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Board of Physical Therapy Business Meeting Minutes May 5, 2025

Department of Health 111 Israel Rd SE Tumwater, WA 98501 Room 153

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

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; Pam Bright, Case Manager; Catherine Reiner-Roter, Supervising Staff Attorney; Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst.

Guests and Other Participants: Marcus Johnson, Physical Therapist; Melissa Johnson, APTA Washington.

1. Call to Order

On Monday May 5th, at 10:03 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 department staff to be acknowledged. Attendees joining virtually 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 was initiated by Dr. Foucrier, Vice-chairperson Copes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

1.3. Approval of February 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The board considered approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on February 24, 2025. Vice Chairperson Copes moved for approval, Dr. Aglubat seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum

Chairperson Dale initiated the open forum session, providing a platform for the public to address non-rule hearing issues related to physical therapy. Mr. Johnson commented on the 200 clinical hour continuing competency requirement and asked why Washington State requires so many hours for continuing competency compared to other states. He requested the board provide some background information on how that requirement came to be, and what kinds of activities can be counted towards the 200 hours outside of clinical experience. Ms. McIver asked that Mr. Johnson provide his email address so she can review that information and provide it to him. Chairperson Dale closed the open forum.

3. Disciplinary Process Review Training

Ms. Roner-Reiter presented an overview of the disciplinary process to the board, along with a question-and-answer session following the presentation for board and staff members.

4. Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

4.1. Compact Commission Updates

Dr. Aglubat shared that Vermont and Alaska have joined the compact and are issuing compact privileges. She presented data from the Compact Commission showing where compact privileges are being purchased along with the corresponding home state.

4.2. FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum and Annual Education Conference Attendee Selection

Chairperson Dale initiated the election of a delegate and alternate delegate for the LIF education conference. Dr. Foucrier nominated himself to attend as the voting delegate. Dr. Aglubat nominated Chairperson Dale as the alternate delegate. The board voted for approval to send Dr. Foucrier to the LIF conference and the Annual Education Conference as the voting delegate and Chairperson Dale as the alternate delegate who will attend the Annual Education Conference. The board votes passed unanimously.

Ms. McIver shared that while she will serve as the funded administrator for the events, she will need to attend the LIF conference virtually due to the state travel freeze but hopes to attend the Annual Education Conference in person since it is in state this year. Dr. Aglubat also shared that she is funded through FSBPT to attend the Annual Education Conference.

5. 2025 Legislative Update

Ms. McIver provided updates to the board relating to bill tracking for the 2025 legislative session. No bills passed directly affecting the board's rules or the physical therapy profession. The board discussed Substitute House Bill 1686 which requires the Department of Health to research how a healthcare entity registry would work and report back to the legislature. Ms. Johnson provided an update regarding the provider network contracts house

bill 1589. The bill did not pass however it will be brought back in the 2026 legislative session.

6. Spring Newsletter Review

The board reviewed the spring newsletter draft, Ms. Lopez provided feedback on the wording of the unprofessional conduct article. Dr. Misko moved for approval of the Spring 2025 newsletter pending Ms. Lopez and Dr. Aglubat's edits to the unprofessional conduct article. Dr. Aglubat seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Jurisprudence Exam Review

Dr. Fouchier provided the board with updates to the jurisprudence exam and requested the board's approval of the version presented. Vice-chairperson Copes motioned for approval of the updated jurisprudence exam, Dr. Aglubat seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Foreign Educated Applicants

Ms. McIver provided updates regarding the 1724 rulemaking effective date and explained that while rules usually go into effect 31 days after filing, we will need to wait until the end of the year to implement this rule because of its impact on Helms. Ms. McIver asked the board to consider pre-approving TOEFL waiver requests when the applicant was educated in the English language, and the applicant has their university send evidence directly to the department until the rule can be fully implemented. Dr. Aglubat motioned for approval of the board to pre-approve TOEFL waiver requests when the applicant was educated in the English language. Dr. Fouchier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Expired License Discussion

The board discussed and developed guidance for how to consistently approach disciplinary situations where a PT or PTA has practiced with an expired license. Ms. McIver shared a draft guidance document with the board. Dr. Fouchier suggested adding a bullet for the first-time offenders as well as disciplinary history. Dr. Misko suggested that the timelines for proceeding with disciplinary action should be reduced. Ms. Lopez suggested some edits for clarity. Dr. Fouchier motioned for approval of the guidance documents with the board's edits, Dr. Misko seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Correspondence

The board reviewed the correspondence they received since the last business meeting.

10.1. Lists and Labels

The board approved Oregon Health Sciences University's lists and labels request. The motion passed unanimously.

10.2. Vestibular Rehabilitation Inquiry

The board reviewed an inquiry from a physical therapist asking for guidance about the scope of practice for PTAs regarding vestibular care, specifically because this type of treatment requires a daily assessment of the patient's symptoms. The board discussed the need for a PTA to adjust the treatment for the day based on symptoms, and how adjusting the treatment is not necessarily updating the plan of care, if those adjustments are made within the plan of care. The board noted that the supervising PT is ultimately responsible for delegation decisions, ensuring the PTA is properly trained, and that the PT and PTA are in compliance with the rules and laws for supervision. The board requested Ms. McIver draft a response based on the discussion. Ms. Lopez and Chairperson Dale will review the response prior to sending it to the requestor.

11. Program Report

11.1 Budget Report

Ms. McIver provided an overview of the board's budget. The budget presented is from July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025 with the starting fund balance of negative \$905,949, and the ending fund balance is \$699,717. The budget is improving, the estimated revenue compared to the actual revenue is close with the actual revenue coming in at about \$86,000 underestimated. Ms. McIver provided a breakdown of the board's expenses.

11.2. Credentialing Updates

Ms. McIver reviewed credentialing statistics with the board. These statistics included how many credentials are active, the application processing times, and the Helms implementation progress and next steps for the system.

11.3. Rulemaking Update

Ms. McIver shared the CR-103 for the 1724 rules have been filed, and the effective date will be for the end of the year December 31, 2025. Application changes and implementation will take place then.

11.4. 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. Ms. McIver noted that we received several applications following the recruitment for the upcoming physical therapist member vacancy and will be reaching out to the board to solicit volunteers to sit on the interview panel.

11.5. Planning for Upcoming Meetings

Ms. McIver asked the board if there are any topics or trainings they would like to see at the July meeting, Ms. McIver reviewed agenda items for the upcoming board retreat which include redoing the board assessment resource (BAR), review of the Board's bylaws, joint operating agreement, and the business plan.

12. Consent Agenda

12.1 Q4 NPTE Survey Results

12.2 2025 NPTE Policies

13. Adjournment

Chairperson Dale adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am. Vice-chairperson Copes motioned for approval to adjourn the board meeting; Dr. Foucrier seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Washington State Board of Physical Therapy

On file
Kathryn Dale, PT, DSc, Chairperson

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