

GEORGIA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS
Board WebEx Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 9, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

The Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers met via WebEx on Monday, June 9, 2025. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Diane King, AT, Chairperson
Yusuf Ali, Consumer Board Member, Vice Chair
Dr. Robert Kelly, MD, Board Member
Jeffrey Hopp, AT, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

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

Gregory Lewis
Jessica Carter Bennett
Tracy H., Office Manager, Northeast Georgia Orthopedic Group
Shannon Flemming, Sr. Vice President of Credentialing, Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC)
Paul Higgs, AT, Past President, Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA), Governmental Affairs
Matthew Rugger
Jack L
Call-in User 1

Administrative Staff Absent

Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Call to Order: Ms. King established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

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

Welcome New Board Member, Mr. Jeffrey Hopp, AT

Mr. Hopp introduced himself and was welcomed by the Board members and staff. He stated that it is an honor to be serving on the Board.

Open Session Minutes – April 14, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Hopp seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the April 14, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: April 8, 2025 – June 1, 2025

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Hopp seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in the 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 – Board of Certification (BOC)

1. **AT Compact Open Comment Period Closing Soon**
2. **Regulatory Update – Athletic Trainer Interstate Compact Makes Progress**
3. **SAVE THE DATE – Brad Sheman Regulatory Conference (CARE Conference) 2025**

Ms. King invited Ms. Flemming, Sr. Vice President of Credentialing at BOC, to update the Board on the AT Compact Comment Period. She stated that they have been in the process of reviewing public feedback and making changes on the information received which is primarily to clarify language. Ms. Flemming said this would be finalized in the next several weeks and BOC will hold a Legislative Summit at the end of August showcasing the updates. States who are interested in becoming part of the Compact will be invited to the Summit to be held at the BOC Headquarters in Omaha, NE.

The Board accepted the correspondence and remarks regarding BOC as information.

Discussion – Letter of Support for Amending the Athletic Trainer Practice Act

Ms. King reported that the Letter of Support will be reviewed by the Executive Director, Adrienne Price, and suggested that Dr. Kelly reach out to the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) as well as the Georgia Orthopedic Society (GOS) to garner their support as well. Mr. Higgs stated that most push back should be remedied when it is understood that Athletic Trainers act under the supervision of a physician in the use of dry needling.

Ms. King noted that the National Athletic Trainers' Association's (NATA) position on Dry Needling was considered in amending the Georgia Athletic Trainer Practice Act, but because the other work on the Practice Act was more vital, dry needling language was removed to avoid any potential barriers to garnering the necessary support for HB 314 to pass through both chambers of the legislature.

Mr. Hopp motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Dr. Kelly to receive the finalized Letter of Support and use it to garner support from MAG and the GOS and to share the letter with Ms. Flemming at BOC.

Yusef Ali joined the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

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 in an effort to stay abreast of changes taking place and progress being made for GATA to move forward with HB 314 by drafting a more comprehensive letter of support directly from the Board to GATA for the next legislative session.

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

Dr. Kelly 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. Hopp 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, Jeffrey Hopp, and Dr. Robert Kelly, MD.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Monday, June 9, 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

Executive Session Minutes – April 14, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ali motioned, Mr. Hopp seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the April 14, 2025 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. Hopp motioned, Dr. Kelly 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) Cases for Ratification

- i. AT250074**
- ii. AT250079**
- iii. AT250068**
- iv. AT250066**
- v. AT250078**

Accept orders as received.

b) Request for Reconsideration

- i. AT250080**

Uphold previous motion.

Cognizant Summary Report – D. King

AT240003 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Licensure for unlicensed practice from 02/01/2022 – 03-14-2025 with a fine of \$2000 per Board Policy D2. Fine to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.

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

Applications for Board Review

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

Applicant 3121195/4119915 Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Memorandum of Advice.

Applicant 4229896 Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Agreement for Licensure for unlicensed practice from 02/01/2022 – 03-14-2025 with a fine of \$2000 to be paid within 90 days of the order docket date per Policy D2. Flag for Audit.

Applicant 4168827 Issue the license.

- Applicant 4171427** Issue the license.
- Applicant 4223474** Issue the license.
- Applicant 4250249** Issue the license.
- Applicant 4203404** Refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for unlicensed practice 09/01/2024-current. Fine to be paid within ninety (90) days of the order docket date. Flag for Audit.

Miscellaneous Discussion – GATA Liaison

Mr. Ali motioned, Ms. King seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to appoint Board Member, Jeffrey Hopp, as the Board liaison for the Georgia Athletic Trainer’s Association for the purpose of assisting with legislative action.

Adjournment There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor, Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: September 22, 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, June 9, 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 9 day of June 2025



Notary Public

JONATHAN MILTON ALMOND
NOTARY PUBLIC
Hall County
State of Georgia
My Comm. Expires Jan. 25, 2026