

**RIOTA**  
**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

**Present:** Karen Morgenstein, Natalie Leland-Wiatrowski, Trish McGee, Becky Simon, Lisa Edwards, Ann Harwood, Sue Higgins, Beth Horne

I. Board Reports

- a. Reimbursement Chair (Ann Harwood)
  - i. As questions regarding reimbursement issues arise, they will be forwarded to Ann to research and answer
  
- b. Public Relations (Beth Horne)
  - i. Beth indicated she will focus on looking into ways RIOTA can advertise OT Month & Party for free (local newspapers, website, coffee cup salute)
  
- c. Education Resource Coordinator (Trish McGee)
  - i. Upcoming events include:
    - 1. Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Shawn Baxter presentation on Ergonomics & Work Rehabilitation
    - 2. Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – OT Month Party
      - a. OTA Lab @ NEIT
      - b. 5pm – RA Mtg (Lisa Edwards to present)
      - c. ~6pm – “Building your Professional Portfolio & Organizing NBCOT PDUs” (Trish McGee to present)
      - d. Pot luck & Raffle – Becky will send e-mail to board members reminding them to sign up for food & bring raffle items
      - e. Raffle will include: \$1 for lollipop & 2 tickets; \$2 for RIOTA pen and 5 tickets; \$5 for T-shirt & arms length of tickets
    - 3. May – Jan Davis NDT Tapes
      - a. Karen and Trish will meet towards the end of March to finalize dates, organize workshops

4. Trish announced that Keri Kinniburgh, COTA has agreed to organize a Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group

- a. Keri will write an article for the upcoming newsletter announcing the group and asking interested members about potential speaker topics, etc. Keri would like to have the first meeting sometime in the fall of 2008.

d. Becky Simon

- i. Becky Simon spoke about her initiative to gather OT Month ideas
- ii. Becky would like members to let her know what they are doing to celebrate OT month, including taking pictures and sending them to her to post on the website
- iii. Some ideas include:
  1. OT Bulletin Board with quizzes for consumers
  2. Ice cream social
  3. disability awareness (triathlon)
  4. W/C basketball game

e. Natalie Leland-Wiatrowski

- i. Natalie spoke about the upcoming “Rebuilding Together” Event on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Newport County, RI
- ii. “Rebuilding Together” is a non-profit organization focused on connecting communities and volunteers together to improve the homes of that in need.
- iii. Currently, Natalie has 4 volunteers and will send an informational e-mail out to members about the event
- iv. The central meeting place will be the CCRI campus in Newport
- v. Natalie will contact Mike Nardone @ CCRI to see if the COTA students are interested in participating

II. RIOTA makes walker bags on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm – NEIT!

- a. This year, RIOTA members will be making walker bags to donate to area hospitals & nursing facilities
- b. Sue Higgins will bring her sewing machine
- c. Trish McGee’s co-worker will also bring her sewing machine

d. Anyone interested is welcome to attend!

III. TIS – Therapeutic Intervention Specialist

- a. Karen spoke of her concern about this new paid state position in which workers with no formal training are allowed to work with children with disabilities in area pre-schools
- b. Karen urged school/pediatric based therapist to look into this matter further

IV. Encroachment

- a. Karen also spoke about her ongoing concern for the field of Occupational Therapy regarding other disciplines encroaching on our territory
- b. Specifically, Athletic Trainers are trying to pass legislation in which their definition states that they are allowed to treat “any injury in any activity”
- c. Also, Karen is concerned that OT will lose treatment of cognition to Speech Therapist the same way they lost swallowing
- d. It is important that RIOTA continues to promote Occupational Therapy

V. Strategic Plan

- a. The strategic plan was finished.
- b. Trish McGee will edit and finalize

Respectfully Submitted,  
Trish McGee, MSOTR/L  
RIOTA Secretary