

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dorothy Gaskin, Board Chair
Anne Thompson, Vice Chair
Charles Bass, Board Member
Destiny Gaddis, Board Member
Terri Burner, Board Member
Laurri Wallace, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor

Attorney General's Office

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

Board Members Absent

Norma Nunez-Cortes, Consumer Board Member

Visitors Present

Chad Whitefield, PTA
Dr. Fisayo Aloba
Dr. Kathleen Geist, PT, DPT, President, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA)
Dr. Sandra Eskew Capps, PT, DPT, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA)
Tina Spears

Call to Order: Ms. Gaskin established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Dr. Wallace motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Expressions of Gratitude for J. Chad Whitefield, Former Board Member

Ms. Gaskin recognized the long tenure and commitment of Chad Whitefield, PTA, in his great service to the profession, the Board and the citizens of Georgia as a Board Member and Complaint Cognizant. Mr. Whitefield responded by thanking the Board and staff for their kind words. He reported that he has moved out of state and his resignation from the Board has left him with bittersweet feelings because of the friends he has made. He congratulated the Board and staff for their excellence in representing the profession. Ms. Price confirmed that Mr. Whitefield received a plaque from the Board in recognition of his service. Ms. Gaskin, the other Board members and staff echoed that he will be sorely missed.

Open Session Minutes – March 29, 2022 Board Zoom Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the March 29, 2022 Open Session Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: March 1, 2022 – April 26, 2022

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass 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 – Discrimination Against Foreign Trained Physical Therapists, Claire Rogers

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to thank the writer for their submission and that the Board will take the information under consideration. Refer to the Rules Committee for consideration.

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

- 1. Faculty Newsletter First Quarter 2022**
- 2. March News Brief**
- 3. April News Brief**

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to FSBPT as information.

Petitions for Rule Waiver

1. BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) Rosalyn Pamaran Linsangan

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.

2. BR 490-2-.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(g) Shirley Simms

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 90-2-.03(1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(g) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

3. BR 490-2-.03(1)(a) Suyasha Pai

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)(a) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

4. BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) Suyasha Pai_2991060

- a) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Akhil Pai
- b) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Setu Sharma, PT
- c) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Garima Sharma
- d) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Ancilla Walker
- e) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Martin Busch
- f) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Dr. Philip A. Plante, PT, DSc, MA, FAAOMPT
- g) Comment for RULWVR BR 490-2-.03(a) & BR 490-2-.03(g) Suyasha Pai from Kumar Sanam, MD, FACC, RPVI

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Wallace 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.

5. BR 490-2-.04 Bhumiben Patel

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 490-2-.04 based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

6. BR 490-2-.03 Bhumiben Patel

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

7. BR 490-4-.01(3) & BR 490-4-.04 Rebecka Danielle Tennant

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 490-4-.01(3) & BR 490-4-.04 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

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

Dr. Geist updated the Board regarding their work on creating a list of traineeships on their homepage. APTA-GA has two (2) traineeship sites listed on the organization’s website with more coming in the next two (2) weeks. She noted that more clinics are being contacted and six (6) clinics have reached out to APTA-GA to become involved in the process.

Dr. Geist then queried the Board regarding the Joint Secretary 60-day Administrative Policy. Ms. Price explained that an applicant’s scores, verifications and transcripts can be accepted outside of the 60-day window if the late submission of those documents are outside of the control of the applicant provided that the applicant can provide proof that they have ordered the documentation to be sent and/or taken the examination timely.

Ms. Price continued that all other application requirements must be met 60 days from the date listed in the deficiency letter. Staff encourages applicants to apply for licensure close to the date that they have graduated and taken the exam so that all documentation to support the application is received and processed around the same time. Doing so expedites processing for the applicants and the Boards. She further explained that as this is an administrative policy of Secretary of State and not a Joint Secretary or Board Rule, there is no formal exemption or petition for rule waiver or variance process.

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:

- ELDD Agreement
- CE Broker
- Georgia General Assembly
- Annual Public Officer Affidavit

Ms. Price indicated that the Board will need to schedule a meeting to review some pending petitions for rule variance or waiver and that Ms. Hornaday will be polling the Board for meeting dates and times.

Dr. Wallace motioned, Dr. Burner 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

Ms. Gaskin and Dr. Geist both congratulated Dr. Sandra Eskew Capps on being the recipient of the Merit Award and the President Spotlight Award from AMTA-GA In recognition of her tireless and effective work in the field of Physical Therapy.

Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Wallace 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, Chuck Bass, Terri Burner, Destiny Gaddis, and Laurri Wallace.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 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

Executive Session Minutes – March 29, 2022 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the March 29, 2022 Executive Session Zoom Meeting Minutes as presented.

Attorney General’s Report – M. Tracy

AG MEMO PT200074 Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to rescind the previous motion to refer to the Attorney General’s Office and close the case.

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

Legal Services MEMO – Case for Closure – PT170169

Dr. Wallace motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$500 for failure to meet renewal requirements. Must provide proof of completion of 30 hours of continuing education in accordance with Board Rule 490-4-.02 within 90 days of the docket date. Flag for CE Audit.

Cognizant Summary Report – L. Wallace

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

- PT180099** Close the case.
- PT200125** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order with a \$500 fine and reprimand for unprofessional conduct. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the docket date.
- PT200131** Close the case due to lack of evidence.
- PT210012** Close the case.
- PT210017** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding unprofessional conduct towards a patient. Refer to principles of conduct for PTAs, specifically BR 490-9-.03(1).
- PT210020** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for an Order for Mental/ Physical Examination.
- PT220001** Close the case.
- PT220002** Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for an Order for Mental/ Physical Examination.
- PT220004** Close the case, no jurisdiction.
- PT220005** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding accuracy of documentation.

- PT220014** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding improper technique while dry needling.
- PT220018** Close the case.
- PT220021** Close the case.
- PT220024** Send deficiency letter by certified mail and if no response, refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$500 for false attestation on renewal application and failure to complete CE requirements.

Chuck Bass left the meeting at 11:21 a.m. with a quorum of the Board still present.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion

- 1. PT200072** Dr. Burner motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Private Consent Order to include quarterly personal and aftercare reports to include random drug screens. May petition to lift the order after demonstrating a minimum of four (4) years of continuous documented sobriety.

PT Compact Discussion – A. Thompson

The Board accepts the discussion on the PT Compact as information.

Applications for Board Review

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

Applications

- Applicant 2954050** Issue the license.
- Applicant 3003024** Issue the license.
- Applicant 3005645** After submission of 1.5 hours CE, issue the license.

Reinstatements

- Applicant 3007254** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$600 for unlicensed practice and terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

Renewals

- Applicant 2616241** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for false attestation on renewal application and completing CE hours after renewal biennium 2021 deadline with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: May 23, 2022

DOROTHY GASKIN
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR