

## ***ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY***

**POLICY NO: B.3.142**

**SECTION: Board/Organizational**

### **B.3.142 SENIORS MENTAL HEALTH SECTOR TEAM – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The Seniors Mental Health Sector Team assists the Board of Directors to monitor, identify and address issues affecting occupational therapy practice in the seniors mental health sector across Ontario to ensure that an occupational therapy voice is able to effectively influence relevant policy development, to facilitate proactive promotion of the profession within this practice sector and to ensure that the needs of occupational therapists working with seniors with mental health issues are met to enable OTs to deliver quality services to meet the needs of Ontarians.

#### **FUNCTIONS:**

1. To identify key issues and opportunities affecting OT practice in Ontario's seniors mental health care sector.
2. To make recommendations to the Board of Directors for strategies or initiatives to address emerging issues or opportunities relating to OT practice in the seniors mental health and to assist the Society to implement approved initiatives. (These may include initiatives related to advocacy, professional promotion, resource development, etc.)
3. To assist the Board to respond to policy and legislative reform developments affecting seniors mental health services in the province with a focus on impact to consumers and the delivery of and access to occupational therapy services.
4. To identify professional development and practice support needs of therapists whose practice is focused in seniors mental health and to assist the Society to develop strategies to address these needs and promote practice excellence.
5. To facilitate professional networking and sharing of best practice related to OT practice seniors mental health.
6. In collaboration with the Executive Director, to establish and maintain relationships with key stakeholders in the mental health sector, Behavioural Supports Ontario, and any other related health care and social services as they relate to Seniors Mental Health.



**REPORTING STRUCTURE:**

The Seniors Mental Health Sector Team reports to the Board of Directors through the Executive Director. A communications strategy will be mutually determined to facilitate communication between the Executive Director and Team on a regular basis.

Records of Team meetings will be maintained by the Chair and copies of Team Minutes will be forwarded to the OSOT Office Executive Assistant and Executive Director.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The Seniors Mental Health Sector Team will be comprised of occupational therapists with varied backgrounds and experience related to OT practice in mental health. Ideally, representation of diverse geographic distribution will be achieved. A Chairperson (or co-chairs) who is a member of OSOT will be appointed by the Board of Directors for a one year, renewal term.

**MEETINGS:**

Meetings may be scheduled at the call of the Chair at a frequency necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Team. To facilitate involvement of members from across the province, communications and consultation via telephone, email and web-based media will be built into the communications strategy of the Team as required.

**BUDGET:**

A basic operating budget (telephone, printing, photocopy, etc.) will be approved by the Board of Directors annually to ensure that members do not incur costs for operations of OSOT Teams. Travel expenses for Team members are limited to parking expenses. In addition, an annual budget of \$1000 to fund special initiatives, components of annual objectives that need start-up funds, etc. will be issued. Access to funds in excess of the basic operating budget must be applied for through application to the Board. Projects and initiatives that require additional budget commitments will be approved by the Board of Directors and a project budget will be established through the Special Projects approval process.

**OBJECTIVES:**

OSOT Teams will establish annual objectives to be approved by the Board of Directors to provide guidance for Team members. Annual objectives will be requested for submission in September annually.

**POLICY APPROVAL:** November 25, 2017

**POLICY REVIEW:**

**RELATED REFERENCES:** OSOT By-laws, September 2008, Article Eight, Section 8.01 - 8.04  
Special Projects Funding Policy