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Board of Physical Therapy Meeting Minutes December 9, 2024

Labor & Industries, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Members Present: Rodney Copes, Physical Therapist, Vice-chairperson; Jennifer Aglubat, Physical Therapist; Kathryn Dale, Physical Therapist, Chairperson; Jeffrey Foucier, Physical Therapist; Celeste Misko, Physical Therapist

Staff Present: Allyson McIver, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Lilia Lopez, Senior Counsel; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Catherine Reiter-Roner, Supervising Staff Attorney; Melissa Green, Acting Deputy Director of OHP; Stacey Saunders, DOH Staff.

Guests and Other Participants: Melissa Johnson, APTA Washington; Lisa VanHaagen, public guest; Colleen Sue, Physical Therapist; Mike Sherman, public guest.

1. Call to Order

On Monday December 9, at 10:05 a.m., Chairperson Dale officially called the meeting to order.

1.1 Introduction

Following the call to order, Chairperson Dale facilitated introductions, allowing each board member and the department staff to be acknowledged. Attendees also had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Dale presented the proposed agenda, seeking approval from the board. No objections were raised, and a motion to approve the agenda was initiated by Dr. Foucier, Dr. Misko seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

1.3 Approval of October 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The board considered the minutes from the previous meeting held on October 14, 2024. Dr. Foucier moved for approval, Dr. Misko seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum

Chairperson Dale initiated the open forum session, providing an opportunity for the public to address any issues not presented on the meeting agenda. No comments were received.

Chairperson Dale closed the open forum.

3. Reducing Licensure Barriers Rules Hearing WAC 246 915

Chairperson Dale began the rules hearing at 10:12 a.m., and she provided an overview of the hearing regarding proposed amendments to the rules regarding endorsement and initial licensure requirements, and changes to the foreign educated applicant chapter with the goal of streamlining the application process. The goal of the proposed amendments are to ensure the rules are consistent with House Bill 1724. Chairperson Dale opened the hearing for public testimony. Melissa Johnson shared that on behalf of the APTA of Washington they support the amended rules. There were no further comments at this time and the rules hearing was closed at 10:15 a.m. The board approved of the amendments.

The rules hearing virtual meeting link was incorrect; therefore, the public may have missed the opportunity to access the hearing or make a public testimony regarding the proposed amendments to the rules. The board voted to rescind the approval of the rules hearing and reschedule the hearing for the February 2025 meeting.

4. 1503 Data Collection Updates Presentation

Ms. Saunders provided a presentation on the workforce data collection efforts. This survey is being implemented as a result of legislation so that health equity is better understood by the department, the legislature, and the public health partners. She shared how the data will be collected using a universal survey at the time of initial licensure and renewals and how the information will be used and distributed.

5. Physical Therapy Licensure Compact WAC 246-915A-010

Ms. McIver shared that the Board previously authorized the department to file a CR-105, as part of the expedited rulemaking process to update the compact effective date to June 17, 2024. There were no public comments received. The process can move forward, and the board considered authorization for filing the CR-103 to complete the process. Dr. Fouchier motioned to authorize filing the CR-103, Vice-chairperson Copes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

6.1 Compact commission updates

Dr. Aglubat provided updates regarding the compact executive board, the board will be holding an election for the Chair and Secretary Treasurer. She also shared information regarding the top states applying for Washington State compact privileges and Washington licensees applying for compact privileges in other states. Texas and Oregon are the top states for where Washington licensees purchase compact privileges.

6.2 FSBPT Annual Education Conference report-out

Dr. Aglubat shared that the Washington State Medical Commission was recognized as a leader in implementing steps to increase fairness and decrease biases during complaint processing and disciplinary investigations. Ms. Santiago provided a brief overview of their experience attending the FSBPT conference in October. She shared that the conference provided a great opportunity to network with other state administrators and state board members. FSBPT also highlighted nationwide issues that many states are facing. The NPTE was discussed which brought up the topic of minimum standard of passing that exam and how to define the term competency. Chairperson Dale shared that the FSBPT conference will be held in Spokane Washington next year and expressed that it would be a great opportunity to have the whole board attend. Dr. Misko enjoyed the conference and felt it was a beneficial and educational experience.

6.3 Compact Home State Verification Audits

Ms. McIver shared that the Compact Commission conducted a home state verification audit. Compact holders were randomly selected to submit proof of their current home state. Some Washington home state licensees were non-compliant.

7. Jurisprudence Exam Review

Dr. Foucrier led the board discussion regarding updates to the jurisprudence exam. The board considered approving the draft that was presented pending some updates and changes. Dr. Aglubat had asked some clarifying questions regarding what some of the answers were for the revised jurisprudence exam. The board members provided some feedback which will be incorporated into the latest draft and brought back for review at the February 2025 meeting.

Break from 11:32 am – 11:39 am

8. Student Presentation Review

The board reviewed the student presentation and discussed the updates and necessary changes they would like to implement. Board staff will work with Chairperson Dale to incorporate the feedback and bring a draft back for review at the February 2025 meeting.

9. Intramuscular Needling Endorsement Updates

The board discussed the updates and progress regarding the intramuscular needling endorsements. Ms. McIver has included a thorough checklist for applicants to follow when submitting their application to ensure it is properly filled which will help to expedite the application process. She also updated the qualified provider portion of the form to help reduce confusion. The board discussed application timeframes and training programs.

10. Correspondence

The board discussed the correspondence received since the last business meeting.

10.1 Lists and Labels

The board discussed lists and labels requests and relevant privacy laws and how they apply to healthcare provider's information. The board reviewed the requirements to approve or deny an organization's lists and labels request, and what an approved entity can do with their lists.

10.2 American Academy of Manipulative Therapy

The American Academy of Manipulative Therapy wants to offer dry needling and spinal manipulation courses to their students. Dr. Aglubat moved for approval, Dr. Fouchier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Program Report

Ms. McIver and Ms. Santiago provided the board with the program report.

11.1 Budget Report

Ms. McIver updated the board regarding the budget report. This report is for the period of July 1st 2023, to October 31, 2024 we had a starting fund balance of \$-905,949.00 dollars and by the end of October the board had an ending fund balance of \$-763,306.00. The budget is showing signs of improvement. The estimated revenue versus the actual revenue is close. The expense report was broken down into categories for the board to review. Ms. McIver shared that due to the state budget freeze the board needs to be mindful of unnecessary travel and noted there may be a need for virtual board meetings temporarily to help reduce meeting expenses. Ms. Santiago also shared that it is possible that out-of-state travel opportunities such as conferences may not be approved during the budget freeze.

11.2 Rulemaking Update

The rules hearing regarding the initial licensure and endorsement project was postponed to a future meeting. The CR 103 for the compact with an effective date of June 17, 2024 was approved.

11.3 Board Member Recruitment Update

Ms. McIver shared that there have not been any new updates regarding the PTA position. The public member package has been received. The packet has been reviewed but no one has been appointed.

11.4 Planning for upcoming meetings

Ms. McIver shared that during the legislative session, the board will all receive weekly emails regarding legislative updates and bills. The board discussed the details of the 2025 board retreat. The retreat will be scheduled for half a day following the September board meeting. The board will review board goals and strategic planning. The board discussed

the costs associated with having all board members attend the 2025 FSBPT annual education meeting.

12. Adjournment

Dr. Aglubat moved for approval to rescind the approval of the 1724 rules hearing due to technical issues and to reschedule the hearing for the February 2025 meeting, Dr. Fouchier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Dale formally adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m. Vice-Chairperson Copes moved for approval to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Fouchier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Washington State Board of Physical Therapy

On File

Kathryn Dale, Chairperson

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