



**STATE OF ALABAMA
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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Kathy Miller
Executive Director

November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy met on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at the Board's office located at 100 North Union Street, Suite 724, in Montgomery, Alabama. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, and the Board's website, www.pt.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

- 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 9:33 AM. Board Members present were T-Michael Dougherty, Dhrumil Patel, Robin Irwin, Margaret Hemm, and Zach Nelson. Members absent were Robert Fleming and Dana Daniel Blake. Also present were J. Matt Bledsoe, Assistant Attorney General, Kathy Miller, Executive Director, Angela Warr, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary, Kristi Mullins, Accounting Specialist, and Claire DiLaura, Accounting and Budgeting. One visitor was present – Dr. Jonathan Zecher.

A quorum was established.

T-Michael Dougherty introduced new Board Member Dhrumil Patel and welcomed him to the Board. T-Michael Dougherty also recognized visitor Jonathan Zecher and welcomed him.

- II. Open Discussion:** T-Michael Dougherty reported that he participated in a meeting with the American Physical Therapy Association, Alabama Chapter's newly elected President Johnnie Burnett regarding the Alabama Physical Therapy Association's desire to approve continuing education courses for Alabama's licensees. A short discussion was held, and the decision was made to table the topic for a later date.

A short discussion was held regarding the possibility of the Board sponsoring Alabama Jurisprudence continuing education courses in 2025 as 2025 is a year in which jurisprudence continuing education is required by statute. T-Michael Dougherty requested that the subject be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

- III. Minutes:** The minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting was made by Margaret Hemm and seconded by Zach Nelson. Robin Irwin, Zach Nelson, Dhrumil Patel, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting were approved.

IV. Reports:

A. Licensee Report: Angela Warr presented this report. As of November 1, 2024, there were 6621 active licensees – 3038 PTAs and 3583 PTs. Between September 1, 2024, and November 1, 2024, there were 61 regular licenses issued – 39 PTAs and 22 PTs. Seventeen expired licenses were reinstated – 9 were PTAs and 8 were PTs. There was one FCCPT report submitted – a CWT3 equivalent and license issued. Between September 1, 2024, and November 1, 2024, there were 6 temporary licenses issued – 4 PTAs and 2 PTs.

Angela Warr further reported as of November 1, 2024, 9 Compact Privileges had been issued – 1 PTA and 8 PTs.

B. Financial Report: Kristi Mullins presented the September 30, 2024 Financial Report. A motion to accept the September 30, 2024 Financial Report was made by Robin Irwin and seconded by Zach Nelson. Dhrumil Patel, Robin Irwin, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The Financial Report for September 30, 2024, was approved.

C. Violations Committee Report: Attorney Matt Bledsoe presented this report. The following cases and recommendations were presented for the Board's consideration:

2024-08: PT Licensee - admitted to failing to timely renew his license. He signed a consent order and paid a \$100 administrative fine. VC recommended accepting the consent order and fine.

2024-09: PT Licensee is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with three patients. He was terminated by his employer, who filed the complaint. He currently has criminal charges pending against him in three jurisdictions. He voluntarily surrendered his license pending the outcome of the Board's and law enforcement's investigations but admitted no guilt. VC recommended monitoring his criminal cases before a decision is made as to what action to take against his license.

2024-10: PTA Licensee is alleged to have falsified documentation about treatments given and pressuring patients into buying supplements that he was selling. He was terminated by his employer. VC recommended a finding of no probable cause.

2024-11: PTA Licensee is alleged to have falsified documentation regarding visits to patients. He was terminated by his employer. VC recommended a finding of no probable cause.

2024-12: PT Licensee is alleged to have acted unprofessionally by complainant when she spoke with him regarding a complaint she had against the receptionist at his office. VC recommended a finding of no probable cause.

2024-13: PTA Licensee admitted to failing to timely renew his license. He signed a consent order and paid a \$100 administrative fine. VC recommended accepting the consent order and fine.

Zach Nelson made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Violations Committee. Robin Irwin seconded the motion. Robin Irwin, Dhrumil Patel, and Zach Nelson voted in favor, Margaret Hemm and T-Michael Dougherty abstained, and none were opposed. The motion was approved.

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

E. Wellness Report: Zach Nelson noted that per Dr. Garver's report all participants are fully compliant with all conditions.

V. Unfinished Business:

A. Compact Update:

Kathy Miller reported that the Board began issuing Compact Privileges on October 7, 2024, and the process is running smoothly.

B. Direct Access: Matt Bledsoe and Jonathan Zecher presented an update on the proposed legislation revising the Direct Access Law. Matt Bledsoe met with a representative of the Medical Association of Alabama who appeared to be receptive to most of the proposed changes. Matt Bledsoe provided the representative with a copy of the proposed changes to be shared with the Medical Association for review. Jonathan Zecher, Direct Access Legislation Workgroup Lead, provided a list of master's degrees that could be considered sufficient to meet the educational requirements of the Direct Access Law when held in conjunction with a bachelor's degree in physical therapy. Board Chair T-Michael Dougherty requested that Jonathan Zecher continue to lead the Direct Access legislation Workgroup and work with Board attorney Matt Bledsoe on behalf of the Board to revise and expand the current Direct Access law to include all duly licensed Physical Therapists, regardless of initial degree attainment. Jonathan Zecher agreed to continue in this capacity and will work with Matt Bledsoe to negotiate the language and secure a sponsor for the Board's proposed legislation.

VI. New Business:

A. 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule: A proposed 2025 meeting schedule was presented to the Board for consideration. Zach Nelson made a motion to accept proposed meeting schedule. Margaret Hemm seconded the motion. Robin Irwin, Dhrumil Patel, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The motion was approved.

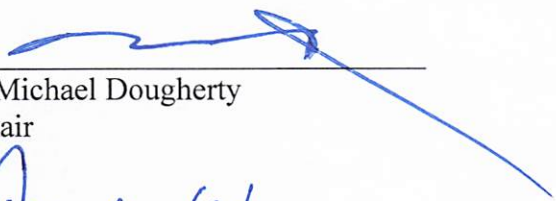
B. Election of Officers: T-Michael Dougherty nominated Robin Irwin for the office of Secretary and Dana Daniel Blake for the office of Treasurer. Zach Nelson seconded the nominations. Robin Irwin, Dhrumil Patel, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. Robin Irwin will serve as Secretary of the Board and Dana Daniel Blake will serve as Treasurer of the Board.

Margaret Hemm nominated T-Michael Dougherty to continue to serve as Chair of the Board. Robin Irwin seconded the nomination. Robin Irwin, Dhrumil Patel, Zach Nelson, Margaret


Hemm, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. T-Michael Dougherty will continue to serve as Board Chair.

The next regular meeting will be January 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Board office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM.



T-Michael Dougherty
Chair



Submitted by: Angela Warr, Recording
Secretary on 1-9-2025