



**STATE OF ALABAMA  
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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*Kathy Miller*  
Executive Director

May 9, 2024

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy's conference room by Board Chair T-Michael Dougherty at 9:05 AM. Board Members present were T-Michael Dougherty, Robert Fleming, Jonathan R. Zecher, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Zach Nelson, and Margaret Hemm. Also present were Kathy Miller, Executive Director, and Kristi Mullins, Accounting Specialist. Not in attendance was J. Matt Bledsoe, Assistant Attorney General.

A quorum was established.

The Chair asked Robin Irwin to lead the board members in prayer.

**Open Discussion:** Staff update.

- II. Minutes:** The minutes from the March 14, 2024 meeting, were reviewed. A motion to accept the March 14, 2024 minutes as presented was made by Margaret Hemm and seconded by Dana Daniel Blake. Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, Jonathan Zecher abstained, and none were opposed. The Minutes for March 14, 2024, were approved.

**III. Reports:**

**A. Licensee Report:** Kristi Mullins presented this report. As of May 1, 2024, there were 6646 active licensees - 3068 PTAs and 3578 PTs. Between March 1, 2024, and April 30, 2024, there were 44 regular licenses issued - 13 PTAs and 31 PTs. Three temporary licenses were issued – 3 PT and 0 PTAs. Eight expired licenses were reinstated – 4 PTs and 4 PTAs. There was no FCCPT reports submitted.

T-Michael Dougherty stated he is still working on a spreadsheet so the Board could compare previous months or years to see changes more easily. He will create a spreadsheet of previous months and email to Kathy Miller, Kristi Mullins, and Claire DiLaura to use for licensee reporting.

**B. Financial Report:** Kristi Mullins presented the March 2024 report. A motion to accept the March 31, 2024 Financial Report was made by Robin Irwin and seconded by Jonathan Zecher. Jonathan Zecher, Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm

and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The Financial Report for March 31, 2024, was approved.

**C. Violations Committee Report:** Executive Director Kathy Miller presented this report, and the recommendations were as follows:

**2024-01:** Violations Committee recommends that the case be closed due to no probable cause.

**2024-03:** Violations Committee recommends that the case be closed due to no probable cause.

Jonathan Zecher made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Violations Committee and Robin Irwin seconded the motion. Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Jonathan Zecher and Zach Nelson voted in favor. T-Michael Dougherty and Margaret Hemm abstained. The recommendations of the Violations Committee were approved.

**D. Executive Director Report:** See attached Executive Director Update.

**E. Wellness Report:** Kathy Miller noted that per a conversation with Dr. Garver all participants are fully compliant with all conditions. Zach Nelson will take over as contact person for Dr. Garver. Margaret Hemm made a motion to accept the Wellness Report. Jonathan Zecher seconded the motion. Jonathan Zecher, Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed.

#### **IV. Unfinished Business:**

##### **A. PT Compact Update:**

Kathy Miller reports that work continues on the technical side of the implementation of the Compact. The FBI required a network map to finalize access to the background check database, and Claire DiLaura facilitated communication between OIT, ALEA, and the FBI to allow them to complete this step.

Kathy Miller is also working on the implementation of a final step within iGov that will allow the creation of a new Compact designation, and has worked with Board staff, the FSBPT, and iGov to facilitate this change.

Claire DiLaura is currently working with OIT to make required changes to the website and FAQ document to insure they are consistent with the new language required for the Compact. Kathy Miller states that all required changes will be completed by August.

#### **V. New Business:**

##### **A. Regulatory Software**

Kathy Miller reported that staff continued to have ongoing issues with iGov, the provider of the regulatory software platform currently in use by the Board. Kathy Miller cites

frequent crashes during licensure renewals and inconsistencies with assessment of renewal fees. Attempts at resolution with iGov have proven unsuccessful and Kathy Miller is concerned about the negative impact on licensees. Kathy Miller recommends that the Board change software platforms to one provided by Thentia Cloud.

Kathy Miller states that Thentia is a specialty provider of regulatory software and provides benefits and services well beyond those of iGov. Kathy Miller estimates that Thentia is more expensive than iGov, but since iGov is proving unreliable during critical renewal periods and inaccurately assessing renewal fees, that the benefits to licensees will outweigh the costs. Kathy Miller also states that Thentia is an approved State of Alabama vendor, and thus an RFP is not required, making the process of moving to a new vendor much quicker.

Board members T-Michael Dougherty and Jonathan Zecher asked if a cost-benefit analysis could be done to justify the transition and Kathy Miller stated that her staff would be able to provide that for Board members. Kathy Miller stated that she would like to begin the transition from iGov to Thentia as soon as possible to minimize any chance of disruption to the next licensure renewal cycle that begins on July 1, 2024.

Jonathan Zecher made a motion to approve the new regulatory software. T-Michael Dougherty seconded the motion. Jonathan Zecher, Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed.

Dana Daniel Blake made a motion to have a return on investment and cost benefit analysis report for review by the next board meeting. Jonathan Zecher second the motion. Jonathan Zecher, Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, Dana Daniel Blake, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed.

## **B. Nominations**

In the second week in June, Kathy Miller will do a blast email as the Board will need someone from an open Congressional District to fill Jonathan Zecher's expiring position on the Board. If no nominations are received, state-wide nominations may be accepted. The meeting will be at Faulkner on August 25, 2024.

## **C. Newsletter**

Suggestions for the newsletter included: making the newsletter shorter; emphasizing important points such as renewals and board nominations; including pictures; and a compact update. Jonathan Zecher suggested including an article regarding the current legislation if it gets signed by the Governor. Dana Daniel Blake volunteered write an article/blast email.

## **D. Direct Access**

The Direct Access bill still needs to be signed by the Governor. It passed 34-0 on May 8, 2024. Particulars to discuss are professional standard of care, CEU's needed for direct access, and when can they practice under direct access. A decision was made to table this

discussion until the Board can get some more information from Matt Bledsoe Assistant Attorney General.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

The next meeting will be July 11, 2024, at 9:00 AM at the Board offices.



T-Michael Dougherty, Chair