



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Board of Allied Health Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2023

Board Members Present:

Jamie Musler, Chair, AT
Andrew Rizza, Vice Chair, AT
Deborah Slater, Secretary, OT
Reena Patel, AT
Diane Smith, OT
Melanie Glynn, OTA
Stacy Potvin, PTA
Catherine Lane, PT

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Michael Egan, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members: Jamie Musler, Andrew Rizza, Deborah Slater, Reena Patel, Diane Smith, Melanie Glynn, Stacy Potvin, and Catherine Lane all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rizza, seconded by Ms. Lane, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Executive Session Minutes of October 26, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Glynn, seconded by Ms. Slater, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 26, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Correspondence

- **10.20.23 Email from B. Sobuta re: Pessary Fittings and Management and Physical Therapy Scope of Practice:** The Board reviewed Ms. Sobuta’s email asking whether pessary fittings and management are within the scope of physical therapy. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rizza, seconded by Ms. Glynn, to direct Mr. Bialas to respond that pessary fittings and management can be within the scope of physical therapy provided the physical therapist providing pessary fittings and management has appropriate advanced training to be a qualified pelvic-health physical therapist. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **11.3.23 Email from J. Reidy re: Orthopedic Physician Extender Certification and Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice:** The Board reviewed Mr. Reidy’s email asking whether an athletic trainer may assist in surgery if certified as an Orthopedic Physician Extender.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Musler, seconded by Mr. Rizza, to create a subcommittee consisting of two athletic trainer members and a member of one other license type to study the issue. The motion failed by a majority vote, with Mr. Musler, Ms. Glynn, and Mr. Rizza voting in favor, and Ms. Slater, Ms. Smith, Ms. Patel, Ms. Potvin, and Ms. Lane voting no.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Potvin, seconded by Ms. Slater, to direct Ms. York to analyze the question and report back to the Board at a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Suture and Staple Removal and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practice:** The Board reviewed a question from Rebecca Lewis asking whether suture and staple removal are within the scope of occupational therapy. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Slater, seconded by Ms. Smith, to direct Mr. Bialas to respond that wound care, debridement, and suture and staple removal can be within the scope of occupational therapy if the occupational therapist performing those procedures has suitable advanced training and prior supervised practice.

Monitoring

- **Michael Doucette, 2022-000066-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Continuing Competence:** The Board reviewed Mr. Doucette’s submission of the proposed course “Ethical Considerations in the Practice of Physical Therapy” to satisfy the ethics requirement of his consent agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Potvin, seconded by Ms. Slater, to approve the proposed course. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours Before the Meeting

Mr. Musler asked for an update on the answer to a previous email to the Board asking whether suturing is within the scope of practice of an athletic trainer. Mr. Bialas said that he will provide an update at the next meeting.

Executive Session (CLOSED under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B – adhering to the public records law and to preserve the confidentiality of medical record information)

At 10:35 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Potvin, seconded by Mr. Rizza, to exit the public meeting and (1) enter into executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against an individual, and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B – adhering to the public records law and to preserve the confidentiality of medical record information; specifically, to discuss and evaluate the physical condition or mental health of licensees as it relates to a licensee’s appeal of the Board’s denial of a request for a continuing competence waiver and a licensee’s request for a continuing competence waiver, and a request for reinstatement that involves medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases; and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (3) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 10:35 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Investigative Conference (Closed Session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:20 a.m.

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Cases

AHP-2023-0006 (LA):	Refer to the office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0008 (SV):	Refer to the office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0007 (PW):	Refer to the office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0045 (DT):	Refer to the office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0046 (KF):	Refer to the office of prosecutions
FAHP-2023-0001 (AB):	Refer to the office of prosecutions

Adjournment

At 11:50 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Glynn, seconded by Ms. Potvin, to exit closed session and return to open session, then adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on January 25, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used by the Board at the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of December 21, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of October 26, 2023
- 10.20.23 Email from B. Sobuta re: Pessary Fittings and Management and Physical Therapy Scope of Practice
- 11.3.23 Email from J. Reidy re: Orthopedic Physician Extender Certification and Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice
- 12.6.23 Email from D. Slater re: Suture and Staple Removal and Occupational Therapy Scope of Practice
- Michael Doucette, 2022-000066-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Continuing Competence