insight into the potential of interest by speaking with the Special Interest Groups of the Education Section; the Academic Administrators, the Academic Faculty and/or the Clinical Education SIGs.

The board then discussed Clinical Residencies and Fellowships (a sub specialty). Both of these also need to be based upon a practice analysis.

It was noted that there is overlap among these projects, but they all will take significant time and work. Drew stated that he supports the need for us to move forward with these initiatives to secure a place in this specialty for physical therapist. The entire board is in full agreement with moving forward.

### **Discussion:**

The board members rated the priority of the projects discussed throughout the meeting. The following order of priority and timelines were determined.

- I. OSHA Alliance; 2006
- I. Petition for Occupational Health Physical Therapist Certification; September 2006
- II. Occupational Health Physical Therapist Educational Manual; 2007
- III. Occupational Health Guidelines; 2007
- III. Residency: much later

Deborah stated that Tony Dominic is our Liaison to the ABPTS. He has been very responsive and helpful and sent us the Women's Health certification format.

We need to develop a full technical report and a summary of the technical support. Deb is already working on the full report for publication in JOSPT.

Dee suggested we talk to Bill O'Grady to determine what our next move should be politically to move it forward and to determine the proper channels.

David is going to be at the Academic Specialists Meeting and will ask them for assistance in finding physical therapists specializing in this area. He will also let them know to expect our email with the questions regarding practice in occupational health.

*Dee moved that the OHSIG pursue an educational manual with a link to the revision of the Occupational Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Kathy. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.*

### **Education Update: Dee Daley**

### CSM 2007

Dee proposed not to do a Pre-Con next year. The attendance has been down and the prices seem to be going up.

If we do, a joint program would be more appropriate as a CSM multi-section program. She thinks we may draw more once we have a presentation of the OSHA Alliance which we could 2007. It was agreed by all members of the board that it would be good to combine with the Geriatric, Home Health, Neurology, and/or Acute Care Section. Dee will start talking to them regarding a potential liaison to work with her on this.

### PT 2007

They asked us to revamp our program based upon more clinic approaches. They did not want two ergonomic programs. We will add case studies, reimbursement and legal issues.

- A. Practice Analysis and Legal issues
- B. Ergonomic Prevention—Lauren Hebert
- C. RTW---Stephanie Risteff
- D. Differential Diagnosis
- E. Triage
- E. Fitness in the Workplace—Troy Vandermullen
- G. Patient Screening Tools—Clinic and Workplace

Dee reminded us that the speaker's reimbursement for this is a maximum \$200 per hour. And only 2 speakers will be paid. The results in an added challenge.

### PT/Ergo Publication

Dee will find a different venue for publication since the one initially chosen is no longer being published.

### **Research -Hooked on Evidence; David Miller**

We now have a team of six in place. David reviewed the process. We agreed our goal is to start with about 2 articles per person a year and move on from there.

### **New Business:**

It was agreed that the Board Meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon followed by dinner at CSM next year.

Thursday we will establish round tables to review and develop the Occupational Health Guidelines.

Friday will be the Multi Section meeting and our General Business Meeting.

### **New Board Members:**

Margot Miller, President

Linda Nicoli, Nominating Chair

Jennifer Steiner, Membership Chair

Nicole Matoushek, Treasurer

Jennifer Pollak will be elected as a member of the nominating committee at the General Business Meeting tomorrow evening.

Next year, Barb's term as Secretary expires.

**Adjournment:**

Deborah adjourned the meeting at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb McKelvy, PT, OHSIG Secretary