

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Minutes of the Board Meeting**  
**January 18, 2008**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via conference call on **January 18, 2008** for the purpose of conducting business. Board Chair Lola Rosenbaum determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Lola Rosenbaum, P.T., President  
John Cowherd, P.T., Vice-President  
George Hamil, P.T.  
Donald Walsh, P.T.  
Patricia Willis, P.T.

Board Members Absent:

Charlene Portee, P.T.  
Andy Ellis, P.T.

Staff Present:

Janet Wray, Board Attorney  
Lisa Durden, Executive Director  
David Higdon, Board Secretary

Visitors in Attendance:

Kathleen O'Neal, Professional Licensing Board Attorney

**AGENDA**

1. Don Walsh motioned; John Cowherd seconded, and the agenda was **approved** for the meeting.
2. John Cowherd motioned; Bo Hamil seconded, and the Board voted to **approve** new draft language for Georgia Laws 43-33-12(2) and 43-33-15.
3. John Cowherd motioned; Patti Willis seconded, and the Board voted to **approve** posting of Board Rule 490-2-.03 and Board Rule 490-2-.09.

**490-2-.03 Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants.**

(1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.

(a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board, to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet. Additional lists may be obtained from the Board office.

(b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to

practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.

(c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.

(d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive passing scores on three (3) language proficiency examinations to include the Test of Spoken English (TSE): passing score of 50; Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): passing score of 560 pencil & paper/220 computerized; and Test of Written English (TWE): passing score of 4.5, before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.

(e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.

(f) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit.

(g) All foreign educated applicants must take and pass the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

(2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation and must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

#### **490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement.**

(1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)

(2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and

(b) Verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and

(c) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; ~~and~~

(d) Scores from the national licensing examination; and

(e) Passing scores from examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

(3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) A list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and

(b) Verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and

(c) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia; and

(d) Scores from the national licensing examination.

(4) Proper proof of licensure in good standing from the state(s) where the applicant practiced in the two years immediately preceding this application, proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

(5) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit.

4. Bo Hamil motioned; Don Walsh seconded, and the Board **approved** the Minutes from the January 4, 2008 Conference Call.

### **REPORTS:**

(Portions of these reports may be in closed session)

- Janet Wray, Attorney General's Office

1. No Report.

- Lynn Eason, Enforcement

1. No Report.

- Cognizant Report

1. No Report.

- Lisa Durden, Executive Director

1. No Report.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

**Mrs. Portee moved; Mrs. Willis seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k), O.C.G.A. 43-1-19(H)(2)(4), and O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k)(4) to deliberate on Applications and to receive information on Applications. The Board voted in favor of the motion. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on these matters and to continue with the public session.**

1. **M.S.W.** – Bo Hamil motioned; Patti Willis seconded, and the Board referred Complaint to the Attorney General’s Office for drafting of a Consent Order to include:

- 1 year probation
- Quarterly reports from the Substance Abuse Treatment Provider
- Quarterly reports from Employer/Supervisor
- Quarterly random drug screens coordinated by the substance abuse treatment provider at M.S.W.’s expense.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

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Lola Rosenbaum, Chairperson

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Lisa Durden, Executive Director

Minutes Prepared by: David Higdon, Board Secretary

Reviewed/Edited by: Lisa Durden, Executive Director