



**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
Governor

## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs  
New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



**PAULA T. DOW**  
Attorney General

**KIM GUADAGNO**  
Lt. Governor

### NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

**THOMAS R. CALCAGNI**  
Director

#### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

**November 22, 2011**

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 45014  
Newark, NJ 07101  
(973) 504-6455

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 November 22, 2011. The meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. **Karen Wilk, Chairperson of the Board**, called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M. and a roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded:

CAROLANNE AARON, P.T.	Present
BARBARA J. BEHRENS, P.T.A.	Excused
JEAN BICKAL, ESQ	Excused
MARY B. BROWNE, P.T.	Present
DENNISE KRENCICKI, P.T.	Present
NANCY KIRSCH, P.T.	Present
CINDY MOORE, P.T.	Present
SUSAN M. QUICK	Excused
KAREN WILK, P.T.	Present

Also present were: **Susan Berger, Deputy Attorney General; Lisa Affinito, Executive Director**

**Members of the public: Cathy Chin, representative of Select Medical and Kenneth Maily, PT**

#### I. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011 BOARD MEETING

Upon a motion made by Nancy Kirsch and seconded by Dennise Krencicki, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2011 Board meeting as amended. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

#### III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2012

Lisa Affinito, Executive Director, took the chair to conduct the election of Board Officers for 2012.

Ms. Affinito called for nominations for Chairperson and a motion was made by Nancy Kirsch and seconded by Mary Browne to nominate Dennise Krencicki for Chairperson of the Board of 2012. Ms. Affinito called for further nominations and there were none. Nancy Kirsch then made a motion, seconded by Cindy Moore to close the nominations and elect Dennise Krencicki Chairperson of the Board by acclamation. The vote of the Board was unanimous.

Ms. Affinito called for nominations for Vice Chairperson and a motion was made by Nancy Kirsch and seconded by Dennise Krencicki to nominate Karen Wilk for Vice Chairperson of the Board for 2012. Ms. Affinito called for further nominations and there were none. Nancy Kirsch then made a motion, seconded by Mary Browne to close the nominations and elect Karen Wilk Vice President by acclamation. The vote of the Board was unanimous.

Ms. Affinito called for nominations for Secretary and a motion was made by Mary Browne and seconded by Dennise Krencicki to nominate Cindy Moore for Secretary of the Board for 2012. Ms. Affinito called for further nominations and there were none. Carolanne Aaron then made a motion, seconded by Mary Browne to close the nominations and elect Cindy Moore Secretary of the Board by acclamation. The vote of the Board was unanimous.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Dennise Krencicki and Nancy Kirsch were recused and did not participate in the discussion.

The Board reviewed the recommendations of the course reviewers at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) for continuing education courses submitted by sponsors for the Board's approval. A motion was made by Mary Browne and seconded by Cindy to accept the course reviewers' recommendations as presented. The 45 approved courses and the 6 denied courses will be posted on the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners' website. The course that was denied did not meet all the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9 et seq. Barbara J. Behrens was available by telephone and participated in the vote. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

##### **B. Letter from Mercer County Community College RE: Celenia Rodriguez**

Barbara Behrens, PTA Program Coordinator of Mercer County Community College, informed the Board that Celenia Rodriguez successfully completed all of the didactic and clinical education components of the Physical Therapist Assistant program as of July 12, 2011 but her degree will not be posted until January of 2012. Ms. Behrens asked the Board to consider authorizing her to sit for a December National Physical Therapy Assistant Examination due to these circumstances.

A motion was made by Nancy Kirsch and seconded by Dennise Krencicki to advise Ms. Behrens that Mercer County Community College should send a certificate of completion to the Board for its review. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Letter from Joanna Suchcicka, PT  
RE: Continuing Education

Joanna Suchcicka submitted a transcript of coursework she completed and asked the Board to consider accepting the coursework as fulfillment of her continuing education requirements.

A motion was made by Dennise Krencicki and seconded by Nancy Kirsch to advise Ms. Suchcicka that licensees who are selected to participate in the continuing education audit can submit courses that have not been pre-approved by the Board and the Board will determine at that time on a case by case basis whether the courses meet the requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9. et seq and may be granted credit. The Board will also advise Ms. Suchcicka of N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.3(b)2, "Successful completion of a course in an academic program related to the practice of physical therapy provided that such course is not part of the physical therapy program completed by the licensee to meet the educational requirements for initial licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:39A-5.1: 15 credits for each course credit awarded". A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Additional Frequently Asked Questions for the  
New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Website

The Board reviewed frequently asked questions that will soon be posted on website of the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

E. Letter from Irshad Merkand, PT  
RE: Continuing Education

Irshad Merkand submitted information concerning coursework he completed and asked the Board to consider accepting the coursework as fulfillment of his continuing education requirements.

A motion was made by Carolanne Aaron and seconded by Nancy Kirsch to advise Mr. Merkand that licensees who are selected to participate in the continuing education audit can submit courses that have not been pre-approved by the Board and the Board will determine at that time on a case by case basis whether the courses meet the requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9. et seq and may be granted credit. The Board will also advise Ms. Merkand of N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.3(b)2, "Successful completion of a course in an academic program related to the practice of physical therapy provided that such course is not part of the physical therapy program completed by the licensee to meet the educational requirements for initial licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:39A-5.1: 15 credits for each course credit awarded". A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. December 20, 2011 New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
meeting

A motion was made by Dennise Krencicki and seconded by Nancy Kirsch to adjourn the Board's December 20, 2011 meeting due to lack of a quorum. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Board Discussion with Charles Manning, Regulatory Analyst  
RE: Regulations - Credit hour requirements  
Documentation of continuing education credit  
Examination standards for applicants for licensure as  
physical therapists and physical therapist assistants

Charles Manning, Regulatory Analyst, met with the Board regarding additional language for N.J.A.C. 13:39A-5.3 Examination standards for applicants for licensure as physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.2 Credit hour requirements and N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.4 Documentation of continuing education credit.

The Board will review these regulations again at its January 24, 2012 meeting.

- B. Letter from At Home Seminars  
RE: Course, "Functional Fitness for Older Adults"

Dennise Krencicki and Nancy Kirsch were recused and did not participate in the discussion.

Jeffrey McCamman, PT, wrote the Board concerning its denial of a course At Home Seminars submitted titled, "Functional Fitness for Older Adults" as the content of the primary text is below entry level education standards.

A motion was made by Cindy Moore and seconded by Mary Browne to reaffirm its denial of the course, "Functional Fitness for Older Adults" as the content of the course did not meet the requirement in N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.3(a),... "have significant educational or practical content which deal with matters related to the practice of physical therapy...". The material submitted had content that was not consistent with post entry-level education for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants. Barbara J. Behrens was available by telephone and participated in the vote. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- C. Letter from At Home Seminars  
RE: Courses, "Clinical Examination of the Shoulder: Module 1-4"  
Course, "Manual Correction and Treatment of the SI Joint"  
Course, "Manual Interventions for Thoracic Outlet Syndrome"

This matter was tabled until the Board's January 24, 2012 meeting.

## **VI. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

- A. Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
October 2011 News Brief

The Board reviewed the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's October 2011 News Brief and considered it informational.

- B. Law and Public Safety  
Division of Consumer Affairs  
Occupational Therapy Advisory Council  
Adopted Amendment: N.J.A.C. 13:44K-5.4  
Adopted New Rule: N.J.A.C. 13:44K-5.5

The Board reviewed the Occupational Therapy Advisory Council's adopted amendment and adopted new rule and considered them informational.

Upon a motion made by Dennise Krencicki and seconded by Carolanne Aaron, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss the following matters involving investigations of violations of the Board's enabling act, the Uniform Enforcement Act and/or Board regulations.

1. Six matters filed with the Board, which require review and additional recommendations with regard to investigations and/or actions.
2. Seven matters where additional information has been submitted to the Board concerning pending investigations.

#### **APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

1. Bhavna Ajwani
2. Fil Charles Alfonso
3. Maria Berina
4. Hezal Patel

#### **APPLICATIONS NOT APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

1. Fiona Moore
2. Kunal Patel
3. Shreenidhi Joshi
4. Leah Shafran Topaz

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board returned to Public Session and a motion was made by Nancy Kirsch and seconded by Mary Browne to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 P.M. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Affinito  
Executive Director