

**MINUTES OF THE ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION, APTA, INC.**

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING/CONFERENCE CALL**

**Tuesday October 4, 2005**

**OHSIG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Deborah Lechner, Kathleen Rockefeller, Margot Miller, Dee Daley, Drew Bossen, Jennifer Steiner, David Miller, Barb McKelvy

**GUESTS:** Ken Harwood and Mary Fran

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM Central time by President Deborah Lechner. The board members submitted reports prior to the meeting to ensure all important information was disseminated.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Dee moved to approve the minutes as revised. Margot seconded the motion. The revised minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**OSHA Alliance:** Ken and Mary Fran said, initially, OSHA did not seem extremely interested in an alliance with APTA. Once Ken and Mary Fran discussed several options, they seemed more interested. The obvious goal is that it is a win-win result and the organizations do not use OSHA simply to promote themselves. Since OSHA understands APTA is in full agreement with that philosophy they are very interesting in working with us.

At least one of three areas must be included in any program with the alliance:

- Education/ training
- Community
- Outreach

All Alliances except those alliances with Orthopaedic surgeons use the same format. The OHSIG board members will check the current alliances on website to better understand their current expectations.

After a lengthy discussion, the board agreed to initially consider a program on safe patient handling for PTs, since APTA is already currently working on this program. Mary Fran said there are other industries with whom we could partner. But OSHA feels this is potentially a good area to address, since it is one of the top 3 professions for injuries.

Deb advised that we must first determine who makes up our audience. And she stated that when the needs of both organizations are meshed advertising and utilization of the programs is improved. We also need to determine primary our target area. We last felt that our target would be injury prevention as our first goal. And the second goal would be an increased visibility of PT in the role of an injury prevention professional, since we feel we are not seen as such. We thought that nursing

would achieve first goal but not the second goal. Deb stated perhaps we should consider this as a first step and move onto another industry to achieve second goal.

Ken agreed on the 2 goals. He was most concerned of the antiquated ideas of some therapists who think that proper body mechanics can fix it all, rather than the information supported by evidence. If we expand topic/area, it may make us more visible. But this would increase the workgroup's work load. They want to be able to show evidence that it's working: i.e. a web based program available to many users. Mary Fran added that this could help OSHA look to us as a mechanism to enhance interaction with other OSHA alliance members which is one of their goals.

Drew suggested limiting the issue to the Operating Room (OR) which has the highest rate of injuries and CTDs; for example, a person has to hold a limb during entire surgery. This could perhaps better accomplish both of our goals by extending into a new arena/location. Evidence can substantiate the need. Training to prevent injury in the OR, present tools that could be used, develop an algorithm of plan for prevention, etc. Mary Fran reminded us that the template goal needs to cover a broad issue, initially, and then the activity could be more specific like the OR. Ken said they could pass this by the OSHA committee with whom they have been working.

Ken reviewed some of the items we could build upon: Cooperative agreement with nursing re: lifting equipment; encouraging use of same; and developing improvements. This would result in increasing the program's utilization in more than one arena, e.g. in the department and in home settings. APTA will be establishing a national task force with OT/PT/nursing. This has been ongoing for some time and the evidence supports it. He recommended [Patient Safety.org](http://PatientSafety.org) as another resource. Bariatric patients are another category of individuals in need of this type of program. It is an area of focus that would be useful on a grand scale in the future.

We also need to determine how to address the budget. The budget proposal will need to go before the board at the March BOD meeting, assuming that OSHA has agreed to move forward. Ken feels the BOD would agree but there is no guarantee. Mary Fran will send us the format for the Alliance agreement. It is fairly simple. The development of the specifics would take longer. Since the BOD will want the dollar amount we feel is necessary. Ken said that this will most likely be a 2007 or 2008 budget issue.

Margot moved that Ken and Mary Fran approach OSHA to see if they are interested and what their thoughts are. Dee seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous consent. Mary Fran will set up a meeting and send us the information that others have completed.

We discussed the need to meet to develop the process and agreed that CSM would be a good place to have our first meeting to save costs. Deborah feels we most likely need to dedicate more time than the first agenda item at CSM in the beginning of February. She stated, and the board agreed, that we should have a separate meeting at CSM to discuss the OSHA Alliance. We will need to coordinate these meetings with the board and all appropriate experts. Our BOD meeting is Wednesday evening and we can use this time for the OSHA alliance. If this works for Ken and Mary Fran, we can schedule another room and time for the rest of the items on our Annual Meeting Agenda.

### **Practice Analysis Certification: Deborah Lechner, President**

Tony Domineth has been appointed as the OHSIG APTA Liaison. Deb has received the criteria and notes that it is going to be a tremendous amount of work. The BOD was impressed that OHSIG is indeed a specialty. Their concern is that the group of PTs may not be large enough. Our liaison will be able to help us with that question, by completing a cost/benefit analysis to determine its worth. Deb has started writing the Practice Analysis Summary for publication and Ken is doing the literature

search. Deb is using the primary care analysis as a format guide. Deb plans to speak with the liaison and Ken will have literature search for the publication summary, prior to the December BOD meeting.

**Education Update: Dee Daley, Education Chair**

Dee suggested that we may want to present the OSHA alliance at CSM 2007. Perhaps we could gain assistance from the Orthopaedic or Acute Care section by having one of them partner with us, and, thereby increase our CE programming time.

We need to meet as well re: the changes requested for our programming for CSM 2007. They requested evidence-based differential diagnosis in occupational health primary care.

The patient handling and rehabilitation initiative is being developed. Kathy suggested this as a potential topic for us in the future. We could then have a potential joint program with the neurology section.

Dee will get more information regarding the 2007 program expectations and send them to us.

**Membership Survey: Barb McKelvy**

After further discussion, it was agreed that the Membership Survey will be held for now. We can revisit this again next year to determine the need. Barb and Margot will send another PR flyer out to the Orthopaedic Section members similar to the one that was sent in June.

**Certification and Occupational Health Education Manual: Kathy Rockefeller**

No update. Kathy is moving to work at the University of South Florida. She is now working with Tampa VA.

Use this email address for communication with Kathy for now; [Kathy\\_Rocky@msn.com](mailto:Kathy_Rocky@msn.com)

**Hooked on Evidence: David Miller**

David presented information on Hooked on Evidence. He is looking for therapists interested in developing article abstracts. All board members stated they were interested and many requested a refresher course prior to participating. David said he'd be happy to do this.

**Nominating Committee: Jennifer Steiner, Chair**

Jennifer stated we have a full slate for nominations. We are hopeful she is able to stay on the committee. She is checking with Tara regarding the bylaws to see if this is possible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:21 PM Central time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb McKelvy, PT  
OHPTSIG Secretary