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Board of Physical Therapy Minutes February 24, 2025

Department of Health 111 Israel Rd SE Tumwater, WA 98501

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

Members Absent: Kathryn Dale, Physical Therapist, Chairperson

Staff Present: Allyson McIver, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst; Lilia Lopez, Senior Counsel; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Shelly Buchanan, Supervising Staff Attorney; Christopher Stransky, DOH Staff.

Guests and Other Participants: Margie, WA guest; Elizabeth Denton, Senior Director of Partnerships with OET.

1. Call to Order

On Monday February 24th, at 10:00 a.m., Vice-chairperson Copes officially called the meeting to order.

1.1. Introductions

Following the call to order, Vice-chairperson Copes facilitated introductions, allowing each board member and department staff to be acknowledged. Attendees joining virtually also had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

Vice-chairperson Copes presented the proposed agenda, seeking approval from the board. No objections were raised, and a motion to approve was initiated by Dr. Foucier. Dr. Aglubat seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

1.3. Approval of December 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes

They considered approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on December 9, 2024. Vice chairperson Copes recommended that titles should be consistent throughout the minutes. Dr. Aglubat moved for approval, Dr. Foucier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum

Vice-chairperson Copes initiated the open forum session, providing a platform for the public to address non-rule hearing issues related to physical therapy. No comments were received. Vice-chairperson Copes closed the open forum.

3. Rules Hearing: Reducing Licensure Barriers WAC 246-915

3.1 Public comment

Vice-chairperson Copes opened the public comment section to invite the public to address the board with comments regarding the proposed rules amendments. The hearing began at 10:06 am. The board received several written and verbal comments in support of the rules as written, particularly to the foreign educated applicant section, and a request that the board consider OET, which is an international English language exam as an approved exam in addition to the TOEFL.

3.2 Board discussion

Vice Chairperson Copes provided the next steps to the rule-making process, all the comments received on these rules will be summarized and become a part of the official rule making file. After a review of the comments received, the board chose to adopt the rules. The notice will be filed with the code revisor, and the rules will become effective 31 days after they are filed with the code revisor. The rules hearing concluded at 10:13 am. The board motioned to approve the proposed rule in its current form. Dr. Aglubat moved for approval, Dr. Misko seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. OPMA Refresher Training

Ms. Lopez provided OPMA training and board best practices. Ms. Lopez explained why and how the OPMA is used and needed to maintain public awareness and for the board members to review.

5. Jurisprudence Exam Review

Dr. Foucher provided an overview regarding previous discussions of the exam and updates the board previously recommended. The board discussed patterns in the answer options, consistent formatting, and Ms. Lopez asked the board if written consent is typically something that is not required in practice causing the board to amend a question. The board approved the amendments to the exam questions. Dr. Foucher motioned for approval; Dr. Misko seconded the motion. The board approved unanimously.

6. Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

There were no updates at this time. Ms. McIver shared that the Leadership Issues Forum conference is going to be from July 19th to July 20th in Arlington VA and FSBPT is funding the board administrator and the primary delegate for the board. Ms. McIver is planning to

attend as the board administrator, and there will be a vote held at the May board meeting to elect the delegate and the alternate delegate for the conference.

7. 2025 Legislative Update

Dr. Fouchier reviewed a few bills that he wanted to bring to the board's attention. Ms. Santiago shared that there have been no bills that affect the board of Physical Therapy directly, however there are bills that will impact health practitioners overall.

8. Spring Newsletter

Ms. Schatz presented article ideas for the Spring 2025 board newsletter. The topics were reviewed and distributed between the board members and members will review a draft newsletter at the May 2025 board meeting.

9. Student Presentation Review

Dr. Aglubat asked if the map in the presentation can be clearly labeled because there is no legend to the map for clarity. Ms. Lopez asked for a few updates/changes to be made to this presentation to reflect grammar and citations. Dr. Aglubat motioned for approval of the student presentation as amended; Ms. Misko seconded the motion. The board approved unanimously.

10. Program Report

10.1 Budget report

Ms. McIver provided an overview of the board's budget. The budget cycle that was reviewed with the board was from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 with the starting fund balance of negative \$905,949, and by the end of December the ending fund balance was negative \$766,171. The budget is improving, the estimated revenue compared to the actual revenue is close with the actual revenue coming in at about \$70,000 under. Ms. McIver provided a breakdown of the percentages that are being covered by the board's budget and how that is impacting their overall budget.

10.2 Credentialing updates

Ms. McIver reviewed credentialing statistics. These statistics included how many credentials are active, the application processing times, and the HELMS pause that will resume later this Spring.

10.3 Rulemaking update

Ms. McIver shared that the CR-103 for updating the compact effective date was filed on January 17th and the CR-103 will be moving forward for the 1724 rules after the hearing held today. She also shared that the HELMS release will incorporate the 1503 survey questions into their online applications and renewals.

10.4 Board member recruitment update

Ms. McIver shared that there were no updates regarding recruitment for the vacant public member position or the vacant physical therapy assistant position.

10.5 Planning for upcoming meetings

The board will receive an overview of the disciplinary process presentation for the board at the May meeting. The board will be selecting the delegate and alternate delegate to attend the FSBPT conference and reviewing the spring newsletter draft. The board will review any legislation that has been passed and begin discussing implementation planning if necessary. The board will also review and discuss approaches to addressing practicing on an expired license. Lastly, the board will begin drafting an itinerary for their upcoming retreat in September.

11. Consent Agenda

11.1 Q4 NPTE survey results

11.2 2025 NPTE policies

12. Adjournment

Vice chairperson Copes adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am. Dr. Misko motioned for approval to adjourn the board meeting; Dr. Aglubat seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Washington State Board of Physical Therapy

On file

Rodney Copes, Vice-Chairperson

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