

Minutes of OCA Executive Board Meeting
June 16, 2022, 7:15pm Live and via ZOOM
Agenda prepared by Dr. Todd Turnbull, DC, CCSP, CBIS/T, President

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Dr. Turnbull at 7:19 pm.

Board Members Present: Michael Arnot, D.C., Les Feinberg, D.C, Arah McLaughlin, D.C., Bob Richards, D.C., Amanda Tipton, D.C., Todd Turnbull, D.C.

Others present: Jan Ferrante, Executive Director OCA, Vern Saboe, D.C., Lobbyist.

2. **Approve Agenda:** Motion made by Dr. Richards, second by Dr. Tipton, passed unanimously.
3. **Approve Minutes:** Motion made by Dr. Arnot, second Dr. McLaughlin, passed unanimously.
4. **Executive Director's Report:**

A. Financials – Jan Ferrante:

1. Convention Profit & Loss January-May 2022, OCA Profit & Loss January-May 2022 with comparison to 2021 were reviewed and discussed. The 2022 Convention had approximately 100 fewer attendees by going “live” again in 2022. The 2022 Convention Net Income was \$3,233.55 versus the 2021 Virtual Convention net profit of \$32,763.09. Reasons discussed for this included continued uncertainty regarding COVID issues, increased availability of on-line CEs, and the difference in overhead between an “in person” convention vs virtual. Jan noted 100 doctors is the minimum needed for “breakeven” for live conventions. Overall membership numbers were discussed.

Motion was made by Dr. Feinberg to develop and maintain a current active OCA membership count for each category of membership, seconded Dr. Arnot, motion passed unanimously. Jan noted she has already provided some membership numbers to Dr. Lell, who is on the Membership Committee, and that she would update that information and provide that to the board.

Discussion was held on additional ways to generate income including classified advertising on website, revenue from Chiro Health USA, raffles, and fundraising ideas.

5. **Legislative Report - Dr. Saboe:**

The 4th Congressional District race between Republican candidate Alek Skarlatos and democrat candidate Val Hoyle race was discussed. Val Hoyle is a known chiropractic patient. A possible swing to the conservative republican side in Oregon was discussed. The Governor's race of Dem Tina Kotek, Rep Christine Drazan, and Independent Betsy Johnson was discussed. It was noted Betsy Johnson is a democrat (running as Independent) who has voted republican in the past and may draw conservative votes from the Rep candidate, Christine Drazan. OCA strategies for supporting specific candidate/s was discussed.

The OCA is sponsoring an on-line ZOOM fundraiser for Tina Kotek on Tuesday August 16, 2022, from 6:00-7:30 pm. Dr. Saboe has been “dialing for dollars.” He noted Speaker of the House, Dan Rayfield, has volunteered to be VIP for the event (if he's available).

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6. OBCE – Dr. Saboe:

In the interest of public safety, the OCA has asked the OBCE to partner with the OCA in the formation of a “White Paper” containing the best science available on COVID. Dr. Saboe noted there was no mention of this request in the OBCE’s minutes from that meeting.

Dr. Saboe noted he gave his OCA Legislative Update to the OBCE. Dr. Saboe stated that during the OBCE’s discussion of BLS/CPR (basic life support/cardiopulmonary resuscitation) he noted the Opioid overdose issue is “high on the legislative radar screen” (the legislature having had a recent hearing on the topic in which Fentanyl from China coming over the Mexican border was discussed). Oregon Measure 110 decriminalized possession of small amounts/low levels of narcotic drugs, and apparently Oregon is now #1 in illicit opioid overdose and last in treatment. Dr. Saboe feels chiropractic should be a leader in this area, and that the OCA should support a bill currently being discussed with Bill Kennemer that would provide/allow drug testing kits in our offices, and training for all health care providers in opioid overdose and delivery of emergency Narcan.

Dr. Saboe states he will be attending the upcoming OBCE OPUG meeting July 21, 2022. History on Whiplash Injury Management section (which took 14 months to write) from 2014 was reviewed, in addition the OBCE in 2016 stating it was not necessary. Dr. Dan Miller requested the Whiplash section be re-inserted into the OPUG’s and Dr. Saboe the OCA’s current code of ethics and policy statement is that the OCA also formally recognizes the Croft Treatment Guidelines. It was discussed that Grades of whiplash injury more accurately describe ligament sprain involvement. The OCA board directed Dr. Sable to communicate to the OBCE that the OCA supports reinsertion/inclusion of the Whiplash section in the OPUG’s along with the CROFT Whiplash Guidelines.

Further discussion on the OBCE’s requirement for BLS/CPR included that Jan would continue to ask for “clarification” on the specific level of training required for DCs versus CAs, etc...by sending repeated emails to the OBCE CC: ’ed to the entire board. Discussion was held whether on-line courses on these subjects are compliant with the board and or OSHA (as this remains unclear). Dr. Saboe suggested we contact Red Cross regarding training to become an instructor and that he or other DCs could take this training and provide this training at OCA sponsored seminars/convention perhaps twice a year. Jan stated Dr. McLaughlin contacted Dr. Brimhall at UWS, who has persons trained in BLS/CPR and that they could provide that training as well. The OCA could host an event in the spring and UWS could host an event in the fall.

7. UWS – Dr. McLaughlin:

The OCA is now offering a 50% discount to new graduates of UWS to become OCA members as part of a “virtual” Graduation Gift Bag; via an on-line UWS Grad code (that expires July 31 to be able to tract interest/participation). Dr. McLaughlin feels BLS/CPR training with UWS is a great way for the OCA to work/participate with UWS. Vern noted that, as a result of COVID and more doctors getting their CEs online, the ACA recently launched their “Learn ACA Online Courses” which is a LARGE on-line CE credit program offering online CE’s to chiropractors “cheap” and that the OCA needs to stay ahead of this by being “consistent” with our membership to provide CE’s and to maintain OCA revenue.

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8. Insurance Relations – Dr. Arnot/Dr. Saboe:

Dr. Arnot summarized that after speaking with Regence we're still stuck with EviCORE for Pre-Auth on rest of our scope of practice. He also received a document containing dollar conversion factors for multiple providers and chiropractors are "45% or close to 50% less" than other professions for the same services (he provided the document to the board in Mobilize). Discussion was held on perhaps consulting legal counsel regarding Regence review of dollar conversion for chiropractors in October 2022. Dr. Saboe cited Federal Regulations being written regarding reimbursement based on "quality and performance measures" versus reimbursement based on provider types or "other market considerations." Suggests we wait state wise for federal regulations.

Dr. Arnot suggests continuing to attempt to work with Regence to raise the profession's dollar conversion factor based on his success in raising his own personal dollar conversion factor. Dr. Turnbull suggested Dr. Arnot create a "step by step procedure" to teach other chiropractors how to negotiate/raise their own dollar conversion factor with MODA (as Regence has a blanket conversion rate). Dr. Turnbull suggested revisiting the idea of talking with legal representation regarding this matter on behalf of the entire profession, Dr. Saboe stated, "You leave [attorney] out of it...you don't give them [insurance] a nice letter with a law firm's letter head on it...so Michael [Dr. Arnot] going in and doing what he's doing is the thing to do right now." End of discussion on topic.

Dr. Arnot contacted MODA provider relations dept rep McKenzie Mathews about removal of EviCORE pre-auth for entire chiropractic scope of practice based on complaints from multiple providers, but no immediate change is on the horizon but may occur in the future. Dr. Arnot states that, without going through EviCORE, our offices can bill a manual therapy technique and neuromuscular reeducation with modifier. He contacted Darcy Eggers about dollar conversion factor, who responded to his email by stating they will do a new "base contract" based on CMS. He pointed out CMS doesn't include our entire scope of practice. Apparently, each provider/group will have to go through a new base contract. He will next contact Pacific Source.

Dr. Saboe then cited a 2017 OAR which states if a covered service is within scope of chiropractic medicine, insurers must reimburse chiropractors for it and that he would send the specific OAR to the board and to Dr. Arnot to use in his negotiations with insurers.

9. CE/Fall Convention – Dr. Tipton:

Discussion held on possible topics for the OCA's one-day Fall Symposium at UWS. Topic suggestions were sports medicine, radiology, etc. Dr. Turnbull discussed the possibility of 1-Track on pain management, 1-Track on BLS, and 1-Track on suicide prevention/opioid/cultural competency for CE's and possible future video availability. Logistics at UWS discussed if they could host/accommodate 2 tracks, or 3 tracks. Discussion held on Dr. Zielinski's wife, Shauna, possibly doing a 1-hour class on suicide prevention and that Jan would follow-up with that. Convention 2022 provided 1.5 hrs cultural competency, ok for CA's, but DC's need 2-hrs. Possibly 2-hrs from Bev Harger, 2-hrs Bill Murrow, and possibly 2-hrs sports/other subjects. Date for 2023 Convention discussed as 28-30th April. Proposed date OCA Fall Symposium at UWS Saturday September 24th and Jan will follow-up on those dates.

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10. COVID Advisory Committee – Dr. Saboe:

Dr. Saboe stipulates to the board that the OCA White Paper on COVID evidence-based truth/science will not be presented to “policy makers” unless draconian measures are enacted that could adversely affect chiropractic practices remaining open. Then states once the paper is complete that we might use it to impact policy from the OHA, and that it’s 100% counter productive to go to the legislature with this information. And, until such time, we keep the document internal. But that the OCA will continue to try to partner with the OBCE inter-professionally to address health/safety issues rather than the OBCE just parroting the CDC, etc.

11. PAC/Voter Voice – Jan:

Jan stated in her last Chiro Congress Executive Directors meeting she learned of a program called “Fiscal Notes and Voter Voice.” She did a demo of the program (to determine if we might want to invest in this automated software program), which tracks political races per district, that we could use to quickly contact doctors to garner political support for specific races/candidates and that doctors could use to notify or enroll patients. This might be useful in 2023. Further discussion next meeting.

12. New Business: None

13. Board Member announcements/questions/comments/concerns: None.

14. Next Board Meeting: Thursday July 21, 2022, in person at OCA office and online via ZOOM. Motion made by Dr. Arnot to adjourn June 16th meeting, seconded by Dr. Feinberg, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.