

GEORGIA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS
Board WebEx Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 14, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

The Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers met via WebEx on Monday, April 14, 2025. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Diane King, Chairperson
Yusuf Ali, Vice Chair
Dr. Robert Kelly, MD, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

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

Board Members Absent

No members absent

Attorney General's Office Present

Vanessa Alva, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

Francis Gilbert
Robert Reyburn
Kaitlin I
Paul Higgs, AT, Past President, Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA), Governmental Affairs

Call to Order: Ms. King established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

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

Open Session Minutes – December 16, 2024 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the December 16, 2024, Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: December 12, 2024 – April 7, 2025

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali 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 Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

Discussion – Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA) – Sponsor for AT Practice Act Bill, Paul Higgs, Governmental Affairs, Past President

The Board Chair recognized Mr. Higgs and requested that he provide an update on the efforts to amend the Athletic Trainer Practice Act. Mr. Higgs reported over the course of the legislative session, the biggest point of contention has been the use of the word “conditions” in the definition of athletic injury. The opposition came from APTA-GA, and the Chiropractic and the Occupational Therapy member associations. He indicated that the bill passed in the House, went to the Regulated Industries Committee in the Senate, and is now on hold until the 2026 legislative session. In the meantime, GATA will continue to engage the other stakeholders to try and develop language that everyone can agree upon.

Mr. Higgs requested an updated Letter of Support from the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers which should provide more detail on the issues that need to be addressed for better public protection, and for the purpose of simplifying and streamlining the licensure process. He is requesting that the Letter of Support to also include a public statement that there is no threat to these other occupations.

Ms. King recommended that GATA secure letters of support from those professions who employ or work with Athletic Trainers such as the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to draft a more comprehensive letter of support directly from the Board to GATA for the next legislative session.

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the action to move forward with seeking additional support from the Georgia Composite Medical Board and other healthcare boards within the state and across the nation.

Discussion – Board of Certification (BOC)

- 1. Letter of Support of Proposed Changes to the Georgia Athletic Training Practice Act_20241202**
- 2. State Regulatory Network – Win for California – Passage of Athletic Training Title Protection**
- 3. Annual Privacy Policy Update**
- 4. Athletic Trainer Interstate Compact Draft is Ready for Review**

The Board accepted the correspondence regarding BOC as information.

Board President’s Report – D. King

No formal report was presented, but Ms. King reiterated that she has been working with Mr. Higgs through the legislative session to stay abreast of changes taking place and the progress being made to amend the athletic trainer practice act.

Executive Director’s Report – A. Price

The Executive Director’s report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications and complaints/compliance matters which have occurred since the last meeting. In addition, the following topic was discussed:

- PLB Updates
- Georgia General Assembly

Ms. King motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director’s Report as presented.

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali 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 Diane King, Yusel Ali, and Dr. Robert Kelly, MD.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Monday, April 14, 2025, Ms. King 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

Personal Appearance

12:30 p.m. AT250074

Ms. King motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to uphold the previous motion. The requested response must be received within 15 business days of the notification. If the requested response is not received within the timeframe indicated, deny licensure based on unlicensed practice.

Executive Session Minutes – December 16, 2024 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ali motioned, Ms. King seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the December 16, 2024 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Attorney General’s Report – V. Alva

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

Legal Services MEMO

Mr. Ali motioned, Ms. King seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

1. Legal Services Memo

a) Case for Ratification – AT250073

Accept the order as received.

b) Requests for Reconsideration

- i. AT250074** Uphold the previous motion. The requested response must be received within 15 business days of the notification. If the requested response is not received within the timeframe indicated, deny licensure based on unlicensed practice.
- ii. AT250067** Table pending information. If provided, rescind the previous motion, close the case and issue the license. If not provided, uphold the previous motion.

c) Open Records Request/Subpoena for Production of Documents – RFP 25-4

Deny the request to release any information except that which is currently publicly available on the Board website.

Cognizant Summary Report – D. King

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Cognizant Summary Report as presented.

- AT250076** Close due to no jurisdiction.
- AT250075** Close due to no jurisdiction.
- AT250070** Close due to no jurisdiction.
- AT250072** Close due to no jurisdiction.
- AT240004** Close the case. If Respondent attempts to re-apply, the case will be reconsidered.

Cognizant Ratification Report

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the following Cognizant recommendations as presented.

- 4191538** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order/Agreement for License Reinstatement with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice September 1, 2024 to November 15, 2024. CE hours submitted for Reinstatement cannot be used to meet the CE requirement for the renewal biennium March 30, 2026. Flag for Audit.
- 4129271** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from July 15, 2024 to December 16, 2024. Fine to be paid in full within ninety (90) days of the order docket date. CE hours taken for reinstatement cannot be applied to future license renewal biennium. Flag for Audit
- 4157104** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from September 2024 to February 28, 2025. Fine to be paid in full within ninety (90) days of the order docket date. CE hours taken for reinstatement cannot be applied to future license renewal. Flag for Audit.
- 4195891** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice from July 31, 2023 to February 28, 2025. Fine to be paid in full within ninety (90) days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.
- 4181069** Approve for licensure based on receipt of additional information.

Applications for Board Review

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

- Applicant 4104308** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for License Reinstatement for unlicensed practice 03/11/2024 - current with a fine of \$500. Fine to be paid within ninety (90) days of the docket date of the order. Flag for Audit.
- Applicant 4120256** Send a deficiency letter via certified mail requiring a response within 15 business days. If fails to respond, deny renewal and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for revocation of licensure based on failure to demonstrate the qualifications or standards for a license O.C.G.A. §§43-1-19(a)(1), 43-5-9(c), and BR 53-6-.01.
- Applicant 4119461** Renew the license with a Letter of Concern regarding violation of BR 53-6-.01(2).

Adjournment There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor, Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: June 9, 2025

DIANE KING
BOARD PRESIDENT

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF
PUBLIC MEETING**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question.

Comes now Diane G. King the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On APRIL 14, 2025 this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was:
O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h)
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:
To deliberate applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT


Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 15 day of April 2025


Notary Public

HET AMIN
NOTARY PUBLIC
Gwinnett County
State of Georgia
My Comm. Expires Nov. 21, 2028