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New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
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## NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

**October 24, 2017**

A regular meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners was held at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey, in the Somerset Conference Room, 6th Floor, on Tuesday October 24, 2017. The meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. **Cindy Moore, Vice Chairperson of the Board**, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and a roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded:

BARBARA J. BEHRENS, P.T.A.	Present
DAVID BERTONE, P.T.	Present
JEAN BICKAL, ESQ	Present
NANCY KIRSCH, P.T.	Excused
CINDY MOORE, P.T.	Present
BETH SARFATY, P.T.	Excused
RICHARD STONEKING, P.T.	Present
KAREN WILK, P.T.	Excused

Also present were: **Carmen Rodriguez, Deputy Attorney General and Lisa Tadeo, Executive Director**

**Members of the public:** Cathy Chin, representative of Select Medical; Jessica Fulmino, PT representative of Genesis and Amabelle Daplin-Stech, PT, Nikka MacKencie, PT and Chrissy Buteas representatives of Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey and Daniel Kalemea, PT.

#### I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amabelle Daplin-Stech, PT, verbally commented on Senate No. 1315, specifically wound debridement.

Jessica Fulmino, PT, and Chrissy Buteas each verbally commented on Senate 1315, specifically the supervision of physical therapist assistants. Chrissy Buteas also verbally commented on the displaying of licenses.

Jessica Fulmino, PT, also verbally commented on telemedicine.

## **II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 BOARD MEETING**

A motion was made by Barbara J. Behrens and seconded by Richard Stoneking to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2017 Board meeting as amended. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Continuing Education Course Reviewers' Recommendations**

The Board reviewed the recommendations of the course reviewers at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, for continuing education courses submitted by sponsors for the Board's approval. A motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Richard Stoneking to accept the course reviewers' recommendations as presented. The 72 approved courses will be posted on the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners' website. Twenty eight courses were denied, as they did not meet all the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **B. Requests for Reconsideration of Denied Continuing Education Courses**

1. PDH Academy  
Course, "Autoimmune Disorders in the Hands: Diagnosis, Treatment and Therapeutic Interventions"

PDH Academy wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, "Autoimmune Disorders in the Hands: Diagnosis, Treatment and Therapeutic Interventions". PDH Academy provided the Board with additional information and asked the Board to reconsider the approval of this course.

After the Board reviewed the information, a motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Barbara J. Behrens to reaffirm the Board's denial of this course as it did not meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. Institute of Physical Art  
Course, "PNF1: Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation I"

Institute of Physical Art wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, "PNF1: Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation I" and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by Barbara J. Behrens and seconded by Jean Bickal to approve the course, "PNF1 Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation I" as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Elite Professional Education  
Course, “Plantar Fasciitis Diagnosis and Treatment”

Elite Professional Education wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “Plantar Fasciitis Diagnosis and Treatment”. Elite Professional Education provided the Board with additional information and asked the Board to reconsider the approval of this course.

After the Board reviewed the information, a motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Richard Stoneking to reaffirm the Board’s denial of this course as it did not meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Elite Professional Education  
Course, “Common Injuries and Therapy Management for Runners”

Elite Professional Education wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “Common Injuries and Therapy Management for Runners”. Elite Professional Education provided the Board with additional information and asked the Board to reconsider the approval of this course.

After the Board reviewed the information, a motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Richard Stoneking to reaffirm the Board’s denial of this course as it did not meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. Elite Professional Education  
Course, “Ethics for the Physical Therapist”

Elite Professional Education wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “Ethics for the Physical Therapist”. Elite Professional Education provided the Board with additional information and asked the Board to reconsider the approval of this course.

After the Board reviewed the information, a motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Richard Stoneking to reaffirm the Board’s denial of this course as it did not meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Challenge Early Intervention Center  
Course, “Respiratory/Phonatory Issues in Children with Developmental Disabilities: An Overview”

Challenge Early Intervention Center wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “Respiratory/Phonatory Issues in Children with Developmental Disabilities: An Overview” and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by Richard Stoneking and seconded by Jean Bickal to approve the course, “Respiratory/Phonatory Issues in Children with Developmental Disabilities: An Overview” as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7. New Jersey Institute for Disabilities – Lakeview School  
Course, “24 Hour Postural Care: Supporting People with Motor Impairments”

New Jersey Institute for Disabilities wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “24 Hour Postural Care: Supporting People with Motor Impairments” and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by Richard Stoneking and seconded by Jean Bickal to approve the course, “24 Hour Postural Care: Supporting People with Motor Impairments” as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8. Professional Seminars Ltd  
Course, “Demystifying the Pelvis: The Hesch Approach”

New Jersey Institute for Disabilities wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “24 Hour Postural Care: Supporting People with Motor Impairments” and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by Richard Stoneking and seconded by Jean Bickal to approve the course, “24 Hour Postural Care: Supporting People with Motor Impairments” as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Medbridge Education  
Course, “Balance Retraining: Assessment of Sensory Systems”

Medbridge Education wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, “Balance Retraining: Assessment of Sensory Systems” and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Jean Bickal to approve the course, “Balance Retraining: Assessment of Sensory Systems” as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. Medbridge Education  
Course, "Balance Retraining Creating Effective Interventions through Sensory Weighting"

Medbridge Education wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, "Balance Retraining Creating Effective Interventions through Sensory Weighting" and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Barbara J. Behrens to approve the course, "Balance Retraining Creating Effective Interventions through Sensory Weighting" as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

11. PDH Academy  
Course, "The Pediatric Foot: Anatomical Development, Clinical Assessment and Considerations for Intervention"

PDH Academy wrote the Board concerning the denial of their course, "The Pediatric Foot: Anatomical Development, Clinical Assessment and Considerations for Intervention" and provided the Board with additional information.

A motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Barbara J. Behrens to approve the course, "The Pediatric Foot: Anatomical Development, Clinical Assessment and Considerations for Intervention" as it now meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et. seq. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- D. Board Discussion with Regulatory Analyst, Charles Manning  
RE: Senate No. 1315  
(Synopsis – Revises statutes regarding practice of physical therapy)

The Board discussed draft regulations. The Board will continue the discussion a future meeting.

- E. Kathleen V. Referente  
RE: National Physical Therapy Exam  
Appeal Form

Ms. Referente has taken the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) several times and has not achieved a passing score. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy will not allow her to register for another exam as she has exceeded the number attempts permitted to pass the NPTE. Ms. Referente provided the Board with a completed NPTE appeal form and asked that she be allowed to take the NPTE again.

A motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Barbara J. Behrens to deny Ms. Referente's request as the Board decided at its May 23, 2017 meeting to discontinue granting appeal requests to take the NPTE. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- F. Inquiry from Cortney Hassler, PT  
RE: Dry Needling

Ms. Hassler informed the Board that based on the Attorney General's opinion, insurance companies are denying payment. Ms. Hassler asked for the Board to consider releasing a statement that dry needling services were not precluded prior to September 1, 2017.

A motion was made by David Bertone and seconded by Richard Stoneking to inform Ms. Hassler that the Board reiterates the information that was provided in the Board's notice mailed to all licensed physical therapists and that is posted on the Board's website. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- G. Inquiry from Danica Sutphen, PT  
RE: Senate No. 1315

Ms. Sutphen noted that integumentary protection language was removed from the amended law. MS. Sutphen stated that pressure ulcer prevention strategies would be considered inclusive with integumentary protection. Ms. Sutphen inquired if preventative strategies are inclusive with "application of interventions for the promotion, improvement, and maintenance of fitness, health, wellness, and prevention services in populations of all ages exclusively related to physical therapy practice".

A motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Barbara J. Behrens to inform Ms. Sutphen that the provision of pressure ulcer prevention strategies is within the scope of practice under the amended law. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- H. Inquiry from Robyn Kaczala, PT  
RE: Reactivation

Ms. Kaczala informed the Board that she has been on inactive status since 2012 and is interested in reactivating her license. Ms. Kaczala also informed the Board that she has not practiced in the profession since 2012.

A motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Richard Stoneking to inform Ms. Kaczala that in pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.4(e), the Board will consider her reactivation application after she completes oPTION, an on-line assessment tool which is offered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy ( "the FSBPT), and submits her results to the Board for review. A vote was taking and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- I. Khusboo Brahmbhatt

Ms. Brahmbhatt asked the Board to waive the TOEFL requirement. Ms. Brahmbhatt informed the Board that she is licensed in New York and her primary school education as well as her Bachelor of Physical Therapy was conducted in the English language.

A motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Barbara J. Behrens to deny Ms. Brahmbhatt' waiver request. Ms. Brahmbhatt must take and pass all the sections of the TOEFL pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:39A-5.7 as she received her entry level physical therapy degree from a non-CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education) accredited foreign educational institution. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

J. New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners December 19, 2017  
Board Meeting

A motion was made by Jean Bickal and seconded by Richard Stoneking to cancel the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners December 19, 2017 Board meeting due to a lack of a quorum. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**IV. INFORMATIONAL**

A. Signed Settlement letters

1. Peter T. Kofitsas, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Peter T. Kofitsas, PT.

2. Beverly Clarke, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Beverly Clarke, PT.

3. Mariecris A. Abamonga, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Mariecris A. Abamonga, PT.

4. Miyoshi Ramirez, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Miyoshi Ramirez, PT.

5. Birlynn Octava-Sta. Clara, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Birlynn Octava-Sta.Clara, PT.

6. Peter Scordo, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Peter Scordo, PT.

7. Tony Najjar, PTA

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Tony Najjar, PT.

8. Melissa Lynn Cordaro, PTA

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Melissa Lynn Cordaro, PTA.

9. Thomas Bianco, Jr., PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Thomas Bianco, Jr., PT.

10. Elena M. Smith, PTA

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Elena M. Smith, PTA.

11. Susan M. Karl, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Susan M. Karl, PT.

12. Lara Heimann, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Lara Heimann, PT.

13. Richard M. Klatt, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Richard M. Klatt, PT.

14. Catherine L. Siazon-Leviste, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Catherine L. Siazon-Leviste, PT.

15. Holly Johnson, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Holly Johnson, PT.



16. Amy Wujick, PTA

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Amy Wujick, PT.

17. Ricardo Ergina Erlano, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Ricardo Ergina Erlano, PT.

18. Shasta Vg Castro-Penullar, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of Shasta Vg Castro-Penullar, PT.

19. John Elexon Buco, PT

The Board reviewed a signed and accepted Settlement letter dated August 31, 2017 in the matter of John Elexon Buco, PT.

Upon a motion made by Jean Bickal and seconded by David Bertone, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss applications and matters involving investigations of violations of the Board's enabling act, the Uniform Enforcement Act and/or Board regulations.

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

1. Bhakti Pabrekar
2. Nidhi Mehta
3. Enric Gestopa
4. Chitra Vidiyala
5. Neelambari Toraskar
6. Simone Cox
7. Devankumar Sutaria

**APPLICATIONS NOT APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

1. Pia Salmi
2. Gopi Mehta
3. Faramir Medrano Uy-Nario
4. Nehal Chandramauli
5. Chandni Patel
6. Marife Tuguinay

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board returned to Public Session and a motion was made by Richard Stoneking and seconded by David Bertone to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 P.M. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Tadeo  
Executive Director