In this newsletter you will find two exciting updates on the regulation of your profession that I don’t want you to miss. Louisiana is now an active state in the PT Licensure Compact (Page 1). Licensees are now eligible to purchase privileges to practice in other active member states of the Compact. A privilege to practice allows licensees to practice physical therapy in states where the privilege is purchased and expires when a licensee’s home state license expires. The Compact is an easy, fast, efficient, and inexpensive alternative to the standard licensing process to obtain a privilege to practice in a remote state.

Read about the adoption of the Physical Therapy Minimum Data Set on page 2 of this newsletter. The legislature has authorized the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board to require workforce data to be reported by licensees at the time of renewal. You will be asked to complete a survey that is completely anonymous at the time of renewal. This information will be stored in aggregate and available to the public upon request to study the state of the profession in our state.

Charlotte F. Martin, M.P.A. Executive Director

## Updates

### Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
Effective July 22, 2019, Louisiana became the fifteenth active member state of the Physical Therapy Compact following Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. The PT Compact is an easy, fast, efficient, and inexpensive alternative to the standard licensing process to obtain the privilege to practice in a remote state. However, not all PTs and PTAs may be eligible to participate. For the most up-to-date information regarding the PT Licensure Compact, visit [ptcompact.org](http://ptcompact.org). To read the full press release announcement regarding Louisiana issuing privileges, click [here](http://ptcompact.org).

### Dry Needling Coursework Requirements
Following discussion and advice from legal counsel, the Board determined that licensees are prohibited from the utilization of dry needling techniques in treating patients until completion of 50 hours of face-to-face instruction in intramuscular dry needling treatment and safety. The Board will allow no exceptions to Rule LAC46:LIV.311. For licensees who have completed Kinetacore coursework that may require needling episodes prior to advancement to the next course, please contact Wendi Utzinger ([wendi@kinetacore.com](mailto:wendi@kinetacore.com)) to determine what options are available to you.
What is the PT MDS?

The minimum data set is a consistent set of data elements to be collected on all licenses at regular intervals in order to understand workforce needs related to access to healthcare.

What does this mean for you?

Beginning in 2020, you will need to complete a survey at the time of license renewal. The survey will ask workforce related questions and the answers are completely anonymous. The survey is managed separately from the renewal application and the data will be collected in aggregate report that will not be reportable on individual licensees. This anonymous survey will allow Louisiana the opportunity to analyze data on workforce needs in physical therapy and provide for comparison data that can be used regionally and nationally.

Who uses the data and for what purposes?

- **Governments**: policy decisions, allocate funding, program planning
- **Workforce policy**: evaluations, policy analysis, regulatory questions, and diversity
- **Education and research**: planning for new schools / programs, and research projects and grant proposals
- **Funders**: program planning, allocate funding and evaluation
- **National organizations**: national policy, evaluation, dissemination and improve data quality
- **Professional associations**: advocacy, membership, policy analysis, program planning and grant proposals.

Example of Use:

Here is an example of what a visual representation of PT density by geographic area may look like, if all jurisdictions collected this data. Data could be used in a variety of ways to create visual representations such as this.

This map is not a actual representation of PT data.

Information courtesy of the Program on Health Workforce Research and Policy, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the FSBPT Winter 2015 Forum.
The 2019 Regular Legislative session came to a close on June 6, 2019.

**Act No. 313** Originally filed as House Bill 368 and authored by Representative Stuart Moss, Act. No. 313 authorizes the Board to collect workforce data as it relates to physical therapy in Louisiana and creates new requirements for the Board relating to complaints received involving sexual misconduct.

**Act No. 227 Effective August 1, 2019** Licensing Boards are now prohibited from revoking a license of individuals who default on a student loan. The change that licensees will notice is that the question pertaining to student loan status on the renewal application will be removed.

**Act No. 256 Effective August 1, 2019** This relates to the public records law. It adds items to the list of exemptions to public record requests. It also mandates that the board notify the public that information submitted to the board may become public record.

**Act No. 46 Effective August 1, 2019** This Act revises the preference of archived documents from “microfilm” to “imaging and preservation services.”

**Act No. 204 Effective February 2, 2020** This adds to the rulemaking process the requirement to notify the Secretary of State of the Notice of Intent and submit a statement on economic impact on small businesses and a small business regulatory flexibility analysis as they relate to the rule language.

**Act No. 268 Effective August 1, 2019** This relates to eligibility of expungements allowing a felon to file a motion to expunge his record if he is entitled to a first offender pardon for the offense and only if the offense is not defined as a crime of violence (La R.S. 14.2(B)) or a sex offense (La R.S. 15:541).

**Act No. 351 Effective August 1, 2019** This creates the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council.

For more information on these Acts or to review other activity during the 2019 regular legislative session, visit [www.legis.la.gov](http://www.legis.la.gov).

**Rules Revision Highlights**

Here are a few important updates regarding a few of the Rule changes effective 12/20/2018.

**Supervision of PT Students** It was the intention of the Board to define supervision of a PT students as “on premises” and not “continuous” supervision (LAC46:LIV.123 and LAC46:LIV.337.A). On premises supervision is defined as the supervising PT of record is physically present in the treating facility and immediately available to the treatment area.

**Inactive Status of License.** In time for the 2019 license renewal period, licensees who are not currently practicing physical therapy in Louisiana but wish to maintain and renew their license may do so by renewing under the new inactive status. Under the inactive status, licensees are not required to report the 30 hours of continuing education in order to renew their license. Licensees will pay the normal license renewal fee as stated in LAC46:LIV.501. Should a licensee wish to reactivate their license and practice within the state of Louisiana, they must follow LAC46:LIV.181.D. All individuals who wish to renew their license under the inactive status will be required to provide a written request to the board and complete a paper renewal application.

**Treatment for Dry Needling.** Louisiana licensees are no longer required to complete two years of licensed clinical practice prior to receiving training required to practice dry needling. In addition, written consent from the patient is no longer required prior to utilizing dry needling treatment. However, physical therapists must still educate the patient on the potential risks and benefits of the treatment and receive informed consent. This education and consent must be documented and maintained in the patient record (LAC46:LIV.311).

For a complete copy of the latest Rules [click here](#). If you have a Rule that you would like considered for revision, please contact the board office by calling 337-262-1043 or emailing [info@laptboard.org](mailto:info@laptboard.org)
**Chairman’s Message**

One major lesson that can be gleaned from serving on the board is that change is never-ending. All healthcare practice is in constant flux and it is this current board’s desire to be proactive versus reactive. In March of this year, the board met for a two-day strategic planning meeting. The board discussed topics such as the collection of workforce data to compile a minimum dataset on all licensees. This information would allow the board to inform the public on issues such as where there’s a high or low concentration of PTs and PTAs practicing around the state. The board also discussed new education and outreach initiatives that will benefit licensees. As the board works to identify topics of interest, you may notice new resources available to you to assist you in your practice knowledge. Some of these may be available on the board website. Others you might encounter at your next live Jurisprudence seminar. The board encourages all licensees to reach out with any requests for educational resources so that they may be addressed.

At the March meeting, the board also began work on addressing a national issue we are sure everyone is familiar with—the opioid crisis. The board has formed a committee to address this issue and propose one or two initiatives which will take into consideration what type of education and outreach the board will focus on in terms of licensees with addiction, consumers of physical therapy services, and to those licensees without an addiction.

The board encourages licensees to reach out to the board should they ever have questions or requests for education and outreach opportunities. We look forward to 2019 being a great year of growth and activity within the board’s initiatives and cannot wait for you to see the outcome of our efforts.

Julie Harris, PT, DPT, OCS  
Board Chairman

**Your Duty to Report**

The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board exists to protect patients of physical therapy from unethical and unprofessional conduct of physical therapy providers. It is every licensee’s responsibility to report another practitioner to the board when you have reasonable cause to believe that person is unable to practice safely, has engaged in unprofessional conduct, violated laws or rules, or committed unethical practices.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants work with vulnerable people. Every licensee has a responsibility to act in a professional manner. Licensees also have a responsibility, a duty, to report practitioners that are incompetent, unprofessional, or unlawful. When health care practitioners act outside of normal professional standards, the public loses trust in that person or potentially the profession as a whole.

The board may use a variety of remedial and punitive sanctions to prevent future incidents. When PTs, PTAs, or employers report incidents to the Board, the complaint is investigated, and, if substantiated, appropriate action is taken to correct the licensee’s behavior.

It is your duty to report another practitioner when you have reasonable cause to believe that person is unable to practice safely, has engaged in unprofessional conduct, violated laws or rules, or committed unethical practices. Contact the board office at 337-262-1043 or file a complaint on the board website by clicking here.

“Physical therapists shall discourage misconduct by health care professionals and report illegal or unethical acts to the relevant authority, when appropriate.”  
-APA Code of Ethics
**Disciplinary Action**

**Darian Robinson, License No. A3503** practiced physical therapy after the expiration of his temporary license. He was completing a period of supervised clinical practice as a requirement of reinstatement of his license which had been expired form more than 10 years. He acknowledges he practiced physical therapy from January 28, 2019 through January 30, 2019 without a valid license. He submitted for reinstatement of his license and agreed to terms of reimbursement of administrative fees, and provide documentation that reflects that all charges to patient accounts have been reversed for all treatments provided by him during that time period.

**Sacha Comeaux, PT 07048**, Plaquemine, LA, Administrative Complaint 2018-I-009. Respondent failed to comply with the terms of the January 17, 2017 consent order. Respondent went before the board at an administrative hearing on February 28, 2019 and was found in violation of board rules. Her license is hereby revoked and she is prohibited from applying for a physical therapy license for a period of five years.

**Education and Outreach Initiatives**

The board has recently approved an educational piece on preventing boundary issues. An overview of the educational message can be found on page 6 of the newsletter.

In March 2019, the board identified opioid use prevention, education and outreach as a priority. The board is currently exploring opportunities to address this topic.

**Practice Management Questions**

The best source for information and clarification related to billing questions is directly with the payers in question. Many aspects of billing are complex and dependent upon the provider's place of service as well as the contracts that exist or do not exist for the providers, either on an individual or group basis. Payers often have specific rules that are not influenced by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board Practice Act, Rules and Regulations. Different areas of the state have assigned provider relations representatives and provider relations or the representatives listed here should be able to direct you to the appropriate representative. For your reference and without endorsement, practice management questions received by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board will be directed to appropriate resources in an attempt to assist in your quest for answers or advice.

**BCBS**
Provider relations: provider.relations@bcbsla.com
Provider Relations: 1-800-716-2299, option 4
Administrative Representative Support: 1-800-716-2299, option 5
Network Development: 1-800-716-2299, option 1

**Acta**
Better Health: 1-855-242-0802
HMO and Medicare Advantage: 1-800-624-0756
Indemnity and PPO-based plans: 1-888-632-3862
Voluntary plans: 1-888-772-9682
Worker’s comp: 1-800-238-6288
ASA and Meritain: use phone number on member’s ID card
Credentialing - 1-800-353-1232

**Medicaid**
Provider Relations: 1-800-473-2783

**Humana**
Customer Service: 1-800-448-6262
Medicare and Medicaid: 1-800-457-4708
Provider Payment Integrity: 1-800-438-7885
Provider Relations: 1-800-626-2741

**Medicare**
DME MAC: 1-866-270-4909 TTY: 1-888-204-3771

**United Health Care/Optum**
Provider Relations: Louisiana_PR_Team@uhc.com
Network Management: 1-866-574-6088
Optum Physical Health: 1-877-842-3210

**NOTE:** this list is not exhaustive and is subject to change. Current contact information available on each payer’s provider website (current as of 11/7/2018).
Physical therapy is one of the most hands-on professions in the healthcare industry. Great care and consideration must be taken whenever entering someone else’s personal space. We have created educational material on our website with a full list of references crediting sources where the following recommendations can be found.

Blurred boundaries are not only sexual in nature. It is not uncommon to find family and friends requesting that you treat their ailments. So, what are the risks? Loss of objectivity, making assumptions instead of asking questions, patients may feel uncomfortable answering questions honestly, and you may find your personal relationship suffering if you are unsuccessful in your professional relationship.

Here are some questions to ask yourself when seeking to avoid blurred boundaries:

- Have I set appropriate boundaries?
- Whose needs are being met?
- Do my actions serve the best interest of the patient?
- Would my actions be documented in the patient record?
- What would another therapist think about the treatment I am providing?
- Do I find myself sharing outside information with this patient, such as intimate details of my private life?
- Would my actions confuse my patient regarding my intent?
- Would the payer agree to the services I am providing?
- How would I feel about explaining my treatment decisions to the board?

It is important to establish clear boundaries. You can do this by introducing yourself by name and title to provide your patient with a basis for the nature of the role you will play with their recovery. Remember to work with a team and do not put yourself alone with a patient behind closed doors. Finally, limit outside interaction, such as trading phone numbers or emails, accepting requests on social media and other interactions on a personal level.

Be sure to educate your patient on the treatment methods you intend to use. By providing your patient with information about their treatment, you reinforce their autonomy and enable them to make informed decisions about their care. Informed consent is more than just obtaining approval to begin or continue treatment. PTs and PTAs need to reestablish consent as treatment progresses and record the patient’s consent in their treatment record.

If a PT or PTA experiences inappropriate patient sexual behavior, you should document this behavior and report it within the facility. Try speaking directly to the patient to address the behavior, as assertive responses are found to work best. You may want to offer training within the workplace on ways that employees can combat this behavior and provide support at the management level when a complaint is submitted. For more information visit www.laptboard.org
Notice of licensees who choose to not renew their Louisiana license is provided to the public. Non-renewal is not grounds for disciplinary action and should not be interpreted as such. Individuals who will not be renewing their license in Louisiana are to complete a Notice of Non-Renewal of License form. Completing the form does not exempt individuals from public notification list in the newsletter. The following PTs and PTAs have not renewed their licenses to practice physical therapy in the state of Louisiana, which resulted in expiration of their license on April 30, 2019 (LAC46:LIV179).

Mark Louis Abshire, PT *
Denise Claire Achee, PT *
Katrina Lea Alexander, PT *
Amber Lynese Ambrose, PT
Kelsey Jane Anderson, PTA
Adam Webster Avinger, PTA
Sarah Elizabeth Babcock, PT
Lendell Jules Babineaux, PT *
Connie Sue Barna, PTA *
Janelle Elaine Barrow, PTA *
Karleen Marie Bartol, PT *
Beau Patrick Bassil, PTA
Lane Harris Beisel, PT *
Latonia D. Bernstein, PT
Brian Ray Black, PTA
Heather Lee Blum, PT *
Danielle Elizabeth Boggs, PT *
Brenton Armand Bridges, PTA *
Dana Broussard, PT *
Victoria Burger Broussard, PT*
Ethan Randall Brown, PT *
Joan E. Burga, PT *
Kristi Rae Caragliano, PT *
Missi Dawn Carpenter, PTA *
Danielle Lashaun Carter, PT *
Adam C. Cashio, PTA *
Margaret Ann Castle, PTA
Grace Rose McIntosh Cathrell, PT
Samantha Scooter Chandler, PT *
Nicole Alexis Cheri, PT
Joyce Elaine Clavenna, PT
Jodie Kaye Cockrell, PTA
Hannah Dawn Collier, PTA *
Celestine Compton, PT *
Anna Lee Cox, PT *
Holly Michelle David, PT
Samantha Lynn DeMars, PT
John Paul DiPietro, PTA
Heather Lynne Donovan, PTA
Heather Renee Drummond, PTA
Michelle Ann Dufour, PTA *
Kara Jane Dwyer, PT *
Curt Glenn Eberhart, PT *
Ashley Michele Tankersley Faircloth, PT *
Noah Everett Farmer, PTA
Tyler James Finch, PT *
Ava Carolina Franke, PT
Jacob Benjamin Franks, PT *
Erin Renee Fulks, PT
Glenith Joyce Fulton, PT *
Tabitha Echols Gardner, PTA *
Erin Denise Garza, PTA
Sarah Harrington Gibson, PT *
Heather Diane Goebel, PTA
Laura Davidson Gorden, PT
Kurtis Del Graves, PT *
Francesca Marie Gresik, PT
Mary Ann Marie Haines, PTA
James Matthew Hanson, PT *
Mark Stephen Hart, PTA *
Jason Lee Heard, PTA
Brian Joseph Hellebusch, PT *
Molly Krystal Hemingway, PTA
Brooke Renee Henneke, PT *
Shayne Ann Higginsbotham, PTA *
Janice Hill, PTA *
Karen Elizabeth Hodges, PT *
Niccatti Honaker, PT
Brianna Lynn Hood, PT
Todd Ryan Hooks, PT
Tabatha Jenny Howard, PTA
Katy Heng Sam Hung, PT
Hannah Marie Hurt, PTA *
Gary Russell Johnson, PT
Heather Michelle Johnson, PTA *
Lace Jones, PTA
Carrie C. Jordan, PTA *
Kelsey Marie Kelley, PTA *
David Phillip Klime, PT *
Meaghan Noelle Knight, PTA
Meade Voelkel Koehl, PT *
Andrew William Koenig, PT *
Emily Patricia Lane, PT
Leslie B. Lawhun, PT *
Chelsea Brinee Lawrence, PT
Patricia Ellen LeBlanc, PT *
Vanette Yvonne Lipscomb, PTA *
Tiffany Marie Lott, PTA
Scott Aaron Lucas, PTA
Lynette Mathilda Madjoe, PT *
Rebecca Anne Marth, PT
Cristobal Maya, PT *
Megan Catherine Mayeux, PT
Caillie Mary Messonnier, PTA
Cailltin Paige Medley, PTA
Callie Mary Messonner, PTA
Lindsey Andrea Moore, PT *
Christian Marie Mummelthel, PT *
Lisa Ann Munson, PT
Joseph Paul Nicolosi, PT *
Chad Christopher Nitcher, PT *
Julie Annette Normand, PT
Alice Louise Nowlin, PTA *
Heather Diane Noel, PT
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Alice Louise Nowlin, PTA *
Carole O'Hara, PT *
Jack O'Neil, PT
Jessica Riah Ortiz, PT *
Jessica Lylas Palu, PTA
Michael Craig Parde, PT *
Gerald Lewis Pellegrini, PTA
Sheryl Rose Yee Peralta, PT *
Jenny Ilm Perkins, PTA *
Victoria Petrushenko, PT
Tommy Tan Pham, PT *
Kimberly Anne Phelps, PT *
Monie Phillips, PT
Lisa Dianne Ponder, PT *
Ryan Carl Porche, PTA
Amy Jane Porter, PT
Melinda Jane Rich, PT *
Lauren E. Roberts, PT
Cristin Windham Robison, PTA
Amnatte Marie Rodrigue, PTA *
Amnallie Paulina Rolles, PT *
Aliza Chana Rudavsky, PT
Katherine Ellen Sandknop, PT
Monique Scrooler, PT *
Jason Howard Schuster, PT
Jeremy Jayrell Scott, PT
Maisha Angele Sims, PT
Lynessa Vannae Smith, PT *
Stephanie LeAnn Smith, PTA
Emily Craycraft Stars, PT *
Heather Lynn Stemalay, PTA
Eric Raiford Stevens, PT *
John Barnett Stewart, PT *
Sarah Olivia Stovall, PT *
Kirat Anwer Sundrani, PTA *
Emily Untalan Taylor, PT
Matthew David Taylor, PT
Geoffrey Lawrence Temple, PT
Wulf Michael Thoma, PT *
Katie Marie Topping, PT
Derek John Van Gerwen, PT
William Alexander Vaughan, PT
Lisa Veron, PT *
Thomas Arthur Wall, PT *
Deanna Kimberly Webb, PT *
Ashleigh Laura Weber, PTA *
Rachel Howell White, PT *
Ashleigh Nicole Williams, PT *
Julee M. Winkler, PTA *
Niccatti Honaker, PT
Brianna Lynn Hood, PT
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Alice Louise Nowlin, PTA *
* Licensees notified the board of non-renewal by submitting a Notice of Non-Renewal Form.
Staff Members

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Charlotte@laptboard.org

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Assistant Executive Director
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Stephanie@laptboard.org

Job Opportunity!
The board is advertising for legal services. Interested applicants can view the job postings on our website or by clicking here.

Advisory Committee Members

Chris Franks, PT
Lake Charles

Nicholas Butler, PT
Monroe

Marie Vazquez, PT
Shreveport

Jason Douglas, PT
Larose

Tyra Mitchell, PT
New Orleans

Jeremy Dye, PT
Shreveport

Shaina Goudeau, PT
Pineville

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAVELING JURISPRUDENCE 2019 SCHEDULE

To register for a Live Jurisprudence Seminar, email your name, license number, and desired Jurisprudence location to ceu@laptboard.org. Your certificate will be emailed to you following the completion of the seminar.

Click here to view the 2019 Jurisprudence Schedule

Additional dates and locations may be added; please check our website frequently for the most up-to-date information.

REMINDER: WE MOVED!

Effective January 7, 2019, our new physical address is 2110 W Pinhook Rd, Ste. 202 Lafayette, LA 70508.