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1st Congressional District

Robin Irwin, PT, Secretary,
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Region

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5th Congressional
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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Success in 2024 Sunset Audit, Compact Privileges, and Upcoming Regulatory Software Upgrade

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is pleased to report a successful 2024 Sunset Audit, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to effectively regulate and public protection. The Sunset Audit is a critical review process that ensures our Board operates efficiently, remains fiscally responsible, and continues to serve the best interests of Alabama's citizens and licensees. Our success in this review reaffirms our dedication to upholding the highest professional and ethical standards within the physical therapy profession.

One of the Board's significant advancements this past year has been the successful implementation and issuing of Compact Privileges. Alabama is proud to be part of the Physical Therapy Compact, allowing qualified practitioners from member states to practice in Alabama without the burden of obtaining a separate license. This initiative increases workforce mobility, enhances access to physical therapy services, and provides a streamlined process for professionals seeking to work across state lines. We encourage all eligible licensees to explore this opportunity and take advantage of the benefits it offers.

In addition to these accomplishments, we are excited to announce our upcoming transition to a new regulatory software system. This upgrade will bring significant improvements in efficiency, accessibility, and user experience for our licensees and applicants. The new system will provide a more intuitive online platform for license renewal, application submissions, and compliance tracking. Licensees will benefit from faster processing times, improved communication with the Board, and a more user-friendly interface that simplifies interactions with our regulatory processes.

We appreciate the dedication of our physical therapy professionals and remain committed to supporting them with resources and systems that facilitate compliance and career advancement. The Board will continue to provide updates on the transition to the new regulatory software, including training opportunities and guidance to ensure a smooth implementation. Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in physical therapy practice in Alabama!

-Kathy Miller, Executive Director



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wishing
you 
ALL THE BEST



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, JONATHAN ZECHER!

On behalf of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Jonathan Zecher, PT, DSc, OCS, COMT, FAAOMPT, for his 10 years of exemplary service to the Board, our licensees and the public. Jonathan's legacy of selfless dedication, professionalism, and commitment to advancing the practice of physical therapy in Alabama has left an indelible mark on this Board and the profession. His influence will undoubtedly continue to guide and inspire the work of current and future Board members for years to come.

On a personal level, I am deeply grateful for the leadership, wisdom, and guidance he has provided me as his successor as Board chair and will continue to strive to uphold the example he set.

T-Michael Dougherty, Chair

WELCOME ABOARD!



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest Board Member, Dhru Patel! Dhru is representing the 5th Congressional District. He earned his tDPT from the College of St. Scholastica in 2023, and Bachelor's in Physical Therapy in 2011 from Ahmedabad Institute of Medical Sciences, Gujarat University in India. Dhru is eager to serve the people of Alabama and is a welcomed addition to the Board!

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Left - Kana Kingsley, Robin Irwin and Lindsey Greenwood

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
**ROBIN IRWIN and ROBERT
FLEMING**
GENERATIONAL PHYSICAL
THERAPISTS!

We are pleased to have Robin Irwin as one of our dedicated Board Members! Robin has been practicing for 40 years, having previously owned a pediatric practice in Decatur. She is in her fourth year of teaching at Faulkner University. Two of her three daughters followed in her footsteps into the practice of physical therapy!

Robin's daughter, Lindsey Greenwood, earned her DPT from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and has been practicing since 2011. She has practiced in Texas and Alabama, working in pediatrics (like mom) and is currently working her dream job - a school-based therapist for the Montgomery Public School system. Lindsey stated, "As the child of a pediatric physical therapist...I saw first-hand how important and rewarding it is to choose a profession that allows you to serve others. Watching my mother excel in selflessness when treating patients and their families taught me numerous lessons, not only professionally but also personally, as she lived out what she taught us at home."

Robin's daughter, Kana Kingsley, earned her DPT from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and has been practicing since 2013. She has practiced pediatric physical therapy for 12 years in various settings including outpatient facilities, early intervention, rehabilitation hospitals and in school systems - again, like mom. Kana is currently an assistant professor at Faulkner University. Kana said, "From a young age, I knew I wanted to work in the healthcare field. I witnessed my mother's passion, work ethic, and joy in her work daily. Being able to participate in the clinic as a volunteer and aide exposed me to the servant opportunities the field would provide...My mother's successful balance of work and family made it clear the field would suit my personal and career goals as well."

Robin and her daughters are active in their communities and churches and they enjoy attending conferences together. Robin has a third daughter, Emily, a practicing pediatric speech therapist. It is obvious that all three daughters learned the importance of service from their mother!

Thank you Robin for your service! Robin believes that one of her greatest accomplishments is knowing that her three daughters inherited her desire to serve children with special needs and their families.

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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT GENERATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPISTS!

Continued

Left - Robert "Bob" Fleming, Jr and Robert "Beau" Fleming, III

The ABPT is proud to have Robert "Bob" Fleming, Jr. as one of our Board Members! His experience and wisdom are an invaluable asset to the Board and the people of the State of Alabama. Like Robin, Bob's son, Robert "Beau" Fleming, III followed in his father's footsteps into the world of physical therapy.

Like father, like son. Bob has been practicing Physical Therapy for 44 years in Mobile. Bob graduated from Auburn University in 1980 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Education while also on a football scholarship. He then attended Tuskegee University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy in May of 1981. After practicing for 17 years, Bob opened Fleming Rehab & Sports Medicine in 1998. Bob is also a Licensed Athletic Trainer and still covers high school sports in addition to practicing Physical Therapy. In 2021, Bob sold Fleming Rehab & Sports Medicine to Infirmity Health and now practices and manages a clinic with Infirmity Therapy Services.

Beau, Bob's oldest son, followed his dad's lead and became a physical therapist. In 2006, Beau graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Health Studies. While attending Alabama, Beau served as a Student Athletic Trainer for the football team in 2004 and for the women's track team in 2005. Following graduation, Beau continued his education at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, graduating with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2009. Beau joined his dad at Fleming Rehab & Sports Medicine where they practiced together for 15 years. For the past year, Beau has had his own practice, Fleming Physical Therapy in Mobile.

The State of Alabama is lucky to have Bob serving as a ABPT Member, and the City of Mobile is equally lucky to have two such fine PTs serving their community!

-Angela Warr, Executive Assistant

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A Conversation with Dr. Michael Garver, ABPT Wellness Program Director

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy offers an exceptional, anonymous, and secure Wellness Program led by Dr. Michael Garver. Dr. Garver is a dentist by profession. He is a recovering drug addict with 35 years of sobriety and feels being a recovering health professional gives him a unique perspective into the mind of those who suffer from the disease of addiction. He has 31 years of experience in monitoring health professionals. Dr. Garver is the program director for six Boards in Alabama including: Chiropractic, Dental, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Psychology. He has been trained by, Dr. Jerry Gropper, a nationally recognized treatment specialist. Dr. Garver is a trained Interventionist and currently is monitoring 150 health professionals in some phase of Board ordered contract. Recently, Dr. Garver took some time to answer a few questions from Board member, Zach Nelson, related to the program.

- **Can you provide a summary of the Wellness Program? How it is structured and works.** It's fairly simple. When a PT/PTA self-reports, or is reported by a third-party to the Board, the Committee is notified. The individual is assessed by a team to see if a problem exists that would put him or her at risk to practice without reasonable skill and safety. If a diagnosis is found, we help the PT/PTA get treatment and set up a monitoring program to show the Board over a certain period of time that they are recovered.
- **What does success within the program look like?** We currently have a 94% success rate, which is above the 85% national rate.
- **What are your collective thoughts on the program as well as your partnership with the ABPT.** Personally, one of gratitude. At the inception of this program, the Board members had the foresight to set up a portion of the program for deferral for those who self-report. It is the only Board that I manage programs for that has this practice from the beginning stages. Because of this, 90% of the participants we monitor have not been reported to the NPDB, they have a private file, and they show no license change for third parties to see.
- **What is your favorite part of the Wellness Program?** That's easy. When a PT/PTA finishes the program and "graduates", they not only have recovered from addiction/abuse issues, but they have done so having the tools not to repeat the problem.

If you are impaired by reason of illness, inebriation, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, chemicals, other substances or as a result of any physical or mental conditions; you do not have to attempt to face this problem on your own. There is help available and the Board is here to be supportive and not punitive in your journey to improved wellness. For assistance contact the Wellness Program Director, Dr. Michael Garver, at 855-865-6704. For additional information, please contact the ABPT at 334-242-4064.

-Zach Nelson, PTA Board Member

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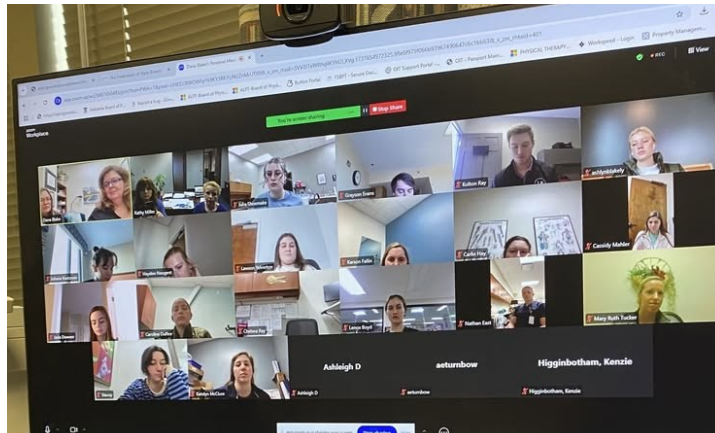
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School Visits and Trainings



Jefferson State Community College (left)

Samford University (right)



UAB (left)

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School Visits and Trainings Continued



Wallace State Community
College - Hanceville (left)

South University (right)

Calhoun Community College
(Below)



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Congratulations New Licensees!



Don't forget you are welcome to come by and pick up your certificate "hot off the press"!

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Board Happenings!

ED Kathy Miller attended AARB Training



First Board meeting of 2025!



ED Kathy Miller and Board Member Robin Irwin attended an FSBPT Conference



Chair T-Michael Dougherty and ED Kathy Miller before the Sunset Committee



Staff Christmas Luncheon (left) and Kristi Mullins and Angela Warr in the Halloween spirit (right)



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Disciplinary Actions:

Case # 2024-008
Steven King, PT
Practiced with an Expired License
Closed and Approved: 11/14/2024

Case #2024-013
Asa Armando Del Rivero, PTA
Practiced with an Expired License
Closed and Approved: 11/14/2024

**Do you know of an outstanding clinician or student who has gone above and beyond for their community?
If so, email the Board at info@pt.alabama.gov, and they may be featured on our social media platforms!**

WE ARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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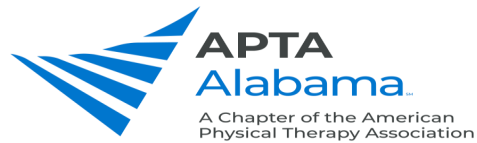


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