

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Professional Licensing Boards**  
**237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA**  
**January 24, 2017 - 9:00AM**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Stefanie Palma, PT, - Chairperson  
Dorothy Gaskin, PT – Vice Chair  
Reid Lawson, PT (via teleconference)  
Monty Strickland, PT  
Anne Thompson, PT  
Charles Bass, PT  
Chad Whitefield, PTA (via teleconference)  
Jesse Crews, Consumer Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist  
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor

**Attorney General's Office**

D. Williams-McNeely, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

No members absent.

**Visitors Present**

Joe Donnelly, President, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG)  
Katherine Sylvester, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG)  
Nashon Williams  
James Erdmanczyk

**Call to Order:** Dr. Palma established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Minutes**

**1. November 15, 2016 Open Session Minutes**

Mr. Crews motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 15, 2016 open session board meeting minutes as presented.

**2. December 28, 2016 Teleconference Minutes**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the December 28, 2016 open session teleconference minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: November 8, 2016 – January 17, 2017**

Mr. Crews motioned, Ms. Gaskin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with the Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

**Correspondence – Chiropractic Referrals to Physical Therapy – Tabitha Harris**

Mr. Crews motioned, Ms. Gaskin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to send the writer a no legal advice response letter and recommend that she consult with her legal counsel.

**Correspondence - Tommy Williamson, PT Cert MDT-Questions Concerning Fee Splitting**

Mr. Bass motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to send the writer a no legal advice response letter and suggest that he contact PTAG and/or his state legislator as this matter is not under the jurisdiction of the Board.

### **Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG) – Joseph Donnelly, PT, DHS, OCS**

#### **1. Ethics and Georgia Jurisprudence Requirements**

Mr. Donnelly provided the Board with an update as to where PTAG is concerning Ethics and Georgia Jurisprudence Continuing Competency Approvals. He stated that PTAG has moved all of the approvals from the Continuing Competency Committee to the Ethics Committee because they have a stronger grasp on the law and ethical considerations. One of the concerns that has come back from the Continuing Competency Committee is regarding access to the Georgia rules. If PTAG is offering an Ethics and Jurisprudence course and charges for the course, they can no longer access the rules, publish the rules or use the rules to show participants what the rules are and how they can locate them because it's against the Secretary of State's website rule. Mr. Donnelly asked the Board, if you are taking the JAM and are paying for it how does JAM access the rules and how is this different from PTAG offering a course and accessing the rules? Ms. Price indicated that she did not believe that JAM was actually accessing the rules. She explained that if an individual answers a question wrong they are given a reference to the correct rule and that reference includes language from the rule but it does not actually take the individual to the site for them to review the actual rule. Mr. Donnelly asked if JAM reworded the rule because it states on the Secretary of State's website that you cannot copy or reproduce the rules. Ms. Price stated that she is not certain and clarified that the rule website is maintained by a vendor, not the Secretary of State's Office. It is the vendor who allows you to review the rules but you are not supposed to copy or reproduce them without paying the vendor a fee. It was the consensus of the Board that it is okay to show the rules on a screen for review as long as you do not reproduce them.

Mr. Crews motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously for Dr. Thompson to draft a letter to the Georgia Secretary of State concerning the lack of access to the rules and the need for better access to aid in doing business.

Mr. Donnelly stated he will also write a letter from PTAG addressing this issue and send it to the Secretary of State.

#### **2. Legislative Initiative: PT Licensure Compact**

Mr. Donnelly enlightened the Board that PTAG is moving the PT Licensure Compact legislative initiative forward for Georgia. He indicated that PTAG tried to work with the Georgia Nursing Association as they are also planning on putting forth compact legislation but that group declined to work with PTAG. In light of this, two licensure compact bills will be presented to the legislature. Mr. Donnelly clarified that PTAG is hoping to get out there first and already has a potential sponsor, Representative Hunter Hill from the Atlanta District. He added that PTAG has the support from the House but support on the Senate side is now needed.

Mr. Donnelly further reported that PTAG has a legislative initiative entitled the "Fair Co-pay Legislation." He indicated that the purpose of this legislation is to align the copays for PT services with other healthcare providers. PTAG has partnered with the Georgia Chiropractic Association and Occupational Therapists on this piece of legislation. He reported that there are six other states that have implemented similar legislation successfully.

The Board accepted Ms. Donnelly's verbal report as presented.

### **Discussion – Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)**

#### **1. New Course Work Tool (CWT) 6**

##### **a) Preliminary Results of CWT-6 Survey**

The Board entered into a discussion of the preliminary results of the CWT-6 Survey that was forwarded to each state licensing board to determine how it will be utilized in each state.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Crews seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the New Course Work Tool (CWT) 6 to the Rules Committee to develop rules for first time applicants and applicants by endorsement using CWT-6, the survey results and language from other states if applicable.

## **2. News Briefs**

- a) November 2016
- b) December 2016
- c) Forum – Winter 2016

The Board accepts the FSBPT News Briefs as information.

## **3. 2017 Budget**

The Board accepts the FSBPT 2017 Budget as information.

## **4. Test Satisfaction Survey Results**

The Board accepts the Test Satisfaction Survey Results as information.

### **Discussion – Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> And 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Fall Accreditation Actions for 11-9-16
2. Master List of Accredited PT Programs Updated
3. Master List of Accredited PTA Programs Updated

The Board accepts the CAPTE reports on accreditation as information.

### **Discussion – National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE)**

1. Faculty Newsletter Fourth Quarter 2016
2. 2017 NPTE Policies- approved by BOD- clean version
3. 2017 NPTE Policies- approved by BOD- tracked changes

The Board accepts the NPTE Faculty Newsletter Fourth Quarter 2016 and the 2017 NPTE Policies as information.

### **Discussion – International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA) Network Newsletter**

The Board accepts the INPTRA Network Newsletter as information.

### **Discussion – Should there be a hyperlink to the “Analysis of Competencies for Dry Needling by PTs”**

Mr. Crews motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to reject the action of posting a hyperlink to the Analysis of Competencies for Dry Needling by PTs on the Board’s website.

### **Discussion - Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**

#### **Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**

(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 receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)

(2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-34, is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,

(3) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and.

(c) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

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

(e) Scores from the national licensing examination.

(4) Any military spouse or transitioning service member 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) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,

(b) Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit 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) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

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

(f) Scores from the national licensing examination.

(5) 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.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.10**

**Authority:** Ga. L. 1972, pp. 388-396.; O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Practical and Oral Examinations" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

**Repealed:** F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

**Amended:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members"

Mr. Crews motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Board Rule 490-2-.10, as amended, to the Attorney General's Office for a memorandum of authority and if no objections noted, vote to post.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-19(2), and 43-24A-3(4) to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of physical therapy.

#### **Petition for Rule Waiver Requests**

**1. Nidhi Ashok Trehan – 2639495 – BR 490-2-.03(1)(a)**

Mr. Strickland motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 490-2-.03(1)(a) based on the petitioner's failure to meet the general education credits and insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**2. Nidhi Ashok Trehan – 2639495 – BR 490-2-.03(1)(g)**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) based on failure to substantiate a substantial hardship and documentation presented does not align with written statements.

**Executive Director Report – A. Price**

Executive Director's report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, complaints/compliance matters and the renewal applications. Ms. Price reminded Board of the approaching January 31, 2017 deadline to submit their annual Ethics Commission affidavit.

Ms. Price then presented the Board with an update regarding UCIS intent to deny FCCPT's authorization to issue a Healthcare Worker Certificate for a Visa. She shared that the USCIS did not deny or revoke the FCCPT's authorization. Instead, they amended the eligibility requirements. As of January 1, 2017, in order for a foreign educated applicant to obtain a Type 1 Visa Review (comprehensive educational credentials review for equivalency to the first professional degree in PT in the U.S.) from FCCPT for a Healthcare Worker Certificate wanting USCIS clearance for immigration and employment in the U.S., the following requirements must be met:

- The individual must have a DPT;
- The program of study must have a minimum of 234 total semester credits (general + professional education); and,
- Equivalency on CWT6

To end her report, Ms. Price noted that the Georgia General Assembly convened on Monday, January 9, 2017 for the first day of the legislative session. For the most part, the bills that have been presented are relative to elections and ad valorem taxes in various counties. She assured the Board that staff will attempt to keep them abreast of any pending legislation which may have an effect on the work of the Board.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's report as presented.

**Board Chair's Report – S. Palma**

**1. Application and Continuing Education Cognizant Assignment**

It was the consensus of the Board that effective January 24, 2017, Dr. Thompson will assume the duty of Application and Continuing Education Cognizant.

**2. FSBPT Committee Assignments**

Dr. Palma informed the Board that it is an honor to announce that Adrienne Price, Executive Director, has been selected to serve on the FSBPT Resolutions Committee from January 1, 2017 – December 21, 2019.

Mr. Strickland motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to nominate Ms. Gaskin as the Board's Primary Delegate to attend the FSBPT Committee.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Crews seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to nominate Dr. Palma as the Board's alternate delegate to the FSBPT Committee.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board Chair Report as presented.

**Miscellaneous Discussions**

**1. South Carolina Statute on Copayments for PT\_OT Services**

Mr. Donnelly informed the Board that PTAG is currently conducting research on this initiative right now and hopes to get the matter on the legislative agenda this year.

## **2. Correspondence – Rob Wolters – Licensure Question**

Mr. Lawson motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to send the writer a no legal advice response letter and to refer writer to the insurance commissioner's office.

Mr. Nashon Williams briefly addressed the Board regarding his application. He stated that he had submitted an application by endorsement and has been practicing as a PT for almost four years, has a clean PT license, passed the national licensing exam and the Georgia Jurisprudence Exam and was notified that the Board has required him to complete a traineeship even though he feels that Board Rule 490-23-.04(a)(4)(5) does not apply to him. He is trying understand the reason why he was requested to complete a traineeship. He further stated that he had moved to Georgia two weeks ago and he is having a difficult time trying to find somewhere to complete the traineeship. He would like to ask the Board to reconsider requiring him to complete a traineeship. Dr. Palma informed Mr. Williams that he would have to submit a formal written request for reconsideration to the Board for further review. Ms. Williams- McNeely instructed Mr. Williams to include an explanation as to why the Board should reconsider his application because the Board has already reviewed all of the facts that he stated. He will need to provide the Board with something to reconsider that they didn't consider before. Mr. Williams asked if he submitted his formal request for reconsideration is it going take another two months for it to be reviewed. Dr. Palma answered yes, as the request would have to be reviewed by the full Board because the full Board made the previous decision requesting him to complete a traineeship.

Ms. Kathryn Sylvester asked if an applicant fails the national exam in Georgia, moves to another state where they pass the national exam, has two years of active practice and then moves back to Georgia is it not accurate that they would get their license by endorsement. Ms. Price explained that each application is reviewed on a case by case basis and that it would depend on what is happening with that particular application. Ms. Sylvester then asked, if the request to reconsider the traineeship the same as a petition for waiver or can someone just request to waive the traineeship? Ms. Price stated that they could do both. The petition for waiver or variance is completely different and separate of the application. If someone is looking to waive a requirement that is in a board rule they would have to do it by submitting a petition for rule waiver or variance. If they are just asking the Board to waive or alter a particular decision, that's not necessarily rule specific, then they would have to submit a formal written request for reconsideration. Ms. Price directed her to the Board's website to download the Petition for Rule Variance or Waiver instructions and forms.

Ms. Kathryn Sylvester asked the Board to be clear, if PTA's were going to benefit from the military rule. Ms. Price stated that this is not altogether accurate. PTA's will benefit from the military rule just like PT's if all qualifications are met. Ms. Sylvester also asked if the CWT6 is going to impact the rule that the Board is doing regarding military spouses. Ms. Price stated that CWT6 would not impact the military rule.

**Mr. Crews made the motion, Mr. Bass 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 Dr. Stefanie Palma, Dorothy Gaskin, Monty Strickland, Reid Lawson, Chad Whitefield, Charles Bass, Dr. Anne Thompson and Jesse Crews.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, Dr. Palma declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during Executive Session.**

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **Executive Session Minutes**

##### **1. November 15, 2016 Executive Minutes**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the November 15, 2016 executive session board meeting minutes as presented.

## **2. December 28, 2017 Executive Teleconference Minutes**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the December 28, 2017 executive session teleconference minutes as presented.

### **Attorney General's Report- D. Williams-McNeely**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

1. **PT170108 and PT170110** Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to close both cases with a Letter of Concern regarding CE violations.
2. **PT170092** Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to close the case.
3. **PT170099** Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion to close the case.
4. **Board Rule 490-4-.03**  
Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to post Board Rule 490-4-.03 as amended.

### **Rule 490-4-.03 Continuing Competency Audit**

(1) Each licensee is responsible for completing all steps necessary to meet the renewal application requirements on or before December 31st of the odd numbered years to include recording proof of completion of the continuing competency (CC) requirements, within the online recording and reporting system approved by the Board, prior to the expiration date of the license.

(2) A renewal applicant may be subject to audit if the applicant:

(a) is randomly selected for CC audit BEFORE the license expiration date;

(b) answers "no" to the continuing competency question;

(c) has been disciplined by any state or regulatory board; and/or,

(d) has been convicted, or entered a plea of guilty, nolo contendere, or been sentenced under the "First Offender Act" for any felony, misdemeanor or any offense other than a minor traffic violation? DWI a DUI are not minor traffic violations.

(3) Licensees whose renewal applications are randomly selected for CC audit must submit records of attendance and proof of completion in accordance with BR 490-4-.02 before the renewal application is considered complete. The license will not be renewed until satisfactory documentation of completion is submitted.

(4) If satisfactory documentation of completion of all CC requirements is not submitted before the end of the established late renewal period, the license will be administratively lapsed for failure to meet the CC requirements to renew the license.

(5) The Board may opt to conduct an audit of CC hours submitted in connection with a license renewal application AFTER a license is renewed.

(6) If an audit of CC hours for renewal shows that the CC hours or documentation was submitted into the online recording system before the end of the late renewal period AND the hours are deficient, incorrect, false, or fraudulent:

(a) The Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee and may require, as a condition of granting renewal, that the licensee enter into an agreement with terms and conditions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) pay a fine of \$500.00 per violation; and,

(2) submit proof satisfactory to the Board of completion of all deficient CC hours, none of which may be used to satisfy the CC requirement of any subsequent renewal cycle.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-4-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-11 and 43-33-16.

History. Original Rule entitled "Disciplinary Sanctions" adopted. F. Jan. 28, 1987; eff. Feb. 17, 1987.

Amended: F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989.

Amended: F. Feb. 26, 1990; eff. Mar. 18, 1990.

Amended: F. Dec. 6, 1990; eff. Dec. 26, 1990.

Amended: F. Mar. 28, 1994; eff. Apr. 17, 1994.

Amended: F. Mar. 7, 2002; eff. Mar. 27, 2002.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 16, 2005; eff. Apr. 5, 2005.

Repealed: Rule reserved. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-19(2), and 43-24A-3(4) to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of physical therapy.

**5. Board Rules 490-9-.02 and 490-9-.03**

Will be referred to Legal Services for posting in accordance with Board vote at the time of initial referral to the Attorney General's office.

**6. Board Rule 490-9-.07**

Proposed amendment to Board Rule 490-9-.07 is not authorized by law.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify PTAG: that Physical Therapists do not appear to have the statutory authority to perform Animal Rehabilitation in the state of Georgia. The Board encourages Physical Therapists to review the Veterinary Practice Act specifically O.C.G.A. § 43-50(3)(11) and add the same information to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Board's website.

**7. ELDD\_Participation\_Agreement**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the Attorney General's Memorandum regarding ELDD Participation Agreement to the Legal Department for consideration while drafting the proposal.

**Cognizant's Report – C. Whitefield**

No report given.

**Executive Discussions**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

1. PT170116 Release information to the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners as requested.

Jesse Crews left the meeting at 12:20 p.m. with a quorum still present.

Chad Whitefield left the meeting at 12:39 p.m. with a quorum still present.

### **Applications**

Ms. Gaskins motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

1. **T.C.E.** Require 480-hour traineeship.
2. **A.F.E.** Issue the license with a letter of concern regarding action in another jurisdiction and criminal history.
3. **D.A.P.** Issue the license with a letter of concern regarding treatment and to continue with treatment and to stay on medication.
4. **N.L.S.** Issue the license with a letter of concern regarding alcohol history.

### **Reconsideration**

1. **J.C.L.** Rescind the previous motion and approve transcript.

### **Remediation Plan**

1. **H.S.L.**  
Notify the applicant that the Board has granted approval to take the examination for the fourth time and if a passing score is achieved, the applicant must complete a 1000-hour traineeship prior to licensure. If the applicant does not pass the examination the applicant only has one remaining attempt in Georgia in order to be considered for licensure. Suggest to applicant to strengthen their review of the specified content areas where low scores were obtained.

### **Renewal**

1. **C.A.** Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to rescind the previous motion and close the case with a letter of concern regarding compliance with continuing education rules.

### **Miscellaneous Discussions**

#### **1. Violations of Continuing Education Requirements for License Renewal January 24, 2017**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the Violations of Continuing Education Requirements for License Renewal January 24, 2017 to Legal Services as indicated.

#### **2. PTAs and Progress Notes**

Dr. Palma shared with the Board that she has been notified by several people that some companies are having Physical Therapist Assistants complete progress notes and then they are co-signed by a Physical Therapist. Dr. Palma stated that co-signatures are not recognized under the law.

Ms. Gaskin stated the Documentation Code of Ethics states PTs and PTAs are required to follow the federal and state guidelines from a CMS standpoint and that is where this subject would fall. Ms. Williams-McNeely stated that this appears to be an education issue and not a board issue.

Dr. Palma feels strongly this topic should be included in the PTAG Ethics and Jurisprudence course. Dr. Palma and Dr. Thompson will address this topic at the upcoming PTAG Conference on March 24, 2017.

**Adjournment:** There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** March 21, 2017

DR. STEFANIE PALMA, DPT  
**BOARD CHAIR**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**