



# Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

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

## BOARD OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2021

### Call to Order

The Maryland Department of Health Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Open Session meeting was called to order at 1:03 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  
Samuel Esterson, DPT, MBA, PT, OCS  
Michelle Finnegan, DPT, PT, OCS, MTC, CCTT, CMTPT, FAAOMPT  
Rebecca Holsinger, DPT, PT, NCS, CVTP, Vice Chair  
Enjeen Woolford, PTA  
James Connors, Consumer Member  
Meredith Levert, Consumer Member

### Board Member Absent

Sumesh Thomas, DPT, PT, OCS, CHT, FAAOMPT

### Staff Present

Laurie Kendall- Ellis, PT, CAE, Executive Director  
Ogu Isaac Okehie, Deputy Director of Administration  
John Bull, Deputy Director of Operations  
Brett Felter, JD, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator  
Andrew Rosenfeld, Investigative Supervisor  
Lisa Scott, Licensing Manager

### Approve June 15, 2021 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners approves the June 15, 2021 Open Session Meeting Minutes. (motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Board Vice Chair Holsinger). 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 introduced themselves. Board Chair Gordes thanked the Board members and staff for their critical analysis of the regulations being presented at the meeting today. The ongoing review of regulations is impactful as we work to meet the needs of the public and licensees practicing in the current and future healthcare environment.

## **Executive Director Update**

Executive Director Kendall-Ellis apprised the Board of the following:

The PT Compact launched successfully on July 1, 2021. Future reports will keep the Board apprised of the number of PT Compact privileges.

The Board's virtual Open Session meetings will continue to the end of the calendar year. Staff is looking into the logistics of holding in person and virtual hybrid meetings in 2022 with the ongoing goal of reducing barriers for participation by the public through this approach.

The Board's new website launched June 17, 2021. Deputy Director Bull, our website project lead, is proceeding with the content governance project which entails reviewing and updating existing content and setting guidelines to determine how the content gets created, updated, published, maintained and archived.

The Board's newsletter, which had not been published since 2014, has been revived and was sent to active licensees via email on July 8, 2021. Project Manager Ali is leading this year-round project with the goal of delivering key content to active licensees quarterly and increasing their understanding of the Board's resources and knowledge of the law, regulation and professional licensing standards.

Vendors wishing to contact the Board are asked connect with Executive Director Kendall-Ellis.

## **Legislative and Regulations Update**

Board member and Legislative & Regulations Board Committee Lead Woolford, provided the Legislative & Regulations Board Committee report and highlighted the following:

The committee met on June 15, 2021 and is submitting the following motions for Board discussion:

*Temporary Licenses to Practice Physical Therapy and Limited Physical Therapy Regulation*  
Amendments to COMAR 10.38.01, 10.38.03, 10.38.06.

**Motion:** That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners adopt as proposed the Temporary Licensure regulatory amendments for COMAR 10.38.01, 10.38.03 and 10.38.06 (motion introduced by Board Member Woolford; motion seconded by Board Vice Chair Holsinger). The motion passed.

**Discussion:** Clarifications provided and edits to the draft were discussed and changes incorporated.

## *Continuing Education Requirements* Amendments to COMAR 10.38.08

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners adopt as proposed the Continuing Education Requirements regulatory amendments for COMAR 10.38.08 (motion introduced by Board Member Woolford; motion seconded by Board Member Levert). The motion passed.

Discussion: Clarifications provided and edits to the draft were discussed and changes incorporated.

## *Telehealth*

### Amendments to COMAR 10.38.13

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners adopt as proposed the Telehealth regulatory amendments for COMAR 10.38.13 (motion introduced by Board Member Woolford; motion seconded by Board Vice Chair Holsinger). The motion passed.

Discussion: Board Counsel Felter explained that the Attorney General's office has provided language to Occupational Health Board's telehealth regulations which addresses the concerns from Governor's office after the passing of *HB 123/SB 3 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021* effective July 1, 2021.

Action: Legislative & Regulations Coordinator Reese's next steps for the three Board affirmed regulations is to prepare them for presentation to Secretary Schrader for his signature.

## **Monthly Licensure Report**

Licensing Manager Scott reported the following as of July 1, 2021:

- There was a total of 93 new licenses (87 new licenses issued to Physical Therapists and 6 new licenses issued to Physical Therapist Assistants)
- There was a total of 101 new applicants (76 new Physical Therapist applicants and 25 Physical Therapist Assistants)
- The total number of active licensees is 10,100 (7,561 Physical Therapists and 2,539 Physical Therapist Assistants)

## **License Renewal Update**

Deputy Director of Administration Okehie reported that at the end of the license renewal period (which was extended to June 30, 2021 due to COVID-19 Governor's Executive Order) the Board had a total of 4,238 renewals of which 3,172 were physical therapists and 1,066 were physical therapist assistants. Reinstatement of licenses for those that missed the renewal deadline started July 1, 2021.

Continuing education audit letters for the 2020 and 2021 license renewal period were sent, per COMAR 10.38.08.06., following the June 30, 2021 renewal deadline.

Fiscal year 2021 has officially closed. Expense reports for fiscal year 2022 can be submitted as of July 1, 2021. Expense reports should be reviewed for completeness prior to being submitting to the office using the self-addressed stamped envelopes provided to each Board member.

## **Continuing Education**

Board Vice Chair and Continuing Education Board Committee Lead Holsinger presented the 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 which received the committee's unanimous approval have been notified.

The following continuing education applications were presented to the Board for discussion with the resulting motion:

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners accept the Continuing Education Board Committee's recommended unanimous denial decisions on *Nutrition Management for Patients with ADHD*, *Nutrition: Eating for Speed and Endurance*, and *Regulatory Education for Industry Annual Conference* (motion introduced by Board Vice Chair Holsinger; motion seconded by Board Member Esterson). The motion passed.

## **Open Session Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners moves to adjourn the Open Session Meeting at 2:33 p.m. 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 Board Member esterson) The motion passed.

The Board will convene the Administrative and Closed Session meetings and unless recused, all Board members and Board staff who were present for the Open Session meeting will also be in attendance.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners' adjourned at 3:34 PM.

Karen Gordes, PT, PhD, DScPT, Chair  
Minutes approved by the Board on September 21, 2021