

**STATE OF ALABAMA
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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Kathy Miller
Executive Director

July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy met on Thursday, July 10, 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 9:08 AM. Board Members present were T-Michael Dougherty, Dhruvil 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, and Kristi Mullins, Accounting Specialist.

A quorum was established.

Robin Irwin led the Board in a devotional.

- II. Open Discussion:** None.

- III. Minutes:** The minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting as presented was made by Margaret Hemm and seconded by Zach Nelson. Robin Irwin, Zach Nelson, Dhruvil Patel, Dana Daniel Blake, Margaret Hemm, Robert Fleming, and T-Michael Dougherty voted in favor, and none were opposed. The minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting were approved.

- IV. Reports:**

A. Licensee Report: Angela Warr presented this report. As of July 1, 2025, there were 6912 active licensees – 3101 PTAs and 3811 PTs. Between May 1, 2025 and June 30, 2025, there were 90 regular licenses issued – 9 PTAs and 81 PTs. Thirteen expired licenses were reinstated – 7 were PTAs and 6 were PTs. Between May 1, 2025 and June 30, 2025, there were 48 temporary licenses issued – 16 were PTAs and 32 were PTs. Angela Warr further reported the Board currently has 101 active PT Compact Privilege Holders – 21 PTAs and 80 PTs.

Also presented was a report generated by the FSBPT that outlined where in the US Alabama PT Compact Privilege Holders currently reside and in what states Alabama licensees currently hold Privileges. The report also included the amount of revenue generated for Alabama due to the purchasing of Compact Privileges.

B. Financial Report: Kristi Mullins presented the June 1, 2025 Financial Report. A motion was made by Dana Daniel Blake to accept the financials as presented and T-Michael Dougherty 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: Three recommendations were presented to the Board regarding cases 2025-01, 2025-03, and 2025-04 by J. Matt Bledsoe. The Violations Committee recommended that 2025-01 be fined \$500.00 for conduct unbecoming and failure to follow an order of the Board. The Violations Committee recommended a finding of no probable cause in 2025-03 and 2025-04. Zach Nelson made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Violations Committee. Dhrumil Patel seconded the motion. Dana Daniel Blake, Robin Irwin, Robert Fleming, Zach Nelson, and Dhrumil Patel all voted in favor. T-Michael Dougherty and Margaret Hemm abstained from voting. 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. It was noted the Dr. Garver did not list the number of participants in his report. Board staff will contact him and ask him to include this information in the future.

V. Unfinished Business:

A. Direct Access:

A discussion was held regarding the issues of bachelor's degree level physical therapists being precluded from providing PT services via Direct Access according to the current PT Practice act as amended by the enactment of legislation in June 2024. Dana Daniel Blake went over the numbers provided by the FSBPT indicating that Alabama has approximately 302 Bachelor's-level licensed physical therapists who are unable to provide physical therapy without a referral under the current law. J. Matt Bledsoe will continue to discuss this matter with representatives from the Medical Association of Alabama once renewals are complete and the Board has a definite number of licensed physical therapists who are negatively impacted by the 2024 legislation. T-Michael Dougherty summed up the goal of the Board is to expand the requirements for providing PT services via Direct Access to include those who are currently licensed with a bachelor's degree. The Board concurred and agreed that continued efforts toward amending the Direct Access provision in the current Practice Act to allow all licensed PTs in the state to see patients without a referral is necessary and prudent.

B. RFP Award:

The Board discussed two proposals submitted for consideration to the Purchasing Division of the Office of Finance for ABPT Wellness Program administration. The merits of both submissions

were discussed by the Board and weighed against the RFP requirements. Robin Irwin made a motion to allow the Chair the authority to grade the proposals based on certain criteria agreed upon by the Board. Dana Daniel Blake 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. T-Michael Dougherty completed the score reports for both proposals based upon the discussion and consensus opinion of the board members, provided summary narratives of the relative strengths and weaknesses of each vendor's proposal and submitted them to Kathy Miller following the meeting.

C. Scholarship Opportunities:

The Board discussed the feasibility of establishing a dedicated scholarship board to support students in physical therapy and physical therapist assistant programs. The initial goal would be to fund the scholarship board for a period of up to three years. Creating such a board would require legislative action. J. Matt Bledsoe provided insight into the structure and operation of other existing scholarship boards and indicated he would seek guidance from ACES, who previously assisted in developing and enhancing a similar board. Mr. Bledsoe will draft proposed legislation to create a Physical Therapy Scholarship Board. Once established, the Board will determine the level of funding it can commit. This item was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

D. Thentia Update:

Kathy Miller updated the Board Members as to the status of the new licensing software launch date. Thentia and Board Staff plan to launch the use of the new software on November 1, 2025. iGov will process renewals for 2025.

VI. New Business:

A. Renewal of the FieldPrint Contract:

Kathy Miller advised the Board that it is time to renew our contract with FieldPrint who conducts the required background checks for new applicants. Zach Nelson moved to renew the contract with FieldPrint. Robin Irwin 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.

B. September Board Meeting:

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the meeting scheduled for September 11, 2025, would be moved to September 12, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in Mobile, Alabama, at the Health Sciences Building of the University of South Alabama. This will coincide with APTA Alabama's annual business meeting at which the Board is required to accept nominations for an upcoming open Physical Therapist seat on the Board.

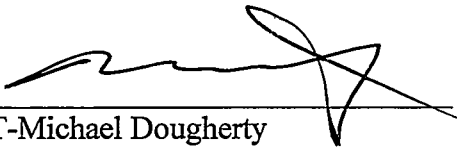
C. Kathy Miller Appraisal:

T-Michael Dougherty informed the Board that he held an annual performance appraisal for Executive Director Kathy Miller. T-Michael Dougherty commended Kathy Miller and her staff for their outstanding work on behalf of the Board and recommended that she receive a two-step pay increase. Dana Daniel Blake moved to approve the recommendation of T-Michael Dougherty and Robin Irwin 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.

The next regular meeting will be September 12, 2025, at 2:00 PM at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama.

T-Michael Dougherty adjourned the meeting 10:59 AM.


T-Michael Dougherty
Chair
Submitted by: Angela Warr
Recording Secretary on 9-12-2025