Nominations for Membership on the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

Members of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy are appointed for staggered terms of five years each, so that 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.

There are two members whose term will expire in 2017; one physical therapist position currently held by Alina Adams and the PTA position currently held by Vince Molyneux. Mrs. Adams is eligible for reappointment and Mr. Molyneux has served two consecutive terms, and cannot be reappointed.

The Board is currently accepting nominations of currently licensed physical therapists who reside in congressional district 4 (see map on page 2) to fill the physical therapist position and currently licensed physical therapist assistants who reside in southern section of the state (see map on page 2) to fill the physical therapist assistant position.

Only physical therapists and physical therapist assistants holding a current license in Alabama are allowed to nominate licensees and vote to select five names for the position to be certified to the Governor.

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 to be received no later than March 22, 2017. Late nominations will not be accepted.

In the event five qualified nominations from the above listed congressional districts are not received prior to the March 22, 2017 deadline the board will request qualified nominations from the state-at-large to be received in the board’s office not later than April 1, 2017. Late nominations will not be accepted. Additionally, nominations will be accepted from the floor during the board’s election meeting on April 22, 2017. Any person nominated from the floor must provide the board with a written, signed consent-to-serve letter or be present to provide the consent-to serve verbally.

Qualifications for nominees for the positions 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; and (4) must provide written, signed consent to serve (Consent form attached). A completed consent form must be provided to the board’s office prior to the deadline!

Continued on Page 2
The board’s election meeting will be held on Saturday April 22, 2017 at Perdido Key Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama. If you have any questions about nominations/election/appointments, please contact the board office at (334) 242-4064 or info@pt.alabama.gov

Physical Therapist position open Congressional District 4 includes the following counties: Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Jackson, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston.

Physical Therapist Assistant position open in southern section of the state: South of Prattville, including Auburn, Opelika, Phoenix City, Montgomery, Selma, Demopolis, and all points southward.
Are You Interested in serving on the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy?

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy (ALBPT) provides the vital function of ensuring the public’s safety as they benefit from physical therapy services throughout the state of Alabama. Serving on the board is a great opportunity for therapy professionals to ensure the continued integrity and safety of physical therapy practice.

A quick look through the website will reveal the term end dates for each of the current board members and the district they represent. Once you have identified your eligibility, you can reach out to the ALBPT and determine the nomination period for that specific seat.

Being nominated to the ALBPT is much easier than you think. One little known fact is that you can nominate YOURSELF! That’s correct! If you have an interest in serving, please reach out to the Board directly. If you know a qualified candidate that is interested in serving, you are able to nominate that individual, as well. Once all nominations are collected, the final list will be sent to the Governor to make the final selection.

Members of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy are appointed for staggered terms of five years each, so that 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. To be qualified for consideration as a member of the board nominees must:

- Be a resident and citizen of this state;
- Have practiced physical therapy within the State of Alabama for the three years preceding his or her appointment;
- Have no disciplinary action against their license for the three years preceding his or her appointment; and
- Must provide written, signed consent to serve.

Continued on page 4
Why do we need a regulatory board?

The State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is constantly challenged with protecting the public while meeting the needs of its licensees. Although the primary responsibility of the board is to protect the public by assuring the lawful and competent practice of physical therapy, it has an equal responsibility of assisting its licensees in achieving these objectives. It is at best naive to assume that every therapist can and will perform their duties as expected which is why rules and regulations are necessary. For unknown reasons individuals occasionally step outside of the legal and competent boundaries of the practice of physical therapy and require guidance or corrective action to address these failures.

The board has to make sure that every licensee understands the rules and regulations that apply to the lawful practice of physical therapy and remain competent throughout their entire career. This is why we require evidence of annual continuing education and completion of the Alabama jurisprudence course every five years. We want our licensees to remain competent and current with advances in the practice of physical therapy and know the laws as they are updated.

We can easily relate to the negative impression that’s made when a restaurant receives a poor health rating or we hear about fraudulent and unlawful acts committed by professionals. A good reputation, competence, and trustworthiness are what our consumers expect, and it is the foundation on which we build our professional value. Our rules and regulations aren’t designed for the purpose of meaningless restrictions or punishment, but are meant to provide a clear explanation of what we do, and how we should do it. These clear definitions not only build the confidence of our consumers, but it also establishes reliable guidelines for us as health care professionals to follow.

What does a typical month look like for a board member?

The amount of time required of board members is varies each month depending on the amount of items in need of review or action. However, there are general timeframes that will fit within a typical month. The board often has a meeting each month, which requires a full day of service. Board Meetings typically begin a 10:00am and often last until mid-afternoon, so depending on your travel time a full day is needed. Prior to the board meeting, members must review the meeting packet to ensure they are prepared for the meeting to ensure the time spent with the other board members is productive.

Continued on page 5
This requires 1-3 hours depending on the amount of information to be covered in the meeting. Outside of the meetings and meeting preparation, it is not uncommon to field several questions each month from individual licensees. In some cases the board member has the answer, but in many others they must reach out to the board office and then respond to the licensee.

Chad Hobbs, PT

**Wellness Program Update**

The Physical Therapy Board’s substance abuse program continues to function very well. Of the nine individuals who are currently participating in the program, all have entered the program through the self-reporting process. This allows the licensee to get the needed treatment, without jeopardizing their license. All of the participants are compliant and have a mentor assigned to them. The mentor component of the program is one of the keys to it being successful. We allow these individuals our gratitude and thanks for their time and willingness to serve in this capacity. Dr. Michael Garver, Director of the program, feels it is functioning as it was designed to and is very pleased.

Mentors are the key to preventing recidivism. A mentor is an individual who can communicate with licensees with understanding, care, and empathy. We continue to solicit individuals who themselves have had a substance abuse problem and are in recovery. These individuals will be working directly with Dr. Garver. Their identity is known only to him and not the Board. If you are interested in finding out more, he may be contacted at:

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

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

Nathan McGriff, PTA  
Board Liaison to the Wellness Committee
**Direction of Physical Therapist Assistants**

The State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy recently considered a request to increase the number of PTA’s a physical therapist may direct at one time. The maximum number allowed according to the State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Administrative Code 700-x-3-.03 Roles and Responsibilities of Licensees is limited to 4. The request was based on concerns about therapist’s ability to provide adequate physical therapy access for the rural and underserved communities in our state. The Board of Physical Therapy’s primary responsibility is to protect the public by assuring the competent and safe practice of physical therapy; however, of equal importance the need to provide adequate public access to meet the needs of our consumers. After much research and public deliberation which included information obtained from the FSBPT and academic institutions, it was determined that the benefits of increasing the number of PTA’s directed by PT’s did not outweigh the risks of potential harm to the public. Therefore the board decided not to grant the requested increase at this time.

**Wiley Christian, PT**  
Board Chair

**Continuing Education Questions**

Whether you are a continuing education (CE) consumer, CE provider or the Board of PT office staff, one of the most common questions posed this time of the year is, “Has this CE course been approved by the Board?”. The first, and most important answer to that question is the fact that the Board of PT no longer approves CE courses or activities. But if the Board is not approving CE activities, then who? Well, the answer to that is.....you! And as you begin the task of seeking courses or activities that will qualify for licensure renewal, the information below will help you make good choices.

The current Alabama Administrative Code, in section 700-X-2-.09 Renewal Of License, describes the expectations for continuing education. The following list is a brief summary of those expectations, presented in the form of yes/no questions:

- Will the course maintain, improve or expand my skills or knowledge of the practice of physical therapy?

Continued on page 7
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy
Newsletter

- Is the course an organized activity with clearly described or outlined course content, dates or timelines for completion, and times of instruction or activity engagement expectation that will contribute to my professional competency?
- Does the course pertain to common subjects related to the practice of physical therapy?
- Is the course based upon referenced scientific evidence, practice-based evidence, case studies, clearly identified anecdotal experience, current or proposed regulation of practice, accepted professional guidelines, policy documents or best practices?
- Will the course be conducted by experts in the subject matter - individuals with special education, training, and experience?
- Can I find program goals/objectives, information identifying the target audience, and a description of expected levels of prior experience within the content?
- If the course or activity uses self-directed methods of learning (i.e., self-study, online, video, audio, teleconference, etc.), is the progression or completion requirements clearly described?
- If audited, will I be able to provide the Board with a certificate or other sufficient proof of completion?
- If I go to a large conference with multiple concurrent sessions, will a conference official or course instructor sign or stamp the session description in the conference program to verify my attendance if the conference does not use an automated format for individual course verification?

If you answer “yes” to each of the questions, then you are considering a CE course or activity that will meet the current Board of PT guidelines and will be approved in the licensure renewal process. Proceed with confidence, relying on your professional judgment in choosing courses that best meet your development needs.

However, many people worry about choosing a course or activity that does not meet the guidelines, thus triggering the question, “What if I am audited and my course(s) proves to be inadequate?” Relax...the guidelines allow the opportunity for a licensee to demonstrate how the selected activity meets the guidelines. That is where keeping a copy of your brochure or other advertising comes into the picture. You must keep documentation that includes an agenda, course description,

Continued on page 8
course objectives and other documentation that substantiate how the activities meet the guidelines. And ultimately, if a course or activity does prove to be unacceptable, then the rules allow for sixty (60) days to successfully meet the continuing education expectations.

The Administrative Code also allows for up to forty percent (40%) of a licensee’s total annual CE requirements to be from restricted (or limited) sources. This currently amounts to four (4) hours of the ten (10) total hours required. Within this category is activities such as publication of an abstract, scientific review of a research paper, or book review (awarded one (1) hour of credit), participation as a book or manuscript reviewer (awarded one (1) hour of credit), database publication of a clinical practice Guideline (awarded one (1) hour of credit), authoring a presented scientific poster or platform presentation (awarded one (1) hour of credit), acting as the primary clinical instructor for CAPTE accredited PT or PTA program students (awarded one (1) hour for each 200 hours completed) and developing alternative media materials, including computer software, programs, and digital instructional materials (awarded one (1) hour for each project released for public access). The same non-traditional CE documentation ideas presented above can be used for these limited areas as well.

In light of all of this, many therapists are left with just one more question. “When it comes to CE courses, it looks like anything goes….is anything off-limits when selecting CE activities?” The answer is yes, there are some restrictions and they should be familiar since few changes were made to this section of the guidelines. The following summarizes those activities that are not eligible for CE credit:

- Orientations, in-services, staff meetings, informal rounds, case conferences, equipment or procedural updates, CPR, blood-borne pathogens, or other regularly scheduled education opportunities provided within the employment setting.
- Policy making, committee, non-educational, entertainment or recreational meetings at annual conferences, chapter or organizational meetings.
- Serving as an officer or organizational delegate.
- Visiting exhibits or poster presentations.

Continued on page 9
Entry-level coursework, activities, or presentations made by the lay public or non-medical professionals.

Activities of less than fifty (50) minutes duration.

In conclusion, the new CE guidelines allow tremendous professional freedom in pursuing the activities necessary to improve your professional competency. Ten of those hours annually are provided to the Alabama Board of PT as part of your licensure renewal process. As you choose activities that support your personal development goals, know the current CE guidelines and choose with confidence.

Alina Adams, PT

Regular Board Meetings

April 21, 2017 (Perdido Beach) 10:00 A.M.
July 13, 2017 (Board Office) 10:00 A.M.
August 11, 2017 (Ross Bridge, Birmingham) 10:00 A.M.
October 12, 2017 (Board Office) 10:00 A.M.

We invite you to join us! All Board meetings are open to the public.

Licensees!

Please keep all of your contact information up to date with the board office.

Most important information to keep us advised of:

- Name change
- Mailing address change
- E-mail address change
- Phone number change

All information can be changed by filling out the DATA UPDATE form available on our website!
Message from the Executive Director

When I assumed the role of Executive Director this past November, the Board was at the end of a two year effort to revise the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Administrative Code. This process had been under the direction of our legal counsel, Matt Bledsoe, Assistant Attorney General.

When you look at the Administrative Code in its present state, it had grown over the years and regulations were over explained and had become too detailed, and even too verbose. Mr. Bledsoe’s effort was to work with the Board members to bring the Administrative Code back to a more concise, a more streamlined, and more precise document without losing any meaning or intent.

As of the publishing of this newsletter, the new version of the Administrative Code has been filed with the Legislature. We are currently in the period from now through April 5, 2017 that it is open for public comment. Changes to the Administrative Code can be found at the Alabama Administrative Code website (www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/monthly.htm) or by contacting our office directly. The Board welcomes and encourages your comments.

Since I still sometimes see myself as the outsider looking in, I applaud the efforts of Mr. Bledsoe and the Board to make these changes. The new version of the Administrative Code still fulfills the Boards mission to protect the public and serve our licensees. In our fall newsletter, Mr. Bledsoe will provide a more detailed recount of the thought process and review of the overall efforts taken to update the code.

Jeffrey Vinzant
Board Members
Wiley Christian, III
PT, Chair
1st Congressional District
Vincent Molyneux,
PTA, Secretary
1st Congressional District
Nathan McGriff, PTA,
Treasurer
2nd Congressional District
Alina Adams, PT
4th Congressional District
Chad Hobbs, PT
5th Congressional District
Ellen Strunk, PT
6th Congressional District
VACANT,
Consumer Member

Legal Counsel
Matt Bledsoe
Assistant Attorney General

Administrative Staff
Jeffrey Vinzant,
Executive Director
Sheila Wright,
Executive Assistant III
April Tucker, Clerk

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PHONE:
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TOLL FREE:
(888) 726-9743

DISCIPLINARY NOTICES:

Case # 16-9-23
Allegations: Falsified treatment records
Disposition: Fine
Closed & Approved: Consent Agreement effective December 12, 2016
Name: Krissy Lea Gossett, PTA

Case # 16-12-25
Allegations: Practiced with an expired license
Disposition: Fine
Closed & Approved: November 17, 2016
Name: Holly Taylor, PT

Case # 16-12-26
Allegations: Practiced with an expired license
Disposition: Fine
Closed & Approved: November 17, 2016
Name: Sandra Hamondtree, PTA

Case # 16-12-28
Allegation: Practiced with an Expired License
Disposition: Fine
Closed and Approved: December 20, 2016
Name: Tammy Michelle Willbanks, PTA
Visit us at

2017 ALAPTA SPRING CONFERENCE

Meet Board Members and Administrative Staff

April 21-22, Perdido Beach Resort

• Please attend our Board Meeting scheduled for 10:00 AM on Friday morning, April 21.

• Nominations for upcoming Board openings will be accepted from the floor at the conclusion of the Business meeting on Saturday, April 22.