

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Special Projects Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

The Special Projects Committee of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via WebEx meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. The following Committee members were present:

Committee Members Present

Laurri Wallace, Committee Chair
Claire Mullin, Committee Member

Committee Members Absent

Charles Bass, Committee Member

Visitors Present

Dr. Sandra Eskew Capps, PT, DPT, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA)
Dr. Carly Ritter, PT, DPT, Assistant Professor, Augusta University

Administrative Staff Present

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

Attorney General's Office

No Attorney General present.

Call to Order: Dr. Wallace called the Rules Committee meeting to order at 12:23 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda The Committee accepts the agenda as presented.

Discussion – Traineeship Requirements and Processes

At the recommendation of the Board Chair, Anne Thompson, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy voted during their September 30, 2025 WebEx meeting to charge this committee with the review of Traineeship Requirements and Processes for the purpose of streamlining the pathway to licensure for internationally educated applicants, and to make it clear that the applicant needs to submit their traineeship information before requesting a petition to waive or vary the traineeship.

The Committee was also tasked to create a guide for the process to include changing or creating forms. The Committee discussed that the traineeship is a requirement of law that the Board has no authority to remove, but it is completely up to the Board how an applicant completes the traineeship, to include means aside from what is listed on the competency evaluation. The Committee is charged to outline those alternatives option to present to the Board.

The Committee stated that “clinical competency” may need to be further defined, particularly if the Board accepts teaching as a demonstration of “clinical competency.” It was stated that “teaching” has not traditionally been considered clinical practice in terms of fulfilling the traineeship requirements; however, there could be an argument made that since teaching is within the scope of physical therapy practice that those hours of work should count towards meeting any clinical competency requirements. The applicant’s practice as well as any traineeship evaluation forms would then need to be reviewed in a way that clarifies how clinical skills are assessed in the academic setting vs those practicing in more clinical settings, particularly since the definition of clinical competence may not be synonymous with the definition of practice of physical therapy that is within the practice act. The Committee determined that it may be necessary to refer the definition of “clinical competency” to the Rules Committee to consider if teaching should be incorporated within the definition and to propose language to put in the Board Rules.

There must be a continuous five (5) years of experience to demonstrate competence which must be documented with a verification of licensure from another jurisdiction, or verification of continuous active practice, for example with a letter from the employer. The Committee recommends that the Rules Committee include language in the rules that inform applicants of the acceptable ways to verify 5 years of continuous practice in the field. Additional considerations might be for the rules to include an allowance for those who have moved from one job and completed the onboarding process at a new position. In example, their practice may still be considered “continuous” if there is

no more than a 30-day gap between dates of employment. The Committee further determined that employment gaps of more than 30 days should require more substantive justification. The Committee indicated that a definition of “continuous” may also need to be added to the rules as well as any forms if the Attorney General grants authority to make changes to the rules. A list of exemptions for demonstrating continuous practice should also be included in the rule defining the term.

Dr. Mullin volunteered to investigate the FSBPT supervised clinical practice tool, and our current “performance evaluation tool” as well as other jurisdictional performance evaluation tools. She will share her findings with the Special Projects Committee. Ms. Price recommended that Dr. Mullin review the evaluations from the states of Texas, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and New York, as those states tend to have a high volume of foreign educated applicants for licensure.

Ms. Price requested that the committee gather any information relevant to this subject and provide to her for the next Special Projects Committee meeting which will be scheduled after the first of the year to allow the Committee time to compile the information and develop a strategy for the Traineeship process going forward.

To further inform the work of the committee, Chair Wallace will report the Committee’s discussion to the Board during the November 18, 2025, meeting to determine if it is the pleasure of the Board to allow candidates to document teaching as proof of clinical competency

Adjournment There being no further business to discuss, the Committee meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: November 18, 2025

LAURRI WALLACE
COMMITTEE CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNE THOMPSON
BOARD CHAIR