



**STATE OF ALABAMA
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

100 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 724
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-5040
Phone: (334) 242-4064 Fax: (334) 242-3288
info@pt.alabama.gov



*Kathy Miller
Executive Director*

March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy met on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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 9:01 AM. Board Members present were T-Michael Dougherty, Dhrumil Patel, Robin Irwin, Margaret Hemm, Zach Nelson, Robert Fleming and Dana Daniel Blake. Also present were Assistant Attorney General J. Matt Bledsoe, Kathy Miller, Executive Director, Angela Warr, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary, Kristi Mullins, Accounting Specialist, and Claire DiLaura, Accounting and Budgeting.

A quorum was established.

Robin Irwin led the Board in a devotional.

- II. Open Discussion:** A discussion was held about Florida and Kentucky allowing PT trained individuals to sit for the PTA NPTE. Alabama requires that PTA applicants graduate from a CAPTE accredited PTA school. A PT education does not meet this rule, i.e. a DPT student who has failed the PT NPTE cannot sit for the PTA NPTE without a PTA degree. Further discussion was held as to how this would impact PT Compact Privileges for individuals licensed in Kentucky as a PTA attempting to obtain an Alabama Compact Privilege. It was the consensus of the Board that an individual licensed as a PTA with a PT degree in Kentucky could not obtain an Alabama Compact Privilege because that would not comply with Alabama law. Robin Irwin agreed to contact the FSBPT and conduct further research and report any findings at the next meeting.

- III. Minutes:** The minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Two typographical errors were noted. Dana Daniel Blake noted that an agenda item was missing from the day's agenda – scholarship possibilities. Chair T-Michael Dougherty asked that it be placed on the next meeting's agenda. A motion to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting as amended was made by Margaret Hemm and seconded by Dana Daniel Blake. Robin Irwin, Zach Nelson, Dhrumil Patel, Robert Fleming, Dana Daniel Blake, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting, as amended, were approved.

IV. Reports:

A. Licensee Report: Angela Warr presented this report. As of March 1, 2025, there were 6775 active licensees – 3077 PTAs and 3698 PTs. Between January 1, 2025 and March 1, 2025, there were 83 regular licenses issued – 24 PTAs and 59 PTs. Twelve expired licenses were reinstated – 4 were PTAs and 8 were PTs. Between January 1, 2025 and March 1, 2025, there were 5 temporary licenses issued – all were PTs. Angela Warr further reported the Board currently has 61 active PT Compact Privilege Holders – 11 PTAs and 50 PTs.

B. Financial Report: Kristi Mullins presented the January 31, 2025 Financial Report. A motion was made by Dana Daniel Blake to accept the financials as presented and Zach Nelson seconded the motion. Dhrumil Patel, Robin Irwin, Zach Nelson, Margaret Hemm, Dana Daniel Blake, Robert Fleming, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The motion passed.

C. Violations Committee Report: There were two cases reviewed by the Violations Committee. 2025-01 – an Emergency Suspension – and 2025-02 – a Voluntary Surrender. The Violations Committee recommended that the Board accept the Emergency Suspension of 2025-01 and the Voluntary Surrender of 2025-02. Robin Irwin moved that the Board accept the recommendations of the Violations Committee. Zach Nelson seconded the motion. Dana Daniel Blake, Robin Irwin, Dhrumil Patel, and Robert Fleming voted in favor, and none were opposed. T-Michael Dougherty and Margaret Hemm abstained. The motion passed.

Regarding 2025-01, a motion was made by Robin Irwin to allow the executive staff and Matt Bledsoe set up and hold the required hearing for the emergency suspension without Board participation. Robert Fleming seconded the motion. Dana Daniel Blake, Robin Irwin, Dhrumil Patel, and Robert Fleming voted in favor, and none were opposed. T-Michael Dougherty and Margaret Hemm abstained. The motion passed.

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. Attorney General's Opinion

Matt Bledsoe discussed the recent Opinion issued by the Attorney General. The Opinion essentially clarifies that all Direct Access providers under the new Direct Access law must have a DPT or a master's degree in physical therapy plus 10 years of experience regardless of if a patient is paying cash. Cash was further defined to include any form of self-payment, i.e. currency, credit card, etc.

B. Direct Access:

Matt Bledsoe reported that a draft of the revised Direct Access bill has been completed and it includes allowing PTs with bachelor's degrees plus 20 years of experience to offer direct access. Matt Bledsoe and Jonathan Zecher are attempting to secure a sponsor for the bill.

VI. New Business:

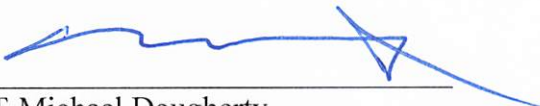
T-Michael Dougherty reported that he had been contacted by a constituent regarding a chiropractor advertising physical therapy services. The consensus of the Board was that the constituent should start by filing a complaint with the Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Matt Bledsoe advised that if the Board of Chiropractor Examiners takes no action, the Board could take action including a cease a desist letter or filing for injunctive relief.

VII. Action Items:


- A. Robin Irwin will contact the FSBPT regarding a PT trained student being allowed to sit for the PTA NPTE.
- B. Dana Daniel Blake and T-Michael Dougherty will contact Representative Leigh Hulseby regarding potentially sponsoring the amended Direct Access bill.

The next regular meeting will be May 8, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Board office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.



T-Michael Dougherty
Chair



Submitted by: Angela Warr
Recording Secretary on 5-8-2025

Executive Director Update:

- We are still working with Thentia on our new software. It is going well and seems to be on schedule.
- 3/19/2025 - We spoke to South University's PTA students about the licensure process.
- 4/9/2025 - We spoke to Faulkner's PT students about the licensure process.
- 4/23/2025 - We celebrated Administrative Professionals Day by going out to dinner.
- 4/30/2025 - We spoke to T-Michael's class about the licensure process.
- 5/7/2025 - We will do an online licensure presentation for the University of South Alabama PT students.
- In early June, we will send a blast email about the upcoming Board vacancy and the nominations process. In that email, we will also mention the approaching renewal cycle.
- In mid-June, we will send a blast email regarding the upcoming renewal cycle and also mention the nominations process.
- The renewal cycle and the nominations process will be posted many times on social media over the next few months.