



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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*Board of Physical Therapy Examiners*

## **BOARD MEETING OPEN MINUTES**

**January 19, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by the Chair, Krystal Lighty.

There was a motion and a second to close the open session at 4:26 p.m. to engage in medical review committee deliberations regarding confidential information in applications for licensure, in accordance with State Government General Provisions Article, Section 3-305 (b) (7) and (13). Unless recused, all Board members and staff who were present for the open session were also in attendance for both the closed and administrative sessions.

### **Board Members Present:**

Delores Alexander, Consumer Member  
Stephen Baur, PT  
Rhea Cohn, PT  
Meredith Levert, Consumer Member  
Krystal Lighty, PT  
Katharine Stout, PT  
Sumesh Thomas, PT

### **Absent Board Members:**

Kimberly Rotondo, PTA

### **Also Present:**

Carlton Curry, Executive Director  
Joy Aaron, Deputy Director  
Brett Felter, AAG, Board Counsel  
John Bull, Compliance Manager/Investigator/Investigator  
Deborah Jackson, Licensing Coordinator  
Patricia Miller, Board Secretary  
Michelle Cutkelvin, Board Secretary

### **Guests:**

Kristen Neville, Legislative Specialist

Board Chair, Krystal Lighty, welcomed Board Members and visiting guest.

The minutes of the meeting held on December 15, 2015 were approved with corrections.

Carlton Curry, Executive Director gave an overview of the Board's function and responsibilities.

Kristen Neville reviewed the Regulation Promulgation Process. Mr. Curry states that the regulatory process differs from the legislative process. Mr. Curry states that there will not be any legislation this year to clean up antiquated language.

Deborah Jackson, Licensing Coordinator reviewed the application process for Licensure by Examination for US educated and Foreign Trained applicants, Licensure by Endorsement and Reinstatement. Krystal Lighty, Board Chair asks about the use of electronic transcripts and applicants testing early. Ms. Jackson states that the regulations require that applicants graduate, however she notes that other Boards do not require a confer date on the official transcript. Mr. Curry states that there is a preference for the "hard copy" of the post graduate transcripts because it helps with fraud. Mr. Curry will review this matter further.

Joy Aaron, Deputy Director reviewed the process for license renewal. Ms. Aaron states the renewal process begins with generating a list of licensees which is sent to the Comptroller's Office for review. She states that licensees with tax issues are then flagged and notified immediately. Ms. Aaron states renewal letters are sent both electronically and by mail. Ms. Aaron notes that Board office is often inundated with phone calls about the renewal process. She states the notice explains the process in detail. Ms. Cohn suggest changing the phone system and adding a menu of services.

The Board took a break.

Krystal Lighty reviewed the proposed Continuing Education and Competency Model. Ms. Lighty discussed several components of the proposal including, self-assessment, clinical educators, researchers, authors, mentoring, volunteering and the jurisprudence exam.

Sumesh Thomas, Board Member gave an overview and history of Dry Needling as a therapeutic interaction.

Rhea Cohn reviewed aspects of the proposed Licensure Compact. Dr. Cohn states that 10 states are required to start the compact. She states that the legislative process and fiscal impact could be a challenge, however it may improve access to healthcare for the public and allow licensees the privilege to practice in multiple states. She states the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy hopes to have the proposal ready for the 2016 Legislative Session. The APTA of Maryland will discuss



the Interstate Compact in the upcoming November meeting. Mr. Curry states that the Board must engage in Continuing Competency and state Boards must fully participate.

Katharine Stout, Board Member discussed Telehealth. Dr. Stout states that one of the biggest challenges with Telehealth is how to regulate it considering the rapid changes in technology. She states Telehealth is the “right person, right place and right time”.

The Board took a break.

The Board agreed on the following Committee assignments:

Legislative Committee - Krystal Lighty, Chair - Ex Officio, Rhea Cohn, Katharine Stout and Sumesh Thomas; Continuing Education/ Competency Committee – Krystal Lighty, Chair, Kimberly Rotondo, and Delores Alexander; Dry Needling – Rhea Cohn, Chair, Sumesh Thomas; Telehealth- Katie Stout, Chair, Rhea Cohn, Meredith Levert, and Stephen Baur; Licensure Compact- Rhea Cohn, Chair Krystal Lighty, Katharine Stout and Kimberly Rotondo.

Meredith Levert, Consumer Member discusses areas for improving consumer awareness. She states that the Board’s website should include “user friendly” language, frequently asked questions, and a bill of rights, explaining patient responsibility. Delores Alexander, Consumer Member also states the website is not consumer friendly. Ms. Alexander suggest evaluating the website by comparing and contrasting with other sites. She also suggests participating in health fairs to raise awareness. John Bull, Compliance Manger suggests creating a pamphlet to distribute at key places.

The Board outlined annual goals for strategic planning. The Board would like to have dry needling completed by 2017, implement electronic law exams in the next 12 months, have a large discussion about the licensure compact within the next 6 months, create a Telehealth folder on the Board portal, decide if current regulations cover telehealth with a the public protection gap analysis, create a consumer friendly website and pamphlets within 6-8 months, change the licensure verification process within the next 3 months and create a “phone tree” system within 3 months.

The Board voted to **approve** the following CEU course applications:

*‘Modular Ankle Robotics’; ‘Self Awareness Training through Learning’; and ‘Brain Injury Navigating the Journey’.*

The Board voted to **deny** the following CEU course applications:

*‘Blueprint for OASIS Accuracy’* because the course is not substantially related to the PT practice; *‘Maximizing Physical Therapy Outcomes’* because the course is not substantially related to the PT practice; *‘Complementary & Integrative Medicine’* because the course is not substantially related to the PT practice; *‘Energy Anatomy in Medicine’* because the course is not substantially related to the PT practice; *‘Child Light Yoga for Teen & Adults with Special Need Teacher Training’* because the course is not

substantially related to the PT practice; and '*Spotting Domestic Violence*' because the course is not substantially related to the PT practice.

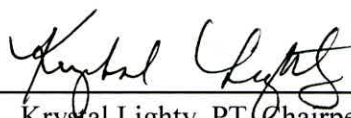
There was a motion and a second to close the open session at 4:26 p.m. to engage in **medical review committee deliberations regarding confidential information in** applications for licensure, in accordance with State Government Article, Section 10-508 (a) (7) and (13). Unless recused, all Board members and staff who were present for the open session were also in attendance for both the closed and administrative sessions.

The board meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Carlton Curry, Executive Director

15 March 2016  
Date Approved

  
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Krystal Lighty, PT, Chairperson