

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

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Chad Hobbs Huntsville AL Member	PT
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Graham Champion	Consumer Member

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BOARD STAFF

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ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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A Word From the Chair

There has been a lot happening at the Board over the past several months. The Director of the Physical Therapy Board resigned and Sheila Wright has been the Acting Executive Director since that time. In this role, she has been doing the job of two people. Although she recently had a part-time person, she has been doing everything on her own. She has done an outstanding job and all of us owe her a heart-felt debt of gratitude. Not only has she handled all of the licensing of the new graduates in a timely manner but has put together the entire budget for the next fiscal year and has survived the State Auditors and the subsequent Sunset Review process. She has worked tirelessly and put in an incredible amount of overtime. She has well deserved a vacation, which hopefully she will be able to take in a few months.

All the licensure boards go through the Sunset Review process about every four years. There is an article in this Newsletter that explains the purpose and process of the Sunset Review. Although we don't have the final findings of the Sunset Review Committee, the Board faired very well with the process. This is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of the Board staff (which is Sheila).

The Board Search Committee developed a thorough process for finding the next Executive Director. Initially, a well thought out job description was created. Then, working with the State Personnel staff, a grading system was developed to allow the Search Committee to objectify the rating of each applicant. The top five applicants will then be interviewed by the entire Board. It is the sincere hope of the Board that this process will result in the selection of a well-qualified individual. We are hoping that the position will be filled by the beginning of November 2016.

Lastly, I would like to share with you that it has been a true privilege and an honor to serve on this Board. This is the second year of my two-term limit, and I will be off of the Board in the next month or so.

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It has been my mission since I was first appointed to the Board by Governor Riley, to increase licensee involvement with and understanding of the Board. Through our internet presence and the work with the Chapter, I believe we have moved in this direction. It is my sincere hope that the individual replacing me, along with the Board, will continue to pursue this mission. I have served as the Board Chair since the Governor last appointed someone to the Board, and I can't begin to tell you how fulfilling it has been for me. It is a position that I believe takes a lot of work and time but is so rewarding and worth the effort. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for placing me in this position, and I hope overall that I have not disappointed you. My best to the Board members and the new Executive Director.

Jay Segal
Board Chair

Wellness Program Update

The Physical Therapy Board's substance abuse program continues to function very well. Of the seven 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 all owe 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 have recovered. 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

Jay H. Segal, P.T.
Board Liaison to the Wellness Committee

Sunset Committee Review

The Code of Alabama requires that every Agency, Board, and major Department of State Government undergo a periodic review by the Joint Legislative Sunset Committee. The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is up for review in 2016. The Board was originally scheduled to appear before the Sunset Committee on Thursday, July 28, 2016. That meeting has been postponed, indefinitely, due to scheduling issues with the Members of the Committee.

During this review the Examiners of Public Accounts for the State of Alabama conduct a compliance audit of the various Agencies, Boards and Departments scheduled for review. Among the issues that are audited are Board minutes, financials, policies and procedures surveys of the Members of the Board, Licensees and consumers. The Examiners present a draft report to the Board for review and comment and then they present their findings, along with the Board's response, to the Joint Sunset Committee.

The Joint Legislative Sunset Committee can recommend that the Board be renewed for four years, they can recommend that the Board be renewed for a shorter period if there are issues the Committee wants to review sooner than the normal process would dictate or they can "Sunset" the Board. If they decide to Sunset the Board it would cease to exist. This is an option that rarely, if ever, has been used.

A copy of the Examiners' Report is available from the Examiners of Public Accounts office or from the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy office.

Graham Champion,
Consumer Member

Please keep your **mailing address** and **email address**
updated with the
"Alabama Board of Physical Therapy"



The Search is On

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is currently in the process of filling our vacant Executive Director position. The position posting, while open for several weeks, has now closed. Applicants are currently being reviewed by the Board in preparation for beginning interviews in the next few weeks. We are very motivated to fill the vacancy, but want to ensure the most appropriate candidate is awarded the position. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Shelia Wright for her service while filling the Acting Executive Director position. Shelia has done a tremendous job through the years with the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy and the past several months have been no different.

Chad Hobbs, PT

How Many?

The State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is considering a request to expand the number of PTA's a physical therapist may direct at one time. 700-x-3-.03 Roles and Responsibilities of Licensees. The request is based on concerns about our rural facilities ability to provide adequate staffing for their communities. Although our board's primary responsibility is to protect the public by assuring the competent and safe practice of physical therapy, of equal importance is providing adequate public access to meet the needs of our consumers.

Much consideration has been given to achieve an appropriate balance of each component; however, our primary responsibility is always public protection. The board is exploring all options which include no limits, which would leave the decision up to the discretion of the directing therapist, to no change from the current language. We're also considering exception language based on the community needs and other relevant demographic data.

Thanks to information provided by the APTA and FSBPT, we've discovered a broad but relatively consistent ratio of professional representation, which we hope will help guide us to a fair and appropriate decision. As you may imagine, it has and will be an ongoing challenge to balance the needs of our consumers and our profession, against our primary responsibility which is the protection of public safety. Trust that every consideration will be taken into account in making this noteworthy decision.

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is looking at this and many other rule changes in an effort to clean up antiquated, ambiguous, and conflicting language.

We appreciate any input that our licensees and the public may have to offer in this matter.

Wiley Christian, PT

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?
- Is the course an organized activity with clearly described or outlined course content, dates or time-lines 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, 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.

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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.
- 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

“From the Acting Executive Director”

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your patience and understanding during the realignment of the office, and the search for a new Executive Director. I expected no less from an outstanding group of therapists whom I have come to know and love over the last 20 years with the Board of Physical Therapy. Thank you so much for your support. Through this transition, I have gained much wisdom, knowledge, and experience. It has been my honor to function in this capacity. I anticipate nothing but good things in the future for this Board. I will be more than supportive to this office and the New Executive Director. Be assured, I will remain dedicated to serving you.

Sheila Wright
Acting Executive Director

Disciplinary Actions

Case #: 16-09-21
Allegation: Failure to Comply with Board Orders
Disposition: License Suspended
Approved: August 12, 2016
Name: Joshua Stephen Daugherty

Regular Board Meetings

September 22, 2016 (Board Office) 10:00am
October 6, 2016 (Board Office) 8:00am
November 17, 2016 (Board Office) 10:00am

We invite you to join us, our board meetings are open to the public.

Thank you ALAPTA for allowing us to be a part of the 2016 ALAPTA Fall Conference, we had a blast.

