



Board of Physical Therapy
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference Attendance

On February 7, 2022, 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

GUESTS:

Jackie Barry, APTAWA
Dan Anton, EWU
Ken Berkes
Maricor Lim
Stacy Spencer
Gail Baudendistel
Einaz Farag
Melissa Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Renee Fullerton, Executive Director
Allyson McIver, Program Manager
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate
Michelle Hartman, Office Manager
Lilia Lopez, AAG
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney
Hope Kilbourne, Policy Analyst

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Ashley Bell, Behavioral Health Programs
Coordinator

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

- 1.1. Introductions – The board, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Approval of Agenda – The February 7, 2022 agenda was approved as presented.
- 1.3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The December 13, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ESSB 5229-CONCERNING HEALTH EQUITY
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

Ms. Bell presented the implementation plan for ESSB 5229 requiring health care professionals to obtain continuing education in health equity and answered questions from the board and public.

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

3.1 FSBPT Update

Dr. Aglubat provided updates from the FSBPT. FSBPT has reduced dues for 2022 by 50 percent in consideration of hardships individual boards may be facing due to COVID-19.

- FSBPT will be providing funding for the following members for the following meetings:
 - Leadership Issues Forum (7/23-7/24, Alexandria, VA) - Voting Delegate, Board Administrator
 - Annual Meeting (10/27-10/29, Orange County, CA) - Voting Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Board Administrator

Ms. Fullerton explained to the board that she will be sharing, for FSBPT consideration, the difference in foreign trained applicant requirements across the states, including TOEFL score requirements, that are becoming a greater issue as the PT Compact matures. No other issues were identified by the board for consideration at LIF.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve sending Dr. Dale to the FSBPT Life Meeting, in Virginia, July 22-23, 2022. The motion passed.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve sending Dr. Dale to the annual FSBPT meeting in Orange County, CA, October 27-29, 2022. The motion passed.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve sending Dr. Foucier as alternate delegate to the annual FSBPT meeting in Orange County, CA, October 27-29, 2022. The motion passed.

The board delayed decision on whether to select another board member to attend the Annual Meeting to a later meeting.

- Regulatory Training (5/20-5/22, Alexandria, VA) - Limited spots available, must apply by February 20th.
- FSBPT has announced a grant opportunity. \$2.2M available to assist Compact states in support of getting databases in compliance with Compact requirements.
 - Ms. Fullerton said the board is currently meeting the Compact database requirements with our existing system.

3.2 Physical Therapy Compact Update

Dr. Aglubat gave updates on the PT Compact including:

- Introduction of PT Compact legislation is expected to be limited for 2022 due to abbreviated legislation sessions in several target states.
- Twenty-five out of 34 Compact jurisdictions are actively issuing and accepting compact privileges.

Ms. Fullerton shared that as of February 4, 2022, there were 436 active PT/PTA privileges purchased to work in Washington, including 86 PTs with a home state of WA, who have a total of 142 active compact privileges, and 24 PTAs with a home state of WA, who have a total of 34 active compact privileges.

4. RETURN TO PRACTICE FOR PT/PTA

The board reviewed WAC 246-915-350(4)(a) and what the board should consider as evidence of continuing competency satisfactory to the board when a licensee is reactivating a license and has not been in active practice for three years.

Ms. Fullerton presented information from an FSBPT whitepaper regarding the effects of disuse on PT performance in order to help the board discuss what the board would consider satisfactory continuing competency.

Ms. Fullerton asked the board members what they would like her to take back to FSBPT. Dr. Foucrier shared that he would email some questions to Ms. Fullerton and asked the board to consider equity in answering this question specific to creating barriers to re-entry to practice for those more likely to take several years away from work.

- Dr. Foucrier agreed to summarize his thoughts and coordinate with Ms. Fullerton to be shared at a future board meeting.

5. STUDENT PRESENTATION REVIEW

The board discussed updating the student PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Fullerton requested input from the board regarding the current physical therapy student presentation. Staff will be working to create a new presentation that conforms to agency communication standards and ADA accessibility requirements. Ms. Fullerton asked the board what they would like students to take away from this presentation. Ideas included:

- Updating the compact information
- Updates on board members
- Updating the photos in the presentation
- Major no-no's
- How to become a board member
- HIPAA, communication and boundaries reminders
- An interactive feature

Dr. Foucrier volunteered to give feedback on the current training to staff. Updated topics and a potential draft will be included in the April agenda.

- Dr. Dale will be presenting to the UW physical therapy students on February 9th and invited board members and staff to see how the current presentation is being done.

6. NEWSLETTER

The board discussed the publication of the next newsletter and determined article topics and authors.

- Dr. Aglubat will produce a summary on the PT compact, including participating states and how to get compact privileges.
- Mr. Copes will do a write up on a JP question of his choosing.
- Dr. Dale will put together an article about telehealth.
- Dr. Foucrier will write up a summary of the board's activities this past year.
- Ms. Johnson will write up a brief introduction and bio for the two new Board members
 - Staff will facilitate the emails to the new board members.

Board members will submit their newsletter items to staff by March 17. Staff will bring a newsletter draft to the next board meeting for review.

7. NON-ROUTINE ENDORSEMENT APPLICATIONS

The board reviewed the non-routine endorsement application process and considered what changes to the process might be made.

Ms. Fullerton shared that non-routine applications should either be brought to a panel meeting for review, or be processed by agency staff. Staff review would keep the process streamlined while taking these to a disciplinary panel would increase the processing time up to a month.

Ms. Lopez shared that in order for staff to process these non-routine endorsement applications, the board would need to vote to have staff conduct a non-discretionary review of the applications .

Board members shared not wanting to encumber the process and wished to streamline it as much as possible.

Staff will draft a policy/procedure document to bring forward for board review at the next board meeting.

8. 2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Copes and Ms. Fullerton provided the board an update on bills currently of interest to the profession.

[Substitute Senate Bill 5753](#) –Passed Senate Floor on February 2nd.

For the Board of Physical Therapy, the changes from this bill would include:

- Increasing the size of the board from 6 to 7 members. Additional member is a PT
- Designating the board as a class five board (changes compensation from \$50 per day to \$250 per day)
- Updating the quorum to be a majority of members appointed and serving

House Bill 1662 – regarding physical therapists performing intramuscular needling. Ms. Fullerton shared this bill was not passed out of committee and since we're past policy cutoff, the bill is most likely done for this legislation session.

Mr. Copes gave an update regarding his participation on the Patient Safety Taskforce with Dr. Shah. Discussions have been regarding patient safety and notifications, and he has attended three meetings so far.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOW-UP

Ms. Lopez reported to the board about disclosure of names and addresses of licensees for commercial purposes in relation to the PT Compact Commission's request for use of PT & PTAs email addresses.

Dr. Dale recommended holding off until she meets with the rules and bylaws committee in March so she will have more information by the next Board meeting.

10. OPEN FORUM

The purpose of the open forum is to provide the public an opportunity to address the board on issues of significance to physical therapy practice, that are not related to topics for which a rules hearing was or will be scheduled.

- Einas Farag – Ms. Farag shared a TOEFL passing score of 26 in speaking is an obstacle, especially because other states have lower passing requirements than 26. Ms. Farag would like the board to consider lowering the passing required score to match at least California's passing score of 24. Ms. Fullerton shared there would be a public hearing regarding the rulemaking scheduled in March.
- Stacy Spencer – Ms. Spencer shared that she is a PTA and would like to know what the board deems acceptable as continuing competence for someone who has taken a leave of absence from practice? Dr. Dale responded and directed Ms. Spencer to the relevant WAC chapters.

11. PROGRAM REPORT

11.1 Budget Report

Ms. Fullerton shared that there has been a change in the budget projections, and overall, the profession is sitting better than previously reported. While it looks encouraging, the fee study, which examines the past six years of fiscal data as well as projections for the next six years, will still be conducted. This information will help determine the fee level necessary to bring the profession into fiscal balance.

11.2 Rulemaking Updates

Ms. McIver shared that the two CR-102's regarding the TOEFL requirements and updating the effective date of the compact were both filed with the code reviser's office on January 31st. Both public hearings are scheduled for March 8th at noon.

11.3 Staffing Updates

Ms. Fullerton introduced Allyson McIver as new program manager and shared some of her history with the Department of Health. Davis Hylkema will be returning to his previous role, and Michelle Hartman has been promoted to office manager for the office of health professions.

11.4 Planning for upcoming board meeting:

- Spring 2022 newsletter
- Re-vamped student presentation outline
- Policy/procedure on license endorsements
- Return to practice notes from Dr. Foucrier
- Dr. Dale will provide an update on email address request and the public hearing on March 8th regarding the CR-102's

12. CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under the consent agenda (informal items) are considered routine matters and are approved without discussion upon approval of the agenda. If separate discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular business agenda for discussion.

12.1 National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) Policies Update

- Dr. Dale noted on page 5 it appears as if they are not going to have a TOEFL requirement?
 - Ms. Fullerton explained they had considered a TOEFL requirement but ultimately announced they were not going to implement that requirement on the FSBPT side. They decided to maintain current state.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Allyson McIver, Program Manager

Kathryn Dale, PT, DSc, Chair