



Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

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

BOARD OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES **October 19, 2021**

Call to Order

The Maryland Department of Health Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Open Session meeting was called to order at 1:00 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
Michelle Finnegan, DPT, PT, OCS, MTC, CCTT, CMTPT, FAAOMPT
Enjeen Woolford, PTA
Sumesh Thomas, DPT, PT, OCS, CHT, FAAOMPT
Meredith Levert, Consumer Member
Samuel Esterson, DPT, MBA, PT, OCS

Board Member Absent

James Connors, Consumer Member

Staff Present

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
Khadija Ali, Continuing Education, Dry Needling & Project Manager
Sharon Harris-Friend, Data Entry & Record Management Supervisor
Morgan Powell, Licensing Secretary
Kimberly Link, Executive Liaison, MDH Secretary Office

Approve September 21, 2021 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners approves the September 21, 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 were introduced and acknowledged. Chair Gordes took a moment to acknowledge that October is *National Physical Therapy Month* and congratulated all Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants for being a part of the profession.

Legislative and Regulations Update

Legislative and Regulations Coordinator Reese, highlighted the following updates:

- The *Temporary Licenses to Practice Physical Therapy and Limited Physical Therapy* regulation amendments: COMAR 10.38.01, 10.38.03, and 10.38.06, proposal will be printed in the October 22, 2021 *Maryland Register* with the comment period ending on November 22, 2021.
- The Continuing Education Requirements: COMAR 10.38.08 regulation amendment was placed on the Secretary of Health's regulation and update meeting October 14, 2021 agenda however, due to time, it was not discussed.
- The Telehealth: COMAR 10.38.13, regulation amendment from the Attorney General's office has not yet received approval by the Governor.
- The Code of Ethics: COMAR 10.38.02 regulation amendment is scheduled to be printed in the November 19, 2021 *Maryland Register* with the comment period ending on December 19, 2021.

Monthly Applicant and Licensee Report

Licensing Manager Scott reported the following as of October 21, 2021:

- There was a total of 60 new licenses (51 new licenses issued to Physical Therapists and 9 new licenses issued to Physical Therapist Assistants)
- There was a total of 81 new applicants (70 new Physical Therapist applicants and 11 Physical Therapist Assistants)
- The total number of active licensees is 9,325 (6,994 Physical Therapists and 2,331 Physical Therapist Assistants)

Scope of Practice

The Board received and has been asked to respond to the following scope of practice question. Inquirers will be notified of the Board's answers and provided with the relevant regulatory reference.

Q1 1. Is it appropriate for a Physical Therapist Assistant to treat a patient that has had a re-evaluation within 30 days and a current certification period but has expired goal end dates due to not being properly updated during the re-evaluation?

Here is an example: Re-eval Date: 9/21/21 Goal 3- Patient will demonstrate 120 degrees of knee flexion. Start: 6/6/21 End: 8/28/21 Progress: 75% Last Update: 9/21/21 The goal dates are from the initial eval and the re-eval reflects the same goals with an update in progress but not an extension to the end date. The POC is also the same.

A1: It is the Physical Therapist Assistant's responsibility to inform the supervising Physical Therapist of treatment plan errors. The Physical Therapist Assistant should also document that communication has taken place and the Physical Therapist was notified of the error.

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 approval decision on *Nutrition Management for Multiple Sclerosis* (motion introduced by Board Vice Chair Holsinger; motion seconded by Board Member Finnegan). The motion passed.

Closed Session Meeting Minutes Approval

As there is not any business to be conducted the Closed Session Meeting will not be held.

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners approves the September 21, 2021 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. (motion introduced by Board Chair Gordes; motion seconded by Board Member Finnegan.) The motion passed.

Open Session Meeting Adjournment:

Motion: That the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners moves to adjourn the Open Session Meeting at 1:28 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 Finnegan. The motion passed.

The Board will convene the Administrative Session meeting 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 2:23 p.m.

Karen Gordes, DScPT, PhD, PT, Chair
Minutes approved by the Board on November 16, 2021