

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 21, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Dorothy Gaskin, Board Chair  
Anne Thompson, Vice Chair  
Charles Bass, Board Member  
Laurri Wallace, Board Member  
Terri Burner, Board Member  
Destiny Gaddis, Board Member  
Norma Nunez-Cortes, Consumer Board Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

**Attorney General's Office**

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

**Administrative Staff Absent**

Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

**Board Members Absent**

Chad Whitefield, Board Member

**Visitors Present**

Dr. Sandra Eskew-Capps, PT, DPT  
Dr. Katherine Sylvester, PT, DPT, President, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA)  
Paul Higgs  
(1) Unidentified caller  
Megan Harrell

**Call to Order:** Ms. Gaskin established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** Dr. Cortes motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Minutes – August 18, 2021 Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Bass motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the August 18, 2021 Open Session Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: July 6, 2021 – September 14, 2021**

Dr. Wallace motioned, Dr. Cortes 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 – Request to Continue Virtual Public Meetings – Tina Spears, PT007719**

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to thank the writer for their correspondence and that they will take the request under consideration.

**Discussion – Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) – Summer Decisions 2021**

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the correspondence in reference to CAPTE as information.

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

### **1. July News Brief**

Dr. Thompson was recognized for being one of six recipients of the Outstanding Service Awards. Recipients will be honored at the Awards Luncheon at the FSBPT Annual Meeting next year in Orange County, California.

- 2. August News Brief**
- 3. 2022 NPTE Testing Windows**
- 4. Virtual Board Member & Administrator Training**
- 5. Regulatory Hour – Here Comes the Judge**
- 6. Regulatory Hour – I want In – Applications & Renewals**
- 7. Webinar – How Can Boards Reckon with the Post-COVID Future while Grappling with Current Regulations**
- 8. Webinar – Professional Issues with a PT Practitioner Who May Have a Substance Use Disorder**
- 9. Webinar – Storytelling Fun-0-1**
- 10. Webinar – Shoot First, Ask Questions Later**
- 11. Webinar – How Are You Navigating the Pandemic**
- 12. Webinar – Interprofessional Education-Why it Matters for Physical Therapy Practice**
- 13. Webinar – Development of a Resource for Healthy Practice-A Discussion**

Dr. Thompson shared with the Board that on September 30, 2021 from 4:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. the Continuing Competence Committee for which she is a delegate, presents a working webinar session to further the development of a Healthy Practice Self-Reflection resource for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. She explained that the Committee is tasked with its compilation and formulation and is asking for Board members, PTs and PTAs in general to get involved to provide feedback for its development and use. Dr. Thompson will provide additional information to anyone interested in signing up.

Dr. Wallace motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the correspondence in reference to FSBPT as information.

## **Discussion – Board Rules**

### **1. BR 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination. Amended.**

#### **Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination. Amended.**

- (1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.
- (2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board or hold a Georgia Compact Privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission prior to beginning said practice.
- (3) ~~Any applicant who does not submit required documentation within one year of initial filing date will not be given further consideration by the Board until submission of new application and payment of appropriate fees. All applications for licensure must be complete within the timeframe indicated in the Joint Secretary Rules and/or policies. All applications not completed within this designated timeframe shall be considered “expired” and withdrawn. Following expiration of an application, a new application in its entirety, to include all required fees, shall be required for consideration of licensure.~~
- (4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-19](#) and [43-33-18](#).

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#); [43-33-10\(11\), \(12\)](#); [43-33-14](#); [43-33-31](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Application for Registration and Examination" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Application for Licensure and Examination" adopted. F. June 6, 1983; eff. June 26, 1983.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989.

**Amended:** F. July 17, 1989; eff. Aug. 6, 1989.

**Amended:** F. May 26, 1993; eff. June 15, 1993.

**Amended:** F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 20, 2004; eff. Sept. 9, 2004.

**Amended:** F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

Dr. Cortes motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer BR 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination. Amended. to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority and if no objections, vote to post.

Destiny Gaddis joined the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

## **2. BR 490-4-.01. Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties**

### **Rule 490-4-.01. Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties**

- (1) Every licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall biennially apply to the Board for renewal of his/her license, submit proof of continuing competency requirements and pay a renewal fee by December 31st of odd years. Refer to fee schedule and Rule [490-4-.02](#).
- (2) A license that is not renewed on or before December 31st shall be assessed a late fee. Refer to fee schedule for penalty fee.
- (3) A license that is not renewed on or before February ~~28th~~-1st of the year following the renewal year shall lapse and be of no force and effect and shall by operation of the law be revoked.
- (4) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant that has been previously licensed in this State who has allowed his/her license to become revoked due to failure to renew, shall be required to submit an application for reinstatement, pay appropriate fee (refer to fee schedule), and shall also be required to meet requirements as provided below:
  - (a) An applicant who is able to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence requirements as established by the Board;
  - (b) An applicant who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years but is able to document such practice within 5 years shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence (Refer to [490-4-.02](#) ), and shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 480 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed within 3 months with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board, and shall be required to 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; or
  - (c) An applicant who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 5 years shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 1,000 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed in no less than 6 months or no more than 1 year if approved by the Board with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board and shall be required to take and pass the following examinations: the licensing examination, and the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

- (5) Applicants subject to Rule 490-4-.01(4)(a) may at the discretion of the Board be exempted from continuing competence requirements if such person holds a current license in good standing in another state or if such person is currently employed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant by the United States Government if such person provides physical therapy services under the direction or control of the employing organization.

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

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. Secs. [43-1-4](#), [43-1-7](#), [43-1-10](#), [43-1-19](#), [43-1-2443-1-25](#), [43-1-31](#), [43-33-10](#), [43-33-14](#), [43-33-16](#), [43-33-17](#), [43-33-18](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Renewal of Registration and Penalties" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973.

**Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984.

**Amended:** F. July 19, 1985; eff. Aug. 8, 1985.

**Amended:** F. Nov. 25, 1985; eff. Dec. 15, 1985.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Renewal of License and Penalties" adopted. F. Aug. 25, 1986; eff. Sept. 14, 1986.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 28, 1987; eff. Feb. 17, 1987.

**Amended:** F. Mar. 14, 1988; eff. Apr. 3, 1988.

**Amended:** F. July 20, 1988; eff. Aug. 9, 1988.

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

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 24, 1989; eff. Sept. 13, 1989.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 13, 1992; eff. Feb. 2, 1992.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. July 22, 1999; eff. Aug. 11, 1999.

**Amended:** F. Nov. 7, 2003; eff. Nov. 27, 2003.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties" adopted. F. Aug. 17, 2005; eff. Sept. 6, 2005.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Renewal of License and Penalties" adopted. F. Oct. 31, 2007; eff. Nov. 20, 2007.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties" adopted. F. Sept. 29, 2008; eff. Oct. 19, 2008.

**Amended:** F. Jan. 28, 2011; eff. Feb. 17, 2011.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 25, 2012; eff. Jun. 14, 2012.

The Board discussed the need for amending BR 490-4-.01. Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties to change the late renewal period date to align with the change in the Joint Secretary Rule.

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Gaddis seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer BR 490-4-.01. Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority and if no objections, vote to post.

**Discussion – 2022 Board Meeting Dates**

**All meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays to begin at 9:00 a.m.**

January 11, 2022

March 8, 2022

May 3, 2022

May 24, 2022 (Rules Committee)

July 12, 2022

September 20, 2022

November 8, 2022

Mr. Bass motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the 2022 Board meeting dates as presented.

**American Physical Therapy Association – Georgia Chapter (APTA-GA) – Dr. Kathleen Geist, PT, DPT, Executive Director**

Dr. Sylvester reported that Dr. Geist was unable to attend and she had nothing to report on her behalf or on behalf of APTA-GA.

**Petitions for Rule Waiver**

**1. BR 490-2-.03(g) Yewon Park**

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 490-2-.03(g) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**2. BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) Chetan Nayak**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**3. BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) Suranjit Mekala**

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Thompson 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 insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

Dr. Gaddis motioned, Ms. Gaskin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for staff to send correspondence to APTA GA to consider seeking out organizations throughout the state that would be willing to provider traineeships for applicants and compile a list of those organizations to share with the public.

**Petition for Rule Variance – BR 490-2-.03(b) Yewon Park**

Dr. Gaddis motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for variance of BR 490-2-.03(b) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

**Executive Director Report – A. Price**

Executive Director's Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, renewal applications and complaints/compliance matters. Other Relevant Topics discussed included the following:

- APTA-GA Recommendations
- ELDD Agreement
- CE Broker
- Changes at the Office
- New Administrative Policy Regarding Applications

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

**Board's Chairperson Report – D. Gaskin**

No report presented.

**Dr. Wallace motioned, Dr. Burner seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, pending cases, investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the**

Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Dorothy Gaskin, Anne Thompson, Charles Bass, Laurri Wallace, Terri Burner, Destiny Gaddis, and Norma Cortes.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Tuesday, September 21, 2021, Ms. Gaskin 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 taken during Executive Session.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Scheduled Board Appointments**

**11:00 a.m.      Applicant 2929388**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the request based on BR 490-3-.02(3).

**Executive Session Minutes – August 18, 2021 Executive Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the August 18, 2020 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Attorney General's Report – M. Tracy**

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

Charles Bass left the meeting at 10:37 a.m. a quorum of the Board still present.

**Cognizant Report – C. Whitefield**

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

**PT190009**      Close with a Letter of Concern to the therapist for not responding to the investigator.  
**PT200084**      Close the case.

Charles Bass joined the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

**PT200108**      Close case as Respondent is not a Physical Therapist, has closed the practice and is no longer in Georgia.  
**PT200131**      Refer back to Investigations.  
**PT210007**      Close with a Letter of Concern for not following MD orders.

**Miscellaneous Executive Discussion**

**1. Discharge Documentations and Recertifications – Correspondence**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Cortes seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify the writer that the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy and its administrative staff may not provide advice to any third party due to potential legal ramifications for providing such advice. As a result, it is suggested that they review the Georgia Physical Therapy Act or seek guidance from their personal legal counsel on the matter as this is not a considered a complaint.

**2. PT170169**      Dr. Burner motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for with a fine of \$500

for failing to complete all continuing education requirements within the biennium. Must provide proof of completion of 30 hours of continuing education in accordance with Board Rule 490-4-.02 and pay the fine in full within 90 days of the docket date. Flag for CE Audit.

Destiny Gaddis left the meeting at 11:55 a.m. a quorum of the Board still present.

- 3. PT200018** Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify Legal Services to resend the order notifying the Respondent that this is the final attempt. If fails to respond within the timeframe indicated, refer to Attorney General's Office for a hearing for revocation of licensure or Public Consent Order with a fine of \$500 for failing to complete all CE requirements within the biennium for the renewal of the license [O.C.G.A. § 43-33-16 and BR 490-4-.02]. Must pay the fine and complete 30 hours of CE within 90 days for of the docket date of the order. CE completed to satisfy the terms of the order shall not be used to satisfy any of the CE requirements for license renewal. Flag for CE Audit.

### **Applications for Board Review**

#### **Initial Applications**

Dr. Burner motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendation made in Executive Session:

**Applicant 2949148** Issue license with Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.

**Applicant 2937207** Issue license with Letter of Concern regarding medical history.

**Applicant 2968153** Issue license with Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.

**Applicant 2940685** Dr. Wallace motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to issue license with Letter of Concern regarding alcohol and mental health history. Dr. Thompson recused herself from the vote.

#### **Compact Privileges**

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

**CP007563A** Refer to Attorney General's Office for a hearing to revoke the compact privilege. In settlement, the Board will accept a Public Consent Order with terms and conditions to include passing the GA JAM within 15 days of notice and a fine of \$500 for false attestation when applying for the compact privilege. If fails the exam, the privilege is revoked.

**CP008049T** Refer to Attorney General's Office for a hearing to revoke the compact privilege. In settlement, the Board will accept a Public Consent Order with terms and conditions to include passing the GA JAM within 15 days of notice with a fine of \$500 for false attestation when applying for the privilege. If fails the exam, the privilege is revoked.

#### **Traineeship Agreements**

Dr. Burner motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendation made in Executive Session:

**Applicant 2966307** Deny traineeship request. Must take and pass the NPTE. In addition, the emergency rule on training permits was no longer in effect at the time the request was submitted.

**Applicant 2966317** Deny traineeship request. Must take and pass the NPTE. In addition, the emergency rule on training permits was no longer in effect at the time the request was submitted.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed by:** Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** November 16, 2021

**DOROTHY GASKIN**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**