

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

MINUTES Regular Scheduled Board Meeting April 14, 2021

APPROVED

Proceedings for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, taken in regular session on April 14, 2021 held virtually. A quorum of members were present including Chairman, Judith Halverson, Secretary/Treasurer, Kathryn “Katie” Brittain, John Marius, Tyra Mitchell, Philip “Phil” Page, and Oday Lavergne. Charlotte Martin, Executive Director; Jessica Alwell, Assistant Executive Director; and Jim Raines, General Counsel were present. Members of the public were present, including licensee Cristina Faucheux.

Chairman Judith Halverson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

The board members reviewed the agenda. Oday Lavergne moved to amend the agenda to move Executive Session to 4:00pm and to add new business after Executive Session to discuss the RPTP program review and the RPTP program manager contract. Tyra Mitchell seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved the agenda.

Oday Lavergne moved to approve the minutes from the March 2021 board meeting. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved the minutes as drafted.

Committee Reports

Katie Brittain provided an update from the CE committee. The average turn-around time for course approval was 2 days, approving 96 courses total (11 traditional and 85 web-based; 92 clinical, 2 administrative and 2 ethics).

Oday Lavergne provided an update from the Rules committee, including a timeline for the next steps in the rulemaking process. The Occupational Licensing Review Commission approved the LPTB rule changes and the next deadline is April 20th with the Legislative Fiscal Office.

Katie Brittain provided an update from the Operations and Outreach committee to inform the board members of the pending deliverables of the Organizational Assessment from SSA. Katie Brittain also provided a recommendation to the board regarding changes to the board’s investigative process. Katie Brittain moved to accept the committee recommendations to improve the board’s investigative processes, beginning phase 1 immediately and reporting to the board in 6 months with recommendations for additional changes to the process, if any. Also, effective immediately, all dismissal decisions shall be brought to the board for approval, effective immediately. Tyra Mitchell seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Secretary/Treasurer Katie Brittain provided a treasurer’s report to the board members regarding 3rd quarter fiscal year performance, year-to-date performance and year-to-date performance compared to the annual budget. The actual income received by the board for the fiscal year, as of March 31, 2021 is \$152,000 higher than budgeted and the actual expenses of the board year-to-date (July 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021) are \$133,000 lower than budgeted, resulting in over \$285,000 in positive net income for the fiscal year, as of March 31, 2021.

Secretary/Treasurer Katie Brittain presented potential website improvements, including a private and secure portal to access background check information, review board meeting materials, a reporting tool for complaint data, and a portal to store and access board member resources. To implement the changes, the board would exceed the amount that was approved to pay the website company in the fiscal year 2020-2021. Katie Brittain moved to accept the proposal from the website company to make these improvements in fiscal year 2020-2021. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved the proposals from the website company.

Special Program

All presented participated in the training, “An Overview of Trauma’s Impact on Boundary Violation Investigations” to meet the requirement of La R.S. 37:2405.D.(2), which requires training of all board members and staff members in effective communication with complainants, particularly members of vulnerable populations who allege mistreatment by licensees.

Executive Session

Oday Lavergne moved that the board enter executive session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a licensee pursuant to La R.S. 42: §17(A)(1). Phil Page seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved to go into executive session.

Phil Page moved to exit executive session. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved to exit executive session.

Katie Brittain moved to accept the Participation Agreement for J.C. to enter into the confidential recovery physical therapy program of the board. Oday Lavergne seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Oday Lavergne moved to accept the Interim Consent Agreement in case #2021I003 for Christopher Blackstone, License Number PT05051. John Marius seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved the motion.

New Business

Kathie Pohlman presented recommendations for the board-recognized provider list for evaluators and treatment. Katie Brittain moved to accept the updated recommendations from the RPTP manager as our board-recognized provider list for evaluators and treatment. Phil Page seconded the motion. The board members unanimously approved.

Katie Brittain reported on the annual performance evaluation of the Recovering Physical Therapy Program (RPTP) manager, Kathie Pohlman.

Katie Brittain moved to enter into a contract with Kathie Pohlman as the manager of the RPTP program for the fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) at an hourly rate of \$110 per hour. Tyra Mitchell seconded the motion. The board members voted and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Oday Lavergne moved to adjourn the meeting. Tyra Mitchell seconded the motion. The board voted and unanimously approved. The board meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.