



**Board of Physical Therapy
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference Attendance**

On October 4, 2021, the Board of Physical Therapy met via teleconference. Login information was published with the agenda on the DOH website and through GovDelivery.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Aglubat, PT, DPT, Vice Chair
Rodney Copes, PT
Kathryn Dale, PT, DSc, Chair
Jeffrey Foucier, PT, DPT
Destini Jammeh, PTA
Dana Johnson, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT

Renee Fullerton, Executive Director
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate
Michelle Hartman, Administrative Assistant
Lilia Lopez, AAG
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney

GUESTS:

Dan Anton
Jackie Barry, APTA-WA
Tammy Drew
Melissa Johnson, Lobbyist, APTA-WA
Sushant Maheshwari
Kerri Steffan
Ravneet Vohra
Apuva Zawar

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Jennifer Herbrand, Customer Service Manager
Hyon Yi, Credentialing Supervisor
Kevin Robbins, Credentialing Supervisor

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kathryn Dale, PT, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

- 1.1. Introductions – The board and staff introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Approval of Agenda – The October 4, 2021 agenda was approved as presented.
- 1.3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The August 2, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

2. CREDENTIALING UPDATE

Kevin Robbins, credentialing supervisor, provided a credentialing update to the board. Currently there are 7,661 active Physical Therapist (PT) licenses and 2,507 Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) licenses. There are 488 compact privilege requests received from those living outside of Washington state. Processing times, from beginning to licensure, has

been taking up to 84 days. Processing delays are due to understaffing and the fingerprint-based background check requirement for all PTs and PTAs, which adds a significant amount of time to the task. The department is examining ways of speeding up and streamlining the process, including the hiring of additional staff.

3. EXCEPTION APPLICATION MATRIX DISCUSSION

Ms. Fullerton provided an overview of the application process and presented the proposed matrix for exception applications to the board for approval. The board's changes will be made to the matrix and a final draft will be presented at the December 13, 2021 meeting for board review.

4. FOREIGN EDUCATED APPLICANTS

The board discussed the foreign educated rule, WAC 246-915-120, in relation to degrees earned from schools accredited by CAPTE versus schools not accredited by CAPTE. It also discussed whether to update the CR 101, which currently authorizes the board to engage in rulemaking regarding the portion of the foreign educated rule that requires passing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam in one test sitting, in order to broaden the scope of the CR101 to include the foreign educated rule as a whole.

The board did not take action to amend the CR101 but chose to exercise enforcement discretion in relation to applications from foreign educated applicants who have obtained a degree from a CAPTE-approved school.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that applicants with a CAPTE approved degree will follow the pathway for any applicant with an approved degree as opposed to the foreign educated applicant pathway. The motion passed.

Ms. Fullerton will follow up with the Office of Customer Service on the decision made. Once the current rulemaking reaches the CR 103 stage, the board can pursue further amendments to WAC 246-915-120.

5. FEDERATION OF STATE BOARDS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (FSBPT) UPDATES

5.1 PT Compact Updates/Issues

Dr. Aglubat provided the following update to the board. With Ohio's compact going live on October 1, the total number of states issuing and accepting privileges is now 25. There are 221 compact privileges issued in Washington since the first of the year and 170 compact privileges issued in other states to people who have Washington listed as their home state. FSBPT is seeking volunteers to serve on standing committees. Interested parties don't have to be a delegate, and can be a board member or board staff. Meetings occur virtually through teams or by phone.

5.2 Draft Amendments to the PT Compact Commission Governing Documents

Ms. Fullerton provided an overview for the new board members then presented the proposed amendments to PT Compact Commission Governing documents.

5.3 PT Compact 2020 Annual Report

Board members received the annual report in their packet for review. Dr. Aglubat conveyed that compact privileges issuances doubled in 2020 from 2019 despite the shortened 2020 legislative sessions, and that Washington issued the most compact privileges of any state.

6. PROGRAM REPORT

6.1 Budget Report

The budget remains as presented in previous meetings with the downward trend continuing. Meeting with the budget analyst has been delayed while the agency works on setting the new indirect rates and allotments for the new biennium. Staff is still waiting on an update on the cost driver study but will review it with the board when it is made available.

6.2 Planning for upcoming meetings

- Disciplinary process review with Mr. Kellington.
- Open public meetings act with Ms. Lopez.
- Fiscal review, if cost driver study is complete.

6.3 Other

Ms. Fullerton shared that the Board/Commission bill is moving forward through the decision-making process. This bill would increase the board size to seven from six, adding in a new physical therapist member. The proposal would also increase all board/commission compensation to the same level, class 5 board, which is \$250/day. The bill has gone forward to the Governor's office for consideration

Ms. Fullerton noted that the correct date for the next meeting is December 13, 2021.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Davis Hylkema, Interim Program Manager

Kathryn Dale, PT, DSc, Chair