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District

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Secretary, North Region

Dana Daniel Blake, PT
Treasurer, 6th Congressional
District

Robin Irwin, PT
2nd Congressional District

T-Michael Dougherty
PTA, South Region

Robert Fleming Jr., PT
1st Congressional District

Margaret Hemm
Consumer Member

Legal Counsel

J. Matt Bledsoe
Assistant Attorney General

Administrative Staff

Kathy Miller
Executive Director

Teresa Allen
Licensure Specialist

Kristi Mullins
Accounting

Claire Dilaura
Accounting and Budgeting

Contact

info@pt.alabama.gov
(334) 242-4064
(888) 726-9743

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Hello all and happy summer! The ABPT staff has been quite busy so far in 2023. We have conducted numerous school trainings on the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act, along with detailed training about the licensure process. We found the students to be very bright and engaging (see pictures at the end of the newsletter).

Teresa Allen joined the ABPT team this year. She is a dedicated public servant with over 25

years' experience in State government. She has been assisting with issuing licenses, responding to licensee inquirers, and general office duties.

As you may be aware, we have been devoted to preparing Alabama to become a Physical Therapy Compact state. We have been working diligently to meet the necessary requirements for being ready to actively issue and accept Compact Privileges.

On June 14, 2023, HB110 was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey. This law allowed for changes made to the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act (APTPA) and the Administrative Code to include Compact privileges. The effective date for this law is September 1, 2023. However, there is still work that must be done before Alabama can begin issuing Compact privileges. Much of this work, such as submitting proposals for rule changes, cannot be done until after the effective date, as required by Alabama law. Additional tasks must also be completed, including training of ABPT staff by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency regarding criminal background checks. The Board and staff are working diligently and are hopeful that we can begin issuing Compact privileges in early 2024. Licensees can learn more about the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact on the Federation of State Board's website here: <https://ptcompact.org/Resources-News/Licensees>

Getting this legislation passed would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of two dedicated public servants: Senator Greg Albritton and Representative Parker Moore. We are grateful for all their hard work!

We continue to look forward to the time when we can issue and accept Compact Privileges and are getting closer every day!

-Kathy Miller, Executive Director



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100 North Union Street, Suite 724 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-5040

Nominations for Board Membership

Members of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy are appointed for staggered terms of five years each; at least one member's term expires each year. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor from a list of five persons nominated for each place on the board by the current licensees and certified to him or her by the board.

The member position that is coming available this year:

One physical therapist assistant position currently held by Nathan McGriff, representing the Northern Region.

The board is accepting nominations of **currently licensed physical therapist assistants who reside in the Northern Region to fill the physical therapist assistant position.**

We have included a map for details related to the location of the openings. Nominations, which must include a written, signed consent-to-serve letter from each nominee, may be submitted via mail, fax, or email to the board's office, but **must be received** no later than end of business on August 18th, 2023. In the event five qualified nominations from the above listed region are not received prior to the August 18th, 2023, deadline the board will request qualified nominations during the board's meeting on August 26th, 2023. Any person nominated from the floor must provide the board with a written, signed consent-to-serve letter within 30 days (that is, end of business on September 25, 2023) or be present to provide the consent-to-serve verbally.

In the event five qualified nominations from the above listed region are not received, nominations will be accepted from the state-at-large during the board's meeting on August 26th, 2023.

Qualifications for nominees for the position are:

- (1) Be a resident and citizen of this state.
- (2) Have practiced physical therapy within the State of Alabama for the three years preceding his or her appointment.
- (3) Shall have no disciplinary action against their license for the three years preceding his or her appointment.
- (4) Must provide a signed consent to serve.

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In the event more than five qualified nominations from the above listed congressional districts are received prior to the August 18th, 2023, deadline, an election will be held to determine the five names to submit to the Governor. The election will occur at the board's meeting which will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Samford University, in conjunction with the Alabama Physical Therapy Association business meeting. All licensees are invited to attend.

If you have any questions about nominations/election/appointments, please contact the board office at (334) 242-4064 or info@pt.alabama.gov.

Physical Therapists Assistant position open representing the northern section of the state: North of Prattville, north of Auburn, and north of Selma. Cities include: greater Birmingham area, Huntsville, Decatur, Gadsden. Tuscaloosa, Jasper, Florence, Cullman, Anniston.



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*Please don't let the month go by,
Without renewing your license in July!
It is time for summer fun in the sun,
But please be sure to get it all done!
CE requirements are 10 hours,
Oct 1 is too late
When gone are summer flowers!
\$130 is the fee for a PT,
\$93 is the fee for a PTA.
Just go to the www.pt.alabama.gov website,
I promise it will not give you a fright!*

Dear Licenses:

I hope that you enjoy the little jingle as we look toward the 2023-24 Year Renewal Cycle. Here are a few highlights to remember:

Renewal timeline: The annual licensure renewal period is July 1 through September 30.

Expired license: You cannot treat with an expired license on Oct 1.

License fees: \$130.00 for PTs and \$93.00 for PTAs (plus a processing fee).

Renewal process:

- Go to our website, www.pt.alabama.gov, and select the "Licensing Renewal" tab.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Renew Your License Here."
- Select your license type, license number, last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Profile should appear and you may begin updating and entering information.
- Upload your continuing education certificates, preferably in pdf format.

3 CEU categories for renewals:

- I graduated in the last calendar year, and I am renewing for the first time. You will be required to upload 2 hours of Alabama Jurisprudence.
- I am renewing my license for the first time in Alabama. (I am not a new graduate). You will be required to upload 8 hours of CE and 2 hours of Alabama Jurisprudence.
- This is not my first license renewal in Alabama. You will be required to upload 10 hours of CE. (No Alabama Jurisprudence Required).

Upload the required CE documents and proceed with renewing your license.

Access and print your license and your receipt once complete. It is also accessible during the year.

Please use a desktop or laptop computer—mobile devices and tablets will not work properly.

Keep a copy of your receipt for your records. The email with your renewal verification will come from an email address that contains "igovsolutions". Please check your spam/junk folders if you do not receive it in your regular inbox.

Profile Updates: Be sure to create/update your licensee profile under the "Services" tab.

Gold Seal Certificates: If you wish to have an updated certificate with the gold seal, there is a \$5.00 fee which is available to purchase on our website.

We strongly encourage you to renew early to avoid any potential issues or delays!

-Dana Daniel Blake, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC
Board Member and Treasurer

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Wellness Program (Impaired Practitioner)



The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy continues to work with Dr. Mike Garver, DMD, to provide an Impaired Practitioner Wellness Program as a service to licensees in the State of Alabama. This program is designed to help licensees who are impaired by reason of illness, inebriation, excessive use of drugs, alcohol, narcotics, chemicals or other substances, or a result of a physical or mental condition. Currently the program has 39 participants, with 29 of those entering the program by self-report. This self-reporting option provides the opportunity for a licensee to directly contact Dr. Garver or the Board office and receive much needed help without jeopardizing their license. Self-reporting avoids a formal Board hearing with the violations committee, and the subsequent reporting to the National Practitioner Data Bank. Additionally, there is no public record as participants are only known to the Board by case number. For assistance, physical therapist and physical therapist assistants should contact the program director at 1-855-865-6704 (Wellness Center Hotline).

Addiction and dependency have become real issues in our country, even more so with the COVID-19 Pandemic. We, as health professionals, have been very front and center and certainly not immune to it. I have seen friends and family affected by substance and alcohol issues and it can be a difficult conversation. As licensed practitioners, we have a responsibility to report other licensees if impairment is known. Serving our profession and the State of Alabama as a Governor appointed member of the Physical Therapy Licensure Board, I swore as my main objective in this role would be to protect the public. One of the easiest ways I know how to do that is to assist those impaired practitioners receive help. I have seen the harsh reality of someone close to me lose a medical license due to dependency. If you know a fellow licensee who needs assistance or you yourself feel you need help, I encourage you to take advantage of the Wellness Program by reaching out to Dr. Garver or calling to Board office.

Mentors continue to be fundamental in the success of the program. They allow participants to have someone to turn to that have faced those same challenges of addiction. Mentors remain anonymous and time frame for participation is at each individual's discretion. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Dr. Mike Garver at the contact below.

Michael Garver, DMD
P.O. Box 426
19260 North Mobile Street
Citronelle, AL 36522

E-mail: abptwellness@gmail.com
Phone: (256)866-5585
Fax: (251) 866-5570



Disciplinary Notices

Case # 2022-014: Barrett Lee Smith, PT
Unbecoming Conduct as a Physical Therapist
Fine
Closed and Approved: January 12, 2023

Case # 2023-01: Joan Breland, PTA
Practicing with an Expired License
Fine
Closed and Approved: March 9, 2023

Case # 2023-02: Logan Chase Branch
Making a False Statement on his Application for Licensure
Fine
Closed and Approved: March 9, 2023

Case #: 2023-06: Benjamin McNeil Lowry
Failure to Comply with a Condition of his License
License Surrendered
Closed and Approved: May 11, 2023

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School Visits and Trainings

Faulkner University



LBW Community College



South University in
Montgomery



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Student Happenings



Samford University's 2024
DPT Class



Faulkner University
Students with Board
Member Dr. Robin Irwin
at the State House to
show support for the PT
Compact Bill



Top and left—LBWCC students hard
at work building and diagraming
brachial plexus. (Courtesy of LBWCC
Facebook)

Want to see your school featured in
future newsletters? Please email them to
info@pt.alabama.gov.

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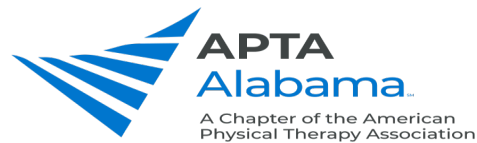
We encourage you to check out:



www.pt.alabama.gov



www.ptcompact.org



www.ptalabama.org



www.fsbpt.org

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