



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

February 10, 2021

3:30pm to 5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Notice

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all board meetings will be held virtually during the declared public health emergency.

Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting is listed below:

OPEN SESSION FEBRUARY 10, 2021

OS-0221-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 3:44pm</p> <p>The February 10, 2021 Open Session meeting was called to order and a quorum was established.</p> <p>Board Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bernardine Evans – Interim Chairperson • Dr. Timothy Vidale • Ana Quinones • Dr. Nicholas Caylor (absent) <p>Board Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aisha Nixon – Executive Director • David Walker – Health Licensing Specialist • Ajay Gohil – Interim Board Attorney • Mark Donatelli – Board Investigator • Christopher Boone – Board Attorney <p>Open Session Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Senora Simpson • Itunu Afolabi – Intern • Rayan Hagona-Wordi 	
OS-0221-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Ms. Quinones made a motion to approve the February 10, 2021 Open Session Agenda without modifications. Seconded by Dr. Vidale.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u></p> <p>Dr. Vidale, Ms. Quinones, and Dr. Evans voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0221-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>DC Health remains in a telework posture. Board Staff continue to process applications in a timely matter. The Processing Center has begun allowing in-person appointments for individuals to submit applications as of January 25, 2021. To schedule an appointment, individuals should see the link on the Board’s website. Appointments will be on Mondays and Wednesday from 9am to 1pm.</p> <p>The public health emergency status was extended to March 17, 2021. All executive orders pertaining to the public health emergency (including the licensure waiver) have been extended to March 17, 2021 as well. Health professionals looking for information about the vaccine should visit https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine . Health professionals with questions about the vaccine should contact covid-19.vaccine@dc.gov . To sign-up to receive the vaccine, licensees should visit https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc.</p> <p>As of today, 1,196 active licensees under the Board’s authority: PT – 1,112 PTA- 84</p> <p>As of today, 1,150 licenses were renewed. Licensees have until March 31, 2021 to renew their licensee with the \$85 late fee.</p> <p>FSBPT leadership forum will take place virtually on July 17 and 18, 2021. The Interim Chair and Executive Director will attend. The FSBPT General Assembly will take place virtually on October 22 and 23, 2021. Board Staff will be presenting to Howard University’s physical therapy students on February 26, 2021.</p>	
OS-0221-04	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>The Board Attorney reported that a portion of the emergency licensure waiver was clarified. The clarification was made to stress that licensees who wish to use the waiver cannot be in “bad-standing” with their home boards. The PT compact bill is currently under congressional review as of February 1, 2021.</p>	
OS-0221-05	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>The Interim-Chairperson is currently attending CSM which ends on March 4, 2021.</p>	

<p>OS-0221-06</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Dr. Vidale made a motion to approve the January 31, 2021 Open Session Agenda without modifications. Seconded by Ms. Quinones.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Vidale, Ms. Quinones, and Dr. Evans voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>OS-0221-07</p>	<p>DELEGATED AUTHORITIES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> The Board is to review the outlined delegated authorities and determine whether to accept.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> As the Board of Physical Therapy (“the Board”) is limited in how often it can meet, the Board has delegated various authorities to Board staff to help accomplish the goal of public safety. These delegated authorities are limited in nature and are intended to facilitate the business of the Board in an efficient and expedient manner, while at the same time ensuring patient safety is always maintained.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Dr. Vidale made a motion to have item 6 moved under the Board’s authority and have the revised document ready for review during the March meeting. Seconded by Ms. Quinones.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Vidale, Ms. Quinones, and Dr. Evans voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0221-08	<p>SCOPE OF PRACTICE REVISION</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Review and discuss whether to update current scope of practice.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The Health Regulation and Licensing Administration is currently in the process of updating the Health Occupational and Revisions Act (HORA). All Boards have been encouraged to review and potential update its scope of practice.</p> <p>(12)(A) “Practice of physical therapy” means the independent evaluation of human disability, injury, or disease by means of noninvasive tests of neuromuscular functions and other standard procedures of physical therapy, and the treatment of human disability, injury, or disease by therapeutic procedures, embracing the specific scientific application of physical measures to secure the functional rehabilitation of the human body. These measures include the use of therapeutic exercise, therapeutic massage, heat or cold, air, light, water, electricity, or sound for the purpose of correcting or alleviating any physical or mental disability, or preventing the development of any physical or mental disability, or the performance of noninvasive tests of neuromuscular functions as an aid to the detection or treatment of any human condition.</p> <p>(B) “Practice by physical therapy assistants” means the performance of selected physical therapy procedures and related tasks under the direct supervision of a physical therapist by a person who has graduated from a physical therapy assistant program accredited by an agency recognized for that purpose by the Secretary of the Department of Education or the Council of Postsecondary Accreditation.</p> <p>(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing or restricting the practices, services, or activities of a physical therapy aide who works only under the direct supervision of a physical therapist, and whose activities do not require advanced training in, or complex application of, therapeutic procedures or other standard procedures involved in the practice of physical therapy.</p> <p>https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/sections/3-1201.02.html</p>	
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	<p><u>Motion:</u> Dr. Vidale made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting and requested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland and Virginia definitions of PT assistant and PT aide; • Find out if MD or VA allow PT Assistants to supervise PT Aides; and • If so, what type of supervision/how is it done? <p>Seconded by Ms. Quinones.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Vidale, Ms. Quinones, and Dr. Evans voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0221-09	<p>EMERGENCY RULEMAKING – CEU VARIANCE</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Review and determine whether to approve.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The Board adopted Policy No. 20-002 on May 13, 2020 to relieve licensees from completing CEUs for license maintenance in-person considering the coronavirus pandemic. Online courses, home study, and distance education were permitted as a substitute to complete the requisite CEUs. This policy expired on Jan 31, 2021.</p> <p>Should the Board wish to offer a CEU variance to relieve licensees from completing renewal CEUs in-person, it must do so under the authority of regulations which became effective as emergency regs on Jan 4, 2021. This item is offered for the Board’s consideration and vote to accept online courses, home study, and distance education from its PT and PTA renewal applicants in lieu of in-person CEUs for a duration it deems appropriate during the extraordinary circumstances presented by the ongoing pandemic. Currently, the emergency regulation authorizes a modification of the CEU requirements for renewals, only.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Dr. Vidale made a motion to extend the suspension of face-to-face CEUs until the next renewal cycle. Seconded by Ms. Quinones.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u></p>	

	Dr. Vidale, Ms. Quinones, and Dr. Evans voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	
OS-0221-10	<p>TELEHEALTH – FYI NO ACTION NEEDED</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> The Board is to provide any feedback/discussion.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> DC Health has created an interprofessional workgroup comprised of the Board Chairs from different licensure boards. The group was established to generate ideas on solving health matters from a multi-discipline approach. The Workgroup has decided to focus its efforts on the development of legislation to address telehealth.</p>	
OS-0221-11	<p>MOTION TO CLOSE</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Upon conclusion of the open session meeting pursuant to the DC Official Code 2-575(b) and for the purposes set forth therein, the Board will move into the closed executive session portion of the meeting to consult with the Board attorney, discuss disciplinary matters and hear reports concerning violations of the law or regulations.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Dr. Vidale made a motion to close the February 10, 2021 open session meeting. Seconded by Ms. Quinones.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Dr. Vidale, Ms. Quinones, and Dr. Evans voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

The next open session meeting scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 3:30pm.

The Open Meetings Act governs this meeting. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.