



Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

Wes Moore,

Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera, Secretary

BOARD OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES June 20, 2023

Call to Order

The Maryland Department of Health Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Open Session meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Board Chair Gordes, who established that a quorum was present and reviewed the agenda which was adopted.

Board Members Present

Karen Gordes, PT, Ph.D., DScPT, Chair
Rebecca Holsinger, PT, DPT, NCS, CVTP, Vice Chair
Vincent Conroy, PT, DPT, MBA, OCS
Samuel Esterson, PT, DPT, MBA, OCS
Michelle Finnegan, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, CCTT, CMTPT, FAAOMPT
Enjeen Woolford, PTA
Meredith Levert, Public Member
James Connors, Public Member

Staff Present

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director
Issac Okechie, Deputy Director
Brett Felter, Board Counsel
Julio Carrera, Compliance Administrator
Lisa Scott, Licensing Manager
Khadija Ali, Continuing Education Manager
Susan Erdman, Lead Investigator
Morgan Powell, Licensing Coordinator
Leia Cathell, Investigator
Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator

Guests

Richard Woolf, PT, DPT Chief Professional Officer of the FSBPT
Zakiyyah Holmes, Administrator, MDH Office of the Secretary Boards and Commissions
Kimberly Link, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Health Board Matters

Approve Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners approves May 16, 2023, Open Session Meeting Minutes. (Motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Board Vice Chair Holsinger). Motion carried.

Board Chair Welcome and Update

Board Chair Gordes welcomed Board Members, staff, and the public to the open session meeting. The ground rules for the meeting were shared. Board members and staff were introduced and congratulated for successfully conducting the first hybrid Board meeting.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Kendall-Ellis thanked her staff for their hard work in conducting the first hybrid meeting and introduced the Board's new Compliance Administrator, Julio Carrera. Compliance Administrator Carrera took a moment to introduce himself to the Board and gave a brief overview of his past experience.

Legislative and Regulations Update

Legislative and Regulations Coordinator Reese reported that

- **Sunset Extension Bill:** January 2024 | Although we are not clear on what the extension period will be that Secretary Herrera Scott will be recommending in 2024, the Board discussed and voted on the following:
Motion: The the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners identify the effective termination date of July 1, 2035 (10 years) in the Sunset Extension bill draft (motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Board Vice Chair Holsinger.) Motion carried.
- **COMAR 10.38.08, Continuing Education Requirement:** Secretary Herrera Scott signed the amended continuing education requirement regulation at the May 19, 2023, regulatory review meeting and it has been sent to the AELR Committee.
- **COMAR 10.38.13, Telehealth:** Telehealth regulations have been removed from the AELR hold and will move forward and be proposed for signing at Secretary Herrera Scott's July regulatory review meeting.

Monthly Applicant and Licensee Report

Licensing Manager Scott reported the following as of June 1, 2023:

- 68 new licenses were issued (61 Physical Therapists; 7 Physical Therapist Assistants) ● The total number of active licensees is 9,762 (7,358 Physical Therapists and 2,404 Physical Therapist Assistants)

Deputy Director Update

- Deputy Director Okehie reported that the 2023 license renewal period closed on May 31, 2023. ● 4,269 licenses were renewed. (3,203 Physical Therapists; 1,066 Physical Therapist Assistants) ● Per **COMAR 10.38.08.06 Auditing Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements**, a random selection of 2023 renewed licensees for auditing has been completed (3% of renewed physical therapists; 4% of renewed physical therapist assistants). Audit letters have been mailed and emailed to the randomly selected renewed licensees.
- Board Member Expense reports must be submitted by June 30, 2023, in order to be eligible to receive FY 2023 reimbursement.

Continuing Education

Board Vice Chair and Committee Lead Holsinger presented the Continuing Education Board committee's

report. Continuing Education applicants will be notified of the Board's decisions and provided with the relevant regulatory reference (COMAR 10.38.08). Continuing Education applications that received the committee's unanimous approval have been notified.

The following continuing education sponsor applications were presented to the Board for discussion and a decision.

Discussion: The treatment of animals does not fall under the physical therapy scope of practice.

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners accepts the denial of ***Nutrition and Cardiovascular Disease: Building Blocks for Best Outcomes*** (motion introduced by Board Vice Chair Holsinger, motion seconded by Board Member Woolford). Motion carried.

Open Session Meeting Adjournment:

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners moves to adjourn the Open Session Meeting at 1:25 PM in order to engage in deliberations regarding confidential information in applications for licensure, in accordance with General Provisions Article, Section 3-305 (b) (13) – To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed a requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter. (motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Board Vice Chair Holsinger). Motion carried.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners adjourned at 4:45 PM. Karen Gordes, PT, Ph.D., DScPT, Chair
Minutes approved by the Board on 07/18/2023.