

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2012**  
**Professional Licensing Boards**  
**237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Bo Hamil, President  
Charlene Portee  
Emily Garner  
Stefanie Palma  
Dorothy Gaskin  
Chad Whitefield  
Monty Strickland  
John Cowherd

**Staff Present:**

D. Williams-McNeely, Assistant Attorney General  
Tanja Battle, Executive Director  
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

**Visitors Present:**

James Erdmanczyk  
Katherine Sylvester  
Barney Poole  
Ellen Hillegass  
Kelly Butler  
Lisa Bavrentine  
Mykia Jamison  
Trent Gabriel  
Jodi Higgins  
Katherine McLane  
Gregory Brooks  
Ellen O'Keefe  
Evan Zanbrana  
Anne Finnan  
Ninola Balalsan  
Kristin Harold  
Hollis Rossor  
April Skelton  
Caylor Sandifer  
Elaine Marrow  
Zach McCain  
John Wingfield  
Ralph Tozzu  
Eric Grooms  
Diana Carman

**Open Session**

Bo Hamil established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:10a.m.

Bo Hamil introduced the visitors.

### **Consideration of minutes from the September 18, 2012 Board meeting**

Stefanie Palma made a motion, John Cowherd seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve minutes as amended.

### **Consideration of licenses that have been administratively issued**

John Cowherd made a motion to approve the report of licenses issued September 15, 2012- November 6, 2012, Stefanie Palma seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **Correspondence from Jennifer Litchfield**

Stefanie Palma made a motion, Emily Garner seconded and the Board voted unanimously to send a “no legal advice” letter in response to the correspondence and refer to Aide Rule.

### **Correspondence from Dr. RM Barney Poole, PT, DPT**

As background, President Hamil stated that Georgia was one of the first states to put ethics and jurisprudence in its rules. Dr. Poole and other members of the audience were concerned about the additional costs to licensees. Additionally, discussion ensued about the need for the FSBPT-developed exam and whether or not there was data to justify such requirement. President Hamil indicated that the Board’s intent was not to address an increase in violations of the practice but instead to raise the bar for the profession in a manner that was not cost-prohibitive.

### **Correspondence from Scott Hasson**

Dorothy Gaskin made a motion, Emily Garner seconded and the Board voted unanimously to refer to Rule 490-2-.02.

### **FSBPT Updates**

Stefanie Palma and Dorothy Gaskin attended the FSBPT Annual Meeting. Dr. Palma gave a brief overview on the information gleaned while in attendance. CAPTE expressed an interest in possibly accrediting DTP programs for foreign trained Physical Therapists. Also highlighted was a case between The North Carolina Dental Board and The Federal Trade Commission. The significance of this case relates to states’ rights and board member immunity as well as the regulation of professions. Also reported was that the regulatory board in Missouri opted to remove its Frequently Asked Questions off of its website due to litigation. Finally, the use and abuse of social media as it relates to the practice of physical therapy was also discussed.

### **2013 Board Meeting Dates**

John Cowherd made a motion, Stefanie Palmas seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2013 Board Meeting Dates.

### **Board Elections**

Dorothy Gaskin made a motion to nominate Bo Hamil as President, Emily Garner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

John Cowherd made a motion to nominate Charlene Portee as Vice President, Stefanie Palma seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **Board Chair Report** –Bo Hamil

Bo Hamil welcomed D. William as Board Attorney. Additionally, he discussed the handling of correspondence in between board meetings explaining that many matters could be handled without coming to the full Board. Any matters for which there were not clear answers based on laws, rules or previous determinations by the Board would be brought to the full Board for consideration. The Board members agreed to continue as is in regard to responding to correspondences.

**Rules Committee Report-** Charlene Portee

Charlene Portee reported on the discussion pertaining to the PTA rule as it relates to the scope of practice for such. The committee is recommending that no revisions be made to the rule at this time.

**Miscellaneous**

Monty Strickland discussed noting the term “Athletic Therapist” on a website and was concerned that Athletic Trainers were possibly holding themselves out as Physical Therapists.

Bo Hamil discussed Game Ready and expressed concern regarding Blue Cross Blue Shield viewing the use of such as fraud.

Visitor James Erdmanczyk submitted written statement to the Board.

Stefanie Palma made the motion, Dorothy Gaskin seconded and the Board voted to enter into **Executive Session** in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-19(h)(2) and §43-1-2(k) to deliberate and to receive information on applications, investigative reports and the Assistant Attorney General’s report. Voting in favor of the motion were Bo Hamil, Charlene Portee, Emily Garner, Stefanie Palma, Dorothy Gaskin, Chad Whitefield, Monty Strickland, and John Cowherd. The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m.

**Executive Session**

The Board discussed the following:

**Applications:**

- |        |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
| G.A.S. | PT Foreign Exam App       |
| K.D.   | PT Reinstatement          |
| L.F.G. | PT Endorsement App        |
| P.K.S. | 4 <sup>th</sup> NPTE Exam |
| R.A.K. | PT Endorsement            |

**Cognizant’s Report** – Chad Whitefield

Case PT13002

No Votes were taken and Bo Hamil declared Open Session

**OPEN SESSION**

**VOTE:**

Stefanie Palma made a motion, Monty Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously on the following applications:

**Applications:**

G.A.S. PT Foreign Exam App-Approve for traineeship  
K.D. PT Reinstatement-refer to 490-4-.02 and Board Policy #7  
L.F.G. PT Endorsement App-Deny by endorsement and Approve to come in as foreign  
trained applicant; 1,000 hours traineeship & 4hrs Ethics Jurisprudence  
P.K.S. 4<sup>th</sup> NPTE Exam-Approve remediation plan submitted  
R.A.K. PT Endorsement-Approve

**Cognizant's Report – Chad Whitefield**

PT13002-automatically generated by a malpractice settlement  
Emily Garner made a motion, John Cowherd seconded and the Board voted unanimously to close  
case with no action

**E.N.-Consent Order**

Emily Garner made a motion, John Cowherd seconded and the Board voted unanimously to accept  
the Consent Order.

**Written Letter from James Erdmanczyk**

Stefanie Palma made a motion, John Cowherd seconded and the Board voted to accept the letter  
with no action but maintain on record.

**Rule Discussions**

490-1-.02 (1)-No revision needed.

490-2-.09 (1) review “without an examination”

Recommendation to add #5 that states, “At the board’s discretion, Board may impose additional  
requirements that may be needed for endorsements.”

490-2-.04- (2, 3, & 4)-No revision needed.

John Cowherd made a motion, Stefanie Palma seconded and the Board voted unanimously to  
suspend holding the annual public meeting and call for such as needed.

**Annual Meeting**

President Hamil welcomed all attendees and made opening remarks.

Charlene Portee discussed the following amended rules:

490-9-.05

490-4-.01

490-11-.01

490-4-.02

John Cowherd gave a brief overview of the Board. Chad Whitefiled discussed the complaint process  
from receipt to closure. Emily Garner discussed Continuing Competence 490-4-.02 and Policy 7.  
Additional discussion was held regarding the jurisprudence examination and President Hamil  
indicated that the Board was open to further discussion and suggestions regarding such. President  
Hamil also relayed to the audience the earlier vote of suspending the annual meeting unless  
specifically scheduled by the Board.

No more business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 2:22pm

The next Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy meeting will be on Tuesday January 15, 2013, at  
9:00 a.m. at the Office of the Professional Licensing Boards, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia  
31217.

---

Bo Hamil, President  
The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy

---

Date

---

Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director  
The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy

---

Date