

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

MINUTES

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting September 24, 2020

APPROVED

Proceedings for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, taken in regular session on September 24, 2020 at the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, 2110 W. Pinhook Rd, Ste 202, Lafayette, LA 70508. A quorum of members were present. Board members present were: Judith Halverson, Kathryn "Katie" Brittain, Phillip "Phil" Page, John Marius, Tyra Mitchell, and Oday Lavergne. Dr. Meredith Warner was present by remote virtual means. Charlotte Martin, Executive Director was present and members of the public were present remotely.

Secretary/Treasurer Judith Halverson called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

The board members reviewed the agenda, as written. Phil Page moved to approve the agenda. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board voted and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Administrative hearing in the case of Gretchen Duplantis (Case #: 2019-I-002 and 2020-I-006) was heard by the board. An official transcript of the hearing is available upon request.

Oday Lavergne moved to go into executive session. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board moved into executive session.

Oday Lavergne moved to enter into regular session. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board members exited executive session and voted on the record. The official transcript of the hearing is available upon request. Oday Lavergne moved that in the matter of 2020-I-006 regarding La R.S. 37:2420.A.(6), no further discipline will be taken on that matter. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board members voted and approved the motion unanimously.

Oday Lavergne moved that in the matter of case 2019-I-002, based on the findings and conclusions of law, is that the board impose an additional one year suspension and an additional six months of supervised practice to be added to the remainder of the current suspension period for a total of four years of supervised practice and one year of suspension. Tyra Mitchell seconded the motion. The board members voted and approved the motion unanimously.

Jim Raines, General Counsel, stated that he will present the findings of fact and conclusion of law at the next board meeting.

Mr. Odinet, Hearing Officer, adjourned the hearing at 6:37pm.

Katie Brittain moved to go into executive session to discuss the matter of Benjamin Tull (Case #: 2020-I-013). Phil Page seconded. Board members moved into executive session.

The board members exited executive session. Phil Page moved that the board accept the consent order in the matter of Benjamin Tull, complaint number 2020-I-013. John Marius seconded the motion. Katie Brittain and Oday Lavergne abstained. Judith Halverson, Phil Page, John Marius, Tyra Mitchell and Meredith Warner voted in favor of accepting the consent order. The motion was approved. The approved Consent Order is available by request at the board office and available on the board website.

The board members unanimously approved the agenda as written.

New Business

Charlotte Martin presented a conflict in board-approved policy and rule that is preventing the board office staff from issuing provisional licenses and actual licenses to individuals who have completed the education to qualify for a license, but who have not been issued an official transcript due to timelines within the academic system. The board members discussed the paperwork issue and determined that the applicants do meet the qualifications for licensure. Board rule (LAC 46: LIV §123, Gradated, Graduation or Graduate) states that “if an educational program certifies that the degree is assured and will be conferred at a later date, an applicant will be considered to have graduated and become a graduate.” Board rule (LAC 46: LIV 151.B.(2) Requirements) states that “an applicant for licensure under this chapter shall include: ... (2) proof, documented in a form satisfactory to the board, that the applicant possesses the qualifications set forth in this Chapter.” Phil Page moved to use the letter from the program director to be documentation satisfactory to the board to meet the minimum education for licensure found in Board Rule (LAC 46: LIV 151.B.(2)). John Marius seconded the motion. Raven Lyons, Delgado graduate, and Devin Alphonso, Delgado graduate provided public comment in favor of the approval of this motion. Katie Brittain, Oday Lavergne, Phil Page, John Marius, Tyra Mitchell and Meredith Warner voted in favor. Judith Halverson abstained. The motion was approved.

Judith Halverson discussed with the board the need for an Interim Chairman because there is a vacancy in the Chairman position that was created when Karl Kleinpeter was not reappointed by the Governor to the board. Phil Page nominated Judith Halverson as Interim Chairman. Katie Brittain seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously approved the motion.

Judith Halverson discussed with the board the need for an Interim Secretary/Treasurer because there is a vacancy in the Secretary/Treasurer position that was created when Judith was voted as Interim Chairman. Phil Page nominated Katie Brittain as Interim Secretary/Treasurer. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

The board members discussed committee participation on the CE committee, Rules Revision committee, Legislative Task Force and the Education and Outreach committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Tyra Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved. The board meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.