

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
Low Country Room
Thursday, July 9, 2026

Board Members Present

Mary Addison Blackstone, P.T., Chair
Lori Thomas, P.T., Vice Chair
Anna M. Dilts, P.T., Member
Hunter L. Bowie, P.T., Member
Matthew Judd Warren, P.T.A, Member
Mollie Barrow, P.T., Member
Diane E. Haigler, P.T., Member
Larry Kopelman, P.T. Member
Barnett Keitt, P.T.A., Member

Staff Present

Mack Williams, Board Executive
Charlie Gwynne, Advice Counsel
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator
Yarikza Alexander, OIE
LeAnna McMenamin, Esq, ODC
Virginia Wetzel, Communications and Government Affairs

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building 110 Centerview Drive, 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 10:00 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Mr. Bowie made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members:

Motion: All members are present.

Approval of April 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mr. Kopelman made a motion to approve the April 9, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Administrative Reports

OIE/IRC Report: Ms. Alexander presented the IRC statistical report to the Board. The Board accepted the report for informational purposes only.

IRC Report: Ms. Alexander presented Case #'s 2025-25 and 2026-4 for dismissal.

Motion: Mr. Bowie made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2025-25 and 2026-4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Ms. Alexander presented Case #'s 2025-22, 2025-24, and 2026-5 for Formal Complaint.

Motion: Mr. Keitt made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2025-22, 2025-24 and 2026-5. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowie and passed.

ODC Report: Ms. McMenamin, Esq. presented the ODC report. The Board accepted the report for informational purposes only.

Financial Report: Mr. Williams, Board Executive, presented the financial report. The Board accepted the report for informational purposes only.

Legislative Update

Ms. Virginia Wetzel provided an update on the legislative session. Two bills have passed including House Bill 3842 regarding medical authorization of handicap placards. House Bill 3842 was signed into law on May 15, 2026. House Bill 3021 is a law that requires the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) to review all state regulations, including LLR's, with reviews scheduled every five to eight years. The bill removes exemptions for professions from the regulatory review process.

Application Hearing **Exam Application**

Cecelia Dominick: Ms. Dominick made a personal appearance before the Board, and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether Ms. Dominick should be granted a license as a physical therapist assistant. The proceedings will address allegations regarding unlicensed practice occurring between March 2026 and April 2, 2026

Motion: Ms. Barrow made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Motion: Mr. Warren made a motion to come out of executive session where no votes were taken. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barrow and passed.

Motion: Ms. Barrow made a motion to grant licensure as a physical therapist assistant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Gabrielle Freeman: Ms. Freeman made a personal appearance before the Board, and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether Ms. Freeman should be granted a license as a physical therapist assistant (PTA). Ms. Freeman did not graduate from a board approved physical therapy assistant program. The proceedings will determine whether Ms. Freeman meets the requirements for a PTA license.

Motion: Ms. Thomas made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Motion: Mr. Warren made a motion to come out of executive session where no votes were taken.. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keitt and passed.

Motion: Mr. Bowie made a motion to deny licensure as a physical therapist assistant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thomas and passed.

Rachael Leyrer: Ms. Leyrer made a personal appearance before the Board, and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether Ms. Leyrer should be granted a license as a physical therapist assistant (PTA). Ms. Leyrer did not graduate from a board approved physical therapy assistant program. The proceedings will determine whether Ms. Leyrer meets the requirements for a PTA license.

Motion: Mr. Warren made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kopelman and passed.

Motion: Mr. Bowie made a motion to deny licensure as a physical therapist assistant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Motion: Ms. Thomas made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dilts and passed.

Janet Turner: Ms. Turner made a personal appearance before the Board, and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether Ms. Turner should be granted a license as a physical therapist assistant (PTA). Ms. Turner did not graduate from a board approved physical therapy assistant program. The proceedings will determine whether Ms. Turner meets the requirements for a PTA license.

Motion: Ms. Barrow made a motion to grant licensure as a physical therapist assistant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren and passed.

Samiksha Tawade: Ms. Tawade made a personal appearance by WebEx video conference before the Board, and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the is to determine whether Ms. Tawade should be granted a license as a physical therapist. Ms. Tawade has not provided proof of English efficiency nor has she provided documented proof of one thousand (1000) clinical practice hours under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The proceedings will determine whether Ms. Tawade meets the requirements for a physical therapist license.

Motion: Ms. Dilts made a motion to grant licensure as a physical therapist. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kopelman and passed.

2025 PT Compact Annual Report

Mr. Williams presented the 2025 PT Compact Annual Report to the Board. The Board accepted the report for informational purposes only.

FSBPT Update

Mr. Williams presented the email regarding the FSBPT update. The Board accepted the report for informational purposes only.

2026 FSBPT Annual Conference

As the host of the 2026 FSBPT Annual Conference, the Board will give a presentation. Mr. Williams and the Board discussed the details of the presentation.

APTA State of Affairs Legislative Update

Mr. Williams presented the APTA State of Affairs Legislative update with the Board which outlines the APTA's legislative agenda for the past year. The Board accepted the report for informational purposes only.

PT Compact Status Report

Mr. Williams presented the PT Compact Status Report State with the Board. The Board discussed the compact privileges in South Carolina, noting that most individuals with these privileges to practice reside in North Carolina. The Board observed in the quarterly report that more people entered South Carolina than left during that specific period.

2027 Board Meeting Dates

Motion: Ms. Barrow made a motion to accept the 2027 Board meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dilts and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kopelman and passed.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.