

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

MINUTES Regular Scheduled Board Meeting December 14, 2023

APPROVED

Proceedings for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, taken in regular session on December 14, 2023 at Board office, 2110 W Pinhook Rd, Ste 202, Lafayette, LA 70508. A quorum of Board Members was present.

Present

Chairman Judith Halverson
Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn “Katie” Brittain
Oday Lavergne
Meredith Warner
Deandra Narcisse
Tyra Mitchell
Philip Page

Absent with Regrets

Tyra Mitchell entered the meeting at 10:03am. Deandra Narcisse arrived for the meeting at 10:43am.

Board member John Marius resigned from the board as of November 17, 2023. The PTA position is currently vacant.

The following Advisory Committee members were present either in person or via Zoom.

Present

Marie Vazquez Morgan
Lindsey Robinson

Absent with Regrets

Michael Laudadio
Michael Hildebrand
Jeremy Dye
Chris Franks
John Rocco DeLara
Benjamin McRae
Naikia Woodrich

From staff and contracted entities, Charlotte Martin, Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Jessica Alwell, and Compliance Officer, Stephanie Boudreaux were present. Board attorney Jim Raines was present. Cristina Faucheux, PT was also present.

On Zoom, licensees Marcus Houston and Amanda Brewer were present.

Chairman Halverson called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Judith moved to approve the agenda as written. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Oday Lavergne moved to approve the November 2023 minutes as written. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Phil Page moved to enter Executive Session. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Oday Lavergne moved to exit Executive Session. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Phil Page moved to accept the consent order as written for case# 2023-I-032 and the findings of fact in the matter of Matthew Bridges license #07911. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Phil Page moved to accept the consent order as written for case# 2022-I-020 and the findings of fact in the matter of Marcus Houston license #A10023. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE & TASKFORCE REPORTS

Website – no updates

CEU – no updates

Operations & Outreach

The committee presented the board with recommended changes to the current Minimum Data Set (MDS) survey questions.

Oday Lavergne moved to accept the recommended changes to the Minimum Data Set survey questions and implement these changes to both the links completed by applicants seeking licensure and licensees renewing a license beginning with the 2024 renewal cycle. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Practice Act

The committee presented the board with final recommended changes to the Practice Act to consider.

Oday Lavergne moved to authorize the Practice Act committee to educate and inform state officials and relevant stakeholders of proposed changes to the practice act, but in no event shall any board member request that legislators vote in favor of or against any proposed legislation. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Discipline

The committee presented the board with a recommendation to alter the new Investigative Committee makeup starting in 2024.

Judith Halverson moved to approve the Discipline Committee's recommendation to appoint 2 Advisory Committee Members and 1 Board member as the standing members of the new Investigative Committee. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

Real Estate

Mrs. Martin provided the board with an update from the Real Estate Taskforce.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairman's Report

None.

Secretary/Treasurer

None.

Executive Director

Mrs. Martin provided the following reports:

Licenses Issued from October 27, 2023 through December 7, 2023

Total: 34

PTs: 23

- Initial: 15
- Reciprocity: 5
- Provisional: 0
- Reinstatement: 3

PTAs: 11

- Initial: 6
- Reciprocity: 3
- Provisional: 0
- Reinstatement: 2

Physical Therapy Compact Privilege to Practice issued from October 31, 2023 – December 7, 2023

Initial: 14

Renewal: 2

Total: 16

YTD: 187

Complaints Summary

Currently open on licensees: 34

- Boundaries: 4
- Fraud/Billing/Documentation: 18
- Substance Abuse: 1
- Malpractice: 0
- Unprofessional Conduct: 0
- Criminal Conviction: 6
- Previous Disciplinary Action: 0
- CEU Non-Compliance: 0
- Practice-Related Issues: 5

Currently open on non-licensees: 1

Complaints Received: 2

Informal Conferences: 10

Hearings scheduled/notices sent: 2

Appeals: 0

Proposed Consent Order/Voluntary Surrender: 2

Closed Cases: 6

Mrs. Martin presented the board with a request to contract with a two new investigators to assist the board.

Oday Lavergne moves to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with Paul Kimball and Sarah Barrow to provide investigative services to the Board. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Martin presented the board with two inquiries received from licensees.

Question 1 stated:

Hello, my name is Jeremy Calix and I am a newly licensed PTA. I work PRN part time in outpatient care, and I would like to create the opportunity for myself to be able to work independently (self employed) when I am not working in the clinic. I was curious as to what the limitations of a PTA are to work independently on a cash pay basis. For example, am I allowed to present myself to the public as a Soft Tissue Massage specialist, a Stretching Specialist, or a Fitness Expert, etc? I don't want to do anything to put my license at risk or do anything that can be perceived as misleading.

I have heard of PTAs in other states starting their own businesses, but they are required to call it Rehab instead of Therapy. Any guidance would be greatly appreciated.

The board discussed the question and authorized Mrs. Martin to send a response stating that PTAs must follow the Practice Act and to consult with an attorney if they believe the activities of work are outside the scope of the practice act. Whether a licensee is working on cash pay, insurance, or for free they must follow the Practice Act.

Question 2 stated:

I need clarification. I had an attorney call me to testify in court for a former patient. Is this something I can do or would this be considered "practicing"?

The board discussed the question and confirmed that her suspension does not restrict her from testifying about a former patient.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Phil Page moved to adjourn the meeting. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board meeting was adjourned at 1:32pm.