



State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS  
**Louisiana Physical Therapy Board**

**AGENDA**  
**February 15, 2017**

- 4:00pm**      **Call to Order**  
Approve Agenda  
Approve Minutes
- 4:05pm**      **Officer Reports**  
Chairman's Report  
Secretary/Treasurer's Report  
Executive Director's Report
- 5:05pm**      **Legal Report**  
Board member in-service: Lobbying
- 6:05pm**      **Committee Reports**  
LTF Report  
CEU Committee
- 7:05pm**      **New Business**  
Correspondences
- 7:30pm**      **Old Business**
- 7:45pm**      **Public Comment**
- 7:50pm**      **Executive Session**  
Discuss sensitive information related to discipline and attorney client privileged information.
- 8:50pm**      **Legal**  
Consent Orders
- 9:00pm**      **Adjourn**

# Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

## MINUTES

### Regular Scheduled Board Meeting February 15, 2017

#### APPROVED

Proceedings for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, taken in regular session on February 15, 2017 at 104 Fairlane Drive, Lafayette, LA 70507. A quorum of members were present. Board members present were: Chairman, Donald “Don” Cassano, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer, Kristina Lounsberry, and board members Elizabeth “Beth” Austin, Patrick Cook, and Craig Prejean. Advisory Committee Members present were Chris Franks, Ryan Usner, Jeremy Dye, Joe Guthrie, and Jason Douglas. Charlotte Martin, Executive Director; Stephanie Boudreaux, Compliance Officer; and board attorneys, Courtney P. Newton and George Papale were also present.

The purpose of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to provide for state administrative control, supervision, licensing, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana. Only individuals who meet and maintain prescribed standards of competence and conduct may engage in the practice of physical therapy. Our Practice Act and Rules promote the public interest.

Informal Conference for Case #2016-I-026 was held from 2:00pm-3:00pm. Informal Conference of a monitored licensee was held from 3:00pm – 3:30pm. Advisory Committee Orientation was held from 2:45pm – 3:45pm. At 3:45pm – 4:00pm Mrs. Martin and the board recognized four volunteers assisting with the Renewal Process, as well as Danielle Linzer’s 3-year work at the board and Stephanie Boudreaux’s 2 year work anniversary at the board office.

Chairman Cassano called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Chairman Cassano recognized the public attendees and introduced the Advisory Committee Members in the room. He recognized Open Meetings Law and LPTB Rule §105.H regarding availability of public comment prior to each board vote and during the public comment portion of the agenda.

The board reviewed the agenda. Chairman Cassano moved to approve the agenda. Beth Austin seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

The board members reviewed the minutes from January 2017. Chairman Cassano moved to approve the minutes. Secretary/Treasurer Lounsberry seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS**

##### Chairman’s Report

Chairman Cassano confirmed the 2017 delegate and alternate delegate for the FSBPT annual meeting. The board officers serve in this role, unless unavailable. This year, Charlotte Martin, Executive Director will attend the Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) in July in preparation of the annual meeting. FSBPT provides travel for LIF, as well as the annual meeting for the Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Administrator. Chairman Cassano will serve as Delegate, Kristina Lounsberry will serve as Alternate Delegate, and the two of them will be accompanied by Charlotte Martin at the Annual Meeting in November 2017.

Chairman Cassano welcomed Chris Franks as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The board approved the Advisory Committee Chairman Job Description. Chairman Cassano recommended to the board that the Advisory Committee expand their role to review and provide input in drafts to correspondences sent to the office to be approved by the board.

Chairman Cassano reviewed the 2016 Governor's Annual Report with the board. The board approved the Governor's Report as written and asked that a final draft be sent to the board before distribution.

Chairman Cassano reviewed a letter drafted by Mrs. Martin addressed to the Attorney General's office recognizing board concerns regarding the deliberation process during the hearing in December and the follow-up in the months to follow. The board members will work with Mrs. Martin to finalize the letter and it was approved to send.

#### Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Lounsberry reported that cash in the bank totaled \$131,737.76 in December 2016. Total Income for December 2016 totaled \$19,752.00 and ordinary expenses totaled \$47,581.71. The two Certificates of Deposit total \$603,178.64.

Secretary/Treasurer Lounsberry discussed the online renewal process with the board and expressed the need for the online board portal to calculate continuing education requirements as they are reported by licensees. Secretary/Treasurer Lounsberry informed the board that it would cost \$2,000 for the website company, Covalent Logic, to fix the Continuing Education portal. The board voted and unanimously approved this quote.

#### Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Martin reported that 17 license applications were approved since the last board meeting. The applicants approved are as follows:

##### PTA by Reciprocity

1. Lori Mitchell
2. Molly Hemmingway
3. Lauren Percy
4. Daniel Montz
5. Jason Word

##### PTA

1. Christina Combel
2. Tabatha Howard
3. Caydence Leber
4. Lindsey Williams
5. Miles Juneau

##### PT by Reciprocity

1. Danielle Cook
2. Eric Rippetoe
3. Azubuikwe Ekwueme
4. Peter Lock

##### PT

1. Lindsay Prettyman
2. Alyssa Glover
3. Amber Laughlin

Mrs. Martin informed the board that in 2017 there are 2188 licensee eligible to renew. As of 2/14/2017, two-hundred eighty-one (281) licensees have renewed. The Board has received a Notice of Non-Renewal from seventeen (17) licensees. As of 2/14/2017, there are 1890 licensees who have not renewed in 2017, nor have they confirmed with the board that they will not renew.

Mrs. Martin proposed a quote of approximately \$1,900 to outsource wallet/pocket card licenses for the renewal season to reduce cost of labor by eliminating the need for part-time temporary workers. Patrick Cook moved to terminate issuing wallets cards effective 2017 renewal and moving forward. Beth Austin seconded the motion. Chairman Cassano requested comment from the public. The board voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Martin proposed changing the design of the wall license and outsourcing the printing of the wall licenses. The board asked Mrs. Martin to estimate in-house printing of an entire design/template. Mrs. Martin will research this option and report back to the board.

Mrs. Martin updated the board on CLEAR NCIT-Basic attendees. For March 13 – 15, 2017 in Raleigh, NC, Julie Harris and Joe Guthrie are registered and travel arrangements have been completed. For April 3-5, 2-17 in Austin, TX Craig Prejean, Jason Douglas, Ryan Usner and Stephanie Boudreaux are registered and travel arrangements have been completed.

Mrs. Martin provided an update that Bobby Odinet's contract has been approved through the state. John Mason's contract is pending. Mrs. Martin discussed the idea of contacting Glenn Ducote requesting that he contract with the board as a hearing officer. The board asked General Counsel George Papale for his opinion. Mr. Papale stated that this would be wise of the board since Mr. Ducote understands Administrative Law and is familiar with the board Rules. Mrs. Martin will discuss this with Mr. Ducote and report back to the board.

## **LEGAL REPORT**

Board Attorney, Courtney Newton provided an update on investigative activity since the last board meeting as follows:

Current Investigations: 10 currently open  
Complaints Received in Month: 2  
Informal Conferences in Month: 1 investigative/1 monitoring  
Hearings Scheduled: 1  
Consent Order/Voluntary Surrender: 4 offered  
Closed Cases: 0

Board Attorney Courtney Newton presented on lobbying laws in Louisiana as an in-service educational seminar for board members in preparation for the 2017 legislative session.

The Board members reviewed the revised Medication Review statement to be posted on the board website as an official statement to licensees. The board members will work with Mrs. Martin to finalize the letter and it was approved to post on the board website.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### LTF (Legislative Taskforce) Update

Chairman Cassano provided an update to the board on LTF activity.

### CEU Committee

Craig Prejean presented the monthly Continuing Education report to the board. Since the last board meeting 81 courses were approved and 0 courses were denied. Of the 81 approved courses, 54 courses were traditional, 22 were web-based and 5 were a hybrid (traditional/online). Of the 81 approved courses 76 were clinical, 3 were administrative and 2 were ethics. The average turnaround time for renewals was 3 days.

The board reviewed continuing education exemption requests as a result of the Flood from the following licensees: Cassie Barnett, Angelia Crockett, Tricia Holifield and Steven Wilson. The Board granted exemption from CE requirements for the 2017 renewal due to natural disaster.

The board reviewed continuing education exemption requests for personal hardship due to illness from Sacha Comeaux and Rhonda Miller. The Board agreed to grant Sacha Comeaux an extension to complete CEs required for the 2017 renewal application no later than July 31, 2017. These courses will only be applied to the 2017 renewal period, although the course will be completed in the time period allowed for the 2019 renewal period. Ms. Comeaux also requested a waiver of renewal fees. Board Rule §181.B. states that renewal applications shall be assessed a renewal fee. There is no Board Rule for renewal fee exemption requests. Rhonda Miller requested to complete all coursework online or through home study due to personal hardship due to illness. The board granted her request and will accept online/home study courses for 2017 renewal period.

The board reviewed continuing education course approval requests. Jason Anderson requested course credit for advanced university coursework completed. The board agreed that the courses requested meet the qualification of Rule. Ha Hoang requested course credit for a poster and for her role as the course director/instructor for a course at LSU HSC – Shreveport. The board approved the poster credit, but asked that the board obtain more information about her role as course director and report to the CE committee for a final determination.

The CE Committee confirmed that the Ethics Course required by the Louisiana State Board of Ethics is not approved as continuing education for renewals for the board members, nor for any licensees, as it does not meet the criteria standards because it is not relevant material pertaining to the field of physical therapy.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Correspondences

A licensee asked: Are PTA's allowed to send progress notes to a physician in the home health setting? The Board referenced Rule §341 Documentation Standards states that the progress note may be documented and signed by the PTA. In the Practice Act (La R.S. 37:2407) it is specifically stated that the initial PT evaluation or consultation shall be reported to the referring or treating physician, dentist, chiropractor or podiatrist. It does not reference that the progress notes must be sent. Considering that the physician is the treating physician and the progress note would assist the physician in his/her treatment, it would be appropriate for either the PT or the PTA to submit progress notes. However, PTAs are not allowed to provide the assessment/reassessment of the progress note. If the purpose of sending the progress note to the physician is to provide an update on the patient's actual functional progress, the PT would be best to do this due to the actual need for an assessment of goals. However, if the physician simply wants a copy of the last visit to assess the progress of his patient, this is not an issue.

A licensee asked: When does a PTA no longer work under the supervision of a PT? The board referenced the Practice Act (La R.S. 37:2418.F(2)(a) and Rule §339. As long as the number of PTAs who treat patients that currently being treated through the same supervising PT of record does not exceed 4, there is no need to "discharge" the PTA officially.

A licensee asked: Does a PTA need to discuss the patients with the PT prior to working on the Plan of Care for the patients? The Board referenced Rule§333 Physical Therapist Responsibilities; Supervision of Physical Therapist

Assistants and confirmed that the PTA does not need to have a meeting with the PT prior to following a Physical Therapist's Plan of Care. However, the PT has to be readily accessible and available to the patient by the next treatment session if requested by the patient or PTA.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The board reviewed the courses submitted by Myra Buller in December 2016 and discussed at the August 2016 board meeting, as well as at the January 2017 board meeting. The three International Alliance of Healthcare Educator courses submitted for review are as follows:

- 1) Healing from the Core: Advanced Energy Dynamics and Applications 1
- 2) Healing from the Core: Expanding Present-moment Consciousness
- 3) Healing from the Core: From Trauma Recovery to Ecstasy-Healing Nervous System

The Continuing Education Committee discussed with the board that, for the purpose of CEU review, the term evidence-based should be defined as including those articles published in a peer reviewed journal related to the field of physical therapy. The strength of the evidence shall be considered. Case studies, expert opinions, and editorials shall not be considered evidence without additional supporting research. Because these courses contain case studies without additional supporting research the content criteria in Rule §195 and in the CE Policy is not satisfied and the courses are denied.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

Chairman Cassano moved to move into Executive Session pursuant to La R.S. 42:16 for the purposes of discussing investigating proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct. Beth Austin seconded the motion. The Board voted and all were in favor to move into Executive Session.

The board exited Executive Session.

The board voted and unanimously approved the Board Ordered Participation Agreement for Gretchen Duplantis as written. The board voted and unanimously approved the Consent Order of Daniel Henning as written. The board voted and unanimously agreed to propose an amendment to the Consent Orders of Alexander Clay Cocke and Tomas Bryant. Upon acceptance of the proposed amendments, the board will accept the Consent Orders.

Chairman Cassano moved to adjourn the meeting. Beth Austin seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.