

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING & REGULATION
South Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree
Building
110 Centerview Drive
Columbia SC
29211

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Board Members Present

Mary Addison Blackstone P.T., Chairperson
Mollie Barrow, P.T., Member
Hunter L. Bowie, P.T., Member
Anna M. Dilts, P.T., Member
Greg Forlini, P.T., Member
Judd Warren, P.T.A., Member

Absent Member

Lori McMillan, Vice Chair

Staff Present

Mack Williams, Board Administrator
Donnell Jennings, Advice Counsel
Otis Richardson, Board Assistant

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building 110 Centerview Drive, held via video/teleconference and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Call to Order

Ms. Blackstone, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at (10:01 a.m.)

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.

Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Bowie made a motion to approve the absence of Ms. McMillan. The motion was seconded and approved.

Approval/Disapproval of January 13, 2022 Minutes

Motion: In open session, Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from January 13, 2022. The motion was seconded and approved.

OIE/IRC Report:

OIE Report: Ms. Branham presented the OIE statistical report and training report to the Board. The Board accepted both reports as information.

IRC Report: Ms. Branham presented three cases 2021-13, 2022-13, and 2022-2 for a letter of caution.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Bowie made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations of a Letters of Caution for cases 2021-13, 2022-13 and 2022-2. The motion was seconded and approved.

ODC Report: Mr. Alston presented the ODC report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Financial Report: Mr. Williams, Board Administrator, presented the financial report. The Board accepted the report as information.

Disciplinary Hearing

Stipulation of Facts

2021-3: The Respondent made a personal appearance before the Board and was represented by Ben Alexander, Esq. Mr. Roland Alston, Esq. represented the state. Mr. Alston presented the Stipulations of Facts to the Board.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Bowie made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session: No votes were made during executive session. (10:30am-10:55am)

Motion: In open session, Mr. Warren made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Barrow made a motion to dismiss the letter of caution. The Respondent did not violate SC regulation 101-13. The motion was seconded and approved.

Amanda Horton: Ms. Horton appeared before the Board by webex video conference and was not represented by legal counsel. The purpose of the hearing was for the Board to consider the Respondent's request to reconsider the administrative suspension of the Respondent's physical therapist license.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Bowie made a motion to move the case into recess, to give the Respondent time to rectify the question the Board has. The motion was seconded and approved.

The hearing recessed at (11:33a.m.)

Motion: During the recess, Mr. Warren made a motion to come out of recess. The motion was seconded and approved.

The hearing returned from recess at (1:51p.m.)

Motion: In open session, Ms. Dilts made a motion to deny Ms. Horton's request for reconsideration of the administrative suspension. The motion was seconded and approved.

Francis Leahy: Mr. Leahy made a personal appearance before the board and was not represented by legal counsel. The purpose of the hearing was for the Board to consider the Respondent's request to reconsider the administrative suspension of the Respondent's physical therapist license.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Warren made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session: No votes were taken during executive session (11:36a.m.)

Motion: In executive session, Mr. Forlini made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Warren made a motion to deny Mr. Leahy's request for consideration of his administrative suspension. The motion was seconded and approved.

Application Hearings:

Initial Applications:

Florentina Nwaroh: Ms. Nwaroh made a personal appearance before the board and was not represented by legal counsel. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether Ms. Nwaroh should be granted a license as a physical therapist.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Bowie made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session: No votes were taken during executive session. (11:36a.m. - 12:44p.m.)

Motion: In open session, Ms. Dilts made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Bowie made a motion to grant Ms. Nwaroh a provisional physical therapy license to obtain the one thousand hours of supervised clinical practice hours. The motion was seconded and approved.

Anna Kierznowski: Ms. Kierznowski appeared before the Board by webex video conference and was not represented by legal counsel. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether Ms. Kierznowski should be granted a license as a physical therapist assistant.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Dilts made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session: No votes were taken during executive session (1:13p.m.-1:33p.m.)

Motion: In open session, Ms. Barrow made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Barrow made a motion to grant Ms. Kierznowski a license to practice as a physical therapist assistant, pending her submission of passing NPTE scores. The motion was seconded and approved.

Reinstatement Application:

Laura Freemon: Ms. Freemon made a personal appearance before the board and was not represented by legal counsel. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether Ms Freemon should be reinstated as a physical therapist.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Dilts made a motion to reinstate Ms. Freemon's license to practice as a physical therapist in the state of South Carolina. The motion was seconded and approved.

Discussion Topics:

PT Compact Update: The board discussed the PT compact.

CE Audit Update: Mr. Jennings and Mr. Williams updated the Board on the CE Audit.

PTs and PTAs ability to perform deep suctioning using a closed system ballard endotracheal tube, and suctioning a tracheostomy tube by open technique: The Board deferred the question until the licensee can make a personal appearance and present the question to the Board.

Dry Needling Training Requirements: The Board discussed training requirements for dry needling. It is the licensee's professional responsibility to be competent and have the proper training, education, supervision and competency. Advice counsel will prepare a full response.

Review FAQs: The Board reviewed FAQ question: "May exercise physiologists and/or athletic trainers document in the physical therapy record?" The Board discussed the question and decided no changes needed to be made.

FAQ Question: Who requires on site supervision by a licensed Physical Therapist in South Carolina?

Response: According to 40-45-300, on-site supervision by a licensed Physical Therapist is required for PT students, PTA students, clinicians practicing with a provisional license, or physical therapy aides. A licensed Physical Therapist Assistant may provide on-site supervision of PTA students and PT aides. The Board recognizes that some payers have different requirements regarding supervision and would encourage clinicians to seek specific details from each payer.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Barrow made a motion to approve the FAQ on supervision. The motion was seconded and approved.

PTA Virtual Supervision: The Board reviewed the question on virtual supervision. The Board referred to the FAQ on supervision.

Review 101-07: The Board reviewed regulation 101-07 and decided no changes needed to be made at this time.

Jurisprudence Exam: The Board discussed the Jurisprudence exam.

Legislative Update: There was no update to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: In open session, Mr. Warren motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51p.m.



Administrator

7-14-22

Date