



**STATE OF ALABAMA
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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Kathy Miller
Executive Director

November 10, 2022

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

A quorum was established.

Dana Daniel Blake provided a devotional.

Open Discussion: Chair Jonathan Zecher opened the floor for open discussion. Nathan McGriff joined the meeting at 9:07 AM. A request was received by the Executive Director from a student who was working on research project to release the contact information (including email addresses) of all PTs in Alabama. As a general policy, the Board does not release licensee email addresses. After some discussion, it was agreed that this was the correct action. The student can purchase a mailing list of PTs on the Board's website for \$75.00 which does not contain email addresses.

- II. Minutes:** The minutes from September 8, 2022, were reviewed. A motion to accept the September 8, 2022 minutes was made by Nathan McGriff and seconded by Margaret Hemm. Robin Irwin, Jonathan Zecher, Robert Fleming, T-Michael Dougherty, and Dana Daniel Blake voted in favor. Minutes for September 8, 2022 were approved.

III. Reports:

- A. Licensee Report:** Angela Warr presented this report. As of October 1, 2022, there were 6205 active licensees - 2947 PTAs 3258 PTs. Between September 1, 2022, and October 31, 2022, 69 regular licenses issued - 49 PTAs and 20 PTs. 4 temps were issued - 1 PT and 4 PTAs. 1 PTA temp was voided due to NPTE failure. 10 expired licenses were reinstated - 5 PTs and 5 PTAs. There were 2 FCCPT reports substantially equivalent to CWT5 submitted and licenses issued.

Between January 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022 the Board issued 440 new licenses – 173 PTAs and 267 PTs; compared to 2021 when the Board issued 425 new licenses – 152 PTAs and 273 PTs. The Board has completed the 2022 CE Audit. 571 licensees (10 percent) were audited. Approximately 35-45 licensees were contacted for additional information. There are still 18-20 licensees who have not submitted the information requested, but the deadline for them to do so has not passed. Reminders will be sent.

Chair Jonathan Zecher belatedly recognized new PT Board member Robin Irwin. Introductions were made and the meeting resumed.

B. Financial Report: Kristi Mullins presented this report. Nothing unusual to report. The end of the State’s fiscal year (September 30) causes the report for the month of September to appear significantly less due to the earlier deadlines set in place by the Comptroller’s office to pay or receive funds. The difference will show in the reports for October – November 2022.

C. Violations Committee Report: Assistant Attorney General J. Matt Bledsoe presented this report, and the recommendations were as follows:

2022-05: Employer filed a complaint alleging various instances of false documentation. The VC thoroughly investigated these allegations and recommended a finding of no probable cause.

2022-011: Licensee self-reported practicing without a license on October 1 and 4, 2022. Consent Order has been signed by licensee and Executive Director. Licensee has submitted a \$100.00 fine. The VC recommended approval on Consent Order.

2022-012: Licensee self-reported practicing without a license on October 3 through October 7, 2022, and October 17, 18, and 20, 2022. Consent Order has been signed by licensee and Executive Director. Licensee has submitted a \$100.00 fine. The VC recommended approval of Consent Order.

Discussion was held. T-Michael Dougherty made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Violations Committee. Nathan McGriff seconded the motion. Dana Daniel Blake, Robert Fleming, Robin Irwin, T-Michael Dougherty, and Nathan McGriff voted in favor of accepting the VC’s recommendations. Jonathan Zecher and Margaret Hemm abstained. The motion passed and the recommendations were accepted.

D. Executive Director Report: See attached Executive Director Update. Additionally, the second grant that the Board received from the FSBPT for API technology which will enable automation and security of licensee information should be in place by the end of the year. This will include scores from the FSBPT being automatically downloaded into our system, and eventually, will include disciplinary actions. Renewal season is over and went smoothly. There were a few technical issues, but the vast majority of licensees renewed with no problems. It was noted that approximately 79 percent of licensees waited until the month of September to renew and 38 percent of those were in the last week of September. Discussion was also held regarding building a greater social media presence and how to best accomplish that task.

E. Wellness Report: Nathan McGriff stated Dr. Garver indicated there are no issues with the Wellness program and all participants are in compliance. The report did note that one licensee indicated on his/her renewal application that he/she received a DUI. The licensee spoke with Dr. Garver, and no other DUI was noted in the licensee's history. No further action was recommended by Dr. Garver, and the licensee was allowed to renew.

IV. Unfinished Business: Assistant Attorney General Matt Bledsoe gave an update on the revised PT Compact legislation. The PT Compact Working Group, Ellen Strunk, Jonathan Zecher, and Nathan McGriff, along with Attorney Bledsoe, met in October and put together some names of potential sponsors in the House and the Senate with the intention to file the legislation in November.

V. New Business:

A. AG Report: Nothing new to report. PT Compact already discussed.

B. Review tentative 2023 Board meeting dates: No issues noted.

C. Review Lab Assisting as a form of teaching for CE purposes: A discussion was held on the topic of lab assistants receiving CE for the hours spent assisting in a laboratory setting. The consensus of the Board was that, as long as the primary job of the lab assistant was not teaching, the hours spent as a lab assistant could be counted as instructional hours for CE purposes.

D. Winter Newsletter: Executive Director Kathy Miller solicited ideas for articles for the Winter Newsletter. Several topics were covered and the tentative date to issue the Newsletter is early January.

E. Election of New Board Officers:

Chair Jonathan Zecher opened the floor to nominations for the position of Board Chair. Nathan McGriff nominated Jonathan Zecher and Dana Daniel Blake seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. All members voted in favor. Jonathan Zecher will remain as Chair of the ABPT.

Jonathan Zecher asked for nominations for the position of Board Secretary. T-Michael Dougherty nominated Nathan McGriff and Dana Daniel Blake seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. All members voted in favor. Nathan McGriff will remain Secretary of the ABPT.

Jonathan Zecher asked for nominations for the position of Treasurer of the Board. Margaret Hemm nominated Dana Daniel Blake and T-Michal Dougherty seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. All members voted in favor. Dana Daniel Blake will remain Treasurer of the ABPT.

VI. Action Items:

A. PT Compact Working Group work to secure sponsors for the proposed legislation.

B. Submit articles for Winter Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

The next meeting will be January 12, 2023 @ 9:00 AM at the Board offices.



Jonathan Zecher
Chair

Executive Director Update

- On October 12, 2022, I attended (in-person) the 2022 Leadership Conference put on by the Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards (AARB).
- October 28 through October 29, 2022, I attended (virtually) the 2022 FSBPT Annual Education Meeting.
- October 30, 2022, I attended (virtually) the PT Compact Meeting.
- The regular renewal period ended on 9/30/2022. The grace period for those not practicing ended on 10/31/2022. I will provide renewal numbers during the meeting.
- During renewals, we noticed several companies had wording on their certificates indicating the course is approved by the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. I contacted each company and advised Alabama does not preapprove courses. Each company removed the approval language.