

GEORGIA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS
Board WebEx Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 8, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

The Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers met via WebEx on Monday, December 8, 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

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

Paul Higgs, AT, Past President, Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA), Governmental Affairs
Dr. Ben Braxley, PT, President, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA)
Barney Poole, AT, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA) Legislative Committee
Dr. Sandra Eskew Capps, PT, DPT, American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA)
JB

Call to Order: Ms. King established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

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

Open Session Minutes – September 22, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the September 22, 2025 Open Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: September 15, 2025 – November 30, 2025

Mr. Hopp motioned, Mr. Ali 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 – GATA APTA GA Proposed Practice Act Changes, J. Hopp

Mr. Hopp reported that American Physical Therapy Association-Georgia (APTA-GA) members met with Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA) members in a discussion of HB 314, and that APTA-GA has returned with more changes than that which was approved during their September 2025 meeting. He continued that GATA wants to move forward with the current bill, as it is presently worded, as the changes being proposed by APTA-GA will greatly limit the current scope of practice for athletic trainers. He remarked that APTA-GA proposed additional language because they felt further clarification and limitations were needed.

Dr. Braxley, President of APTA-GA addressed the Board stating they do not feel comfortable with the current bill and will seek to oppose it if it is presented without the amendments they suggested. Mr. Higgs expressed his frustration with the contention created between the two groups now that even more amendments have been suggested by APTA-GA following the September meeting. He continued that the current bill is not averse to what

other practice acts include, and he is disappointed that they all left the meeting in September feeling pretty good about the language, albeit preliminary, that was agreed upon to now be asked to make additional changes. Dr. Braxley responded that he is discouraged hearing GATA thinks of APTA-GA as opponents and indicated that what the two groups worked on was genuinely done in good faith and not in an attempt to be oppositional at all, as the language agreed upon in September was preliminary and needed to be shared with the APTA-GA Board and its counsel.

Mr. Hopp motioned, Ms. King seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in the favor of the motion to support GATA's position to move forward in this legislative session with the version of HB 314 that was proposed in the 2025 session.

Discussion – Board of Certification (BOC)

- 1. 529 Plans Can Now Fund Licensing and Certification Costs for ATs**
- 2. Regulatory Update – The AT Compact Moves Forward – Highlights from the Legislative Summit**
- 3. “Cert Update” – Winter 2025**

The Board accepted the correspondence regarding BOC as information.

AT Compact – Council of State Governments – Meeting Summary (Omaha, NE) - Paul Higgs, GATA

Mr. Higgs provided an update on the Council of State Governments' efforts to assist states with enacting the AT Compact and noted that the AT Compact is still in preliminary stages. He also stated that Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA) is in support of the Compact, but does not intend to move forward with proposing it to the legislature at this time as their first consideration is HB 314.

The Board accepted the correspondence regarding AT Compact – Council of State Governments as information.

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
- Changes to Board Portal for GOALS

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

Board President's Report – D. King

No official report was presented. Ms King thanked everyone for their support of her as the Board Chair since the resignation of Russell Hoff last December. She remarked that she greatly appreciates the continuity provided by the staff, and the current Board members, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Ali, and Mr. Hopp.

Mr. Hopp motioned, Dr. Kelly 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, December 8, 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 – September 22, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hopp motioned, Mr. Ali seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the September 22, 2025 Executive Session WebEx Meeting Minutes as presented.

Attorney General’s Report – V. Alva

1. AT260005

Mr. Hopp motioned, Dr. Kelly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to rescind the previous motion and refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Renewal of Licensure with a fine of \$500 for failure to meet CE requirements for the renewal of the license. Must complete 40 hours of board approved CE and pay the fine within 90 days of the order docket date. CE taken to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the next renewal cycle. Flag for CE Audit.

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

Legal Services MEMO

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

1. Case for Ratification – AT260004

Accept the order as received.

2. Request for Cancellation/Withdrawal of Application – AT260007

Grant request to withdraw application.

Cognizant Summary Report – D. King

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

AT250081 Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a Public Consent Order for Indefinite Suspension of Licensure based on violations of GA Rules and Regulations 360-3-.02 Unprofessional Conduct and O.C.G.A 43-1-19(a)(8) with terms and conditions to include a period of suspension for a minimum of six (6) months. After six months, may petition to lift the suspension upon satisfactory completion of coursework approved by the Board and the submission of the results of a psychosexual mental physical examination. Suspension may be lifted under terms and conditions and determined by the Board. Continuing education used to satisfy the order may not be used to meet continuing education requirements for license renewal. Flag for Audit.

AT240005 Close the case due to insufficient evidence.

AT260003 Close the case with a Letter of Concern to the Respondent and to the employer based on holding a person out as an athletic trainer when they are not licensed and/or aiding and abetting the false advertisement of a licensed athletic trainer, in violation of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-9(a)(7) and 43-5-7.

Complaint Status Report

Dr. Kelly motioned, Mr. Hopp seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Complaint Status Report as presented.

- AT250079 Public Consent Agreement for Licensure.
- AT260006 Private Consent Agreement.
- AT260009 Pending Legal Services/ Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement.
- AT240005 Pending Cognizant Review.
- AT250068 Public Consent Order for License Renewal.
- AT250069 Pending Investigation.
- AT250081 Pending Board Review.
- AT250083 Pending Complainant.
- AT260005 Pending Attorney General’s Office.
- AT260007 Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement.
- AT260008 Public Consent Order.
- AT240003 Public Consent Agreement for Licensure.
- AT260003 Pending Board Review.

Adjournment There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed by: Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor, Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: March 16, 2026

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 GA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS Board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement, 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, DECEMBER 8, 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

Diane G. King
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 9 day of 2025 2025

[Signature]
Notary Public

