



# Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary*

## BOARD OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES July 19, 2022

### Call to Order

The Maryland Department of Health Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Open Session meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Board Chair Gordes, who established that a quorum was present and reviewed the agenda which was adopted.

### Board Members Present

Karen Gordes, DScPT, PhD, PT, Chair  
Rebecca Holsinger, DPT, PT, NCS, CVTP, Vice Chair  
Samuel Esterson, DPT, MBA, PT, OCS  
Michelle Finnegan, DPT, PT, PCS, MTC, CCTT, CMTPT, FAAOMPT  
Meredith Levert, Consumer Member  
Vincent Conroy, DPT, PT

### Board Members Absent

Enjeen Woolford, PTA  
James Connors, Consumer Member

### Staff Present

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director  
Ogu Isaac Okehie, Deputy Director  
Brett Felter, JD, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Lillian Reese, Legislative & Regulations Coordinator  
Lisa Scott, Licensing Manager  
Khadija Ali, Continuing Education Manager  
Marc Ware, Compliance Administrator  
Susan Erdman, Investigator  
Morgan Powell, Licensing Coordinator  
Sharon Harris-Friend, Data Entry & Records Management Supervisor

### Approve June 21, 2022, Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners approves the June 21, 2022, Open Session Meeting Minutes. (Motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Board Member Conroy).  
The motion passed.

### Board Chair Welcome and Update

Board Chair Gordes welcomed Board Members, staff, and the public. The ground rules for the meeting were shared. Board members and staff were introduced and acknowledged.

## **Executive Director Update**

Executive Director Kendall- Ellis reported that the following Board Members have volunteered to serve on Board Committees:

### **Case Review Board Committee**

Chair Gordes, Member Woolford, and Consumer Member Levert

### **Continuing Education Board Committee**

Vice Chair Holsinger, Member Finnegan, Member Esterson, and Member Conroy

### **Legislative and Regulations Board Committee**

Chair Gordes, Vice Chair Holsinger, Member Woolford, and Consumer Member Connors

Due to the great teamwork of the board staff, the board continues to be fully operational despite the December 4, 2021 cyber attack and lack of reconnection to network Maryland. After an in-depth analysis of the board's fiscal, technological, and staffing needs, the decision has been made to replace the network services once provided by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) with the network services provided by the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The board is waiting for the finalized DoIT scope of work agreement which will be reviewed by Board Counsel Felter before signing.

The Board of Directors Onboarding Orientation Modules are annually reviewed and updated. All Board members and staff are encouraged to utilize the self paced learning modules.

## **Monthly Applicant and Licensee Report**

Licensing Manager Scott reported the following as of July 1, 2022

- The total number of active licensees is 9,147 (6,894 Physical Therapists and 2,253 Physical Therapist Assistants)
- 70 licenses were issued in July 2022 (65 Physical Therapists; 5 Physical Therapist Assistants)

## **Deputy Director Update**

Deputy Director Okehie reported that following the closing of the 2022 license renewal period, there was an increase in license reinstatement applications. Based on information obtained from those licensees reinstating, they were unaware or realized that they did not meet the continuing education contact hour requirements (COMAR 10.38.08.03). This resulted in their inability to renew their licenses. When asked by the Deputy Director if they had received the board's renewal notifications, the licensees confirmed yes, they had received a USPS first class letter and emails from the board. To avoid licensees not having sufficient contact hours to renew in 2023, the board staff has moved up the 2023 license renewal notification date to July 2022. The board's July 2022 Newsletter will contain detailed information about the continuing education contact hour accrual timeline which is April 1 - March 31 during the 2-year period before renewal (COMAR 10.38.08.05). The timeline for subsequent notifications has been updated and is procedurally in place.

Deputy Director Okehie worked with Board Counsel Felter, Executive Director Kendall-Ellis, Compliance

Administrator Ware, and Licensing Manager Scott to edit the *Character and Fitness Questions* on the Physical Therapy License Application and License Renewal Application to clarify legal language and reduce applicant confusion.

### Scope of Practice

**Q.** Title 13-101(h) discusses that the practice of limited physical therapy includes "Administering therapeutic interventions that include ...mechanical devices..." Does this statement allow Physical Therapist Assistants to administer blood flow restriction devices when included in a patient's Plan Of Care? The definition of blood flow restriction is meant to be ***the application of a tourniquet system applied to the proximal portion of a limb when exercising so as to promote muscle strength and hypertrophy.***

**A.** Yes. The PTA scope of practice includes this therapeutic intervention. The Board also referenced COMAR 10.38.03.02.B.(f), stating that the PTA works within the physical therapist assistant's competency in treatment that is within the scope of practice of limited physical therapy.

### Open Session Meeting Adjournment:

**Motion:** That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners moves to adjourn the Open Session Meeting at 1:50 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 requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter. (motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Vice Chair Holsinger). The motion passed.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Karen Gordes, DScPT, PhD, PT, Chair

Minutes approved by the Board on\_\_\_09/20/2022\_\_\_