



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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**Board of Allied Health Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2024**

Board Members Present:

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

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 9:02 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members: Andrew Rizza, Deborah Slater, Diane Smith, Melanie Glynn, Catherine Lane, and Reena Patel all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Slater, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of February 22, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Glynn, seconded by Ms. Slater, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 22, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Selection of Delegates to 2024 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Leadership Issues Forum and Annual Education Meeting:** The Board deferred the selection of delegates to the April meeting.
- **Selection of Representative to 2024 Board of Certification CARE Conference:** The Board considered whom to select as the Board's representative to the 2024 Board of Certification CARE Conference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Glynn, to select Mr. Musler as the Board's representative and Ms. Patel as alternate. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **License Reactivation Process:** The Board considered changes to the license reactivation process, including changes to the License Reactivation Guide and Policy Regarding Reinstatement of Expired Licenses. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Slater, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the changes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Schedule of Discipline for Unlicensed Practice:** The Board considered a proposed Schedule of Discipline for Unlicensed Practice. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. York to revise the schedule and present the revised schedule to the Board at the meeting next month.
- **Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure:** Ms. York presented a draft policy outlining the procedures to be followed for the summary suspension of a license before a hearing to prevent an immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Slater, seconded by Ms. Glynn, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Correspondence

- **11.3.23 Email from J. Reidy re: Orthopedic Physician Extender Certification and Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice:** Ms. York and Mr. Egan stated that they will contact the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Safety on this issue and will report on this issue at the Board's meeting next month.
- **Suturing and Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice:** Ms. York and Mr. Egan stated that they will report on this topic at the Board's next meeting.
- **3.12.24 Email from C. Co re: Soft Tissue Mobilization Techniques and Physical Therapist Scope of Practice:** The Board reviewed the email asking whether it is within a physical therapist's scope of practice to perform and teach soft tissue mobilization techniques. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to respond that

licensees must make their own judgments about their competency to perform, and share knowledge of, such techniques.

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

At 10:04 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Glynn, to exit public session and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 10:04 a.m.

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

Cases

AHP-2023-0012 (WL):	Dismiss
AHP-2023-0040 (MK):	Dismiss
AHP-2023-0036 (CM):	Refer to office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0037 (NG):	Refer to office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0041 (JB):	Refer to office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0051 (JM):	Refer to office of prosecutions
AHP-2023-0057 (JS):	Dismiss
AHP-2024-0004 (LP):	Refer to office of prosecutions
AHP-2024-0008 (KM):	Refer to office of prosecutions

Adjournment

At 10:26 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Patel, seconded by Ms. Glynn, to exit closed session and return to open session, then adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 23, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of March 28, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of February 22, 2024

- 1.2.24 Email from C. Jennings re: Selection of Delegates to 2024 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Leadership Issues Forum and Annual Education Meeting
- 2.14.24 Email from Board of Certification re: Selection of Representative to 2024 Board of Certification CARE Conference
- Draft Reactivation of an Expired License Guide, Allied Health Professions Reactivation Attestation, and Policy Regarding Reinstatement of Expired Licenses
- Draft Proposed Policy on Fines for Unlicensed Practice
- Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure
- 11.3.23 Email from J. Reidy re: Orthopedic Physician Extender Certification and Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice
- 6.17.22 Email from L. Murphy re: Athletic Trainers and Suturing, 7.1.23 Email from B. Bialas to L. Murphy re: Athletic Trainers and Suturing, 3.30.15 Email from P. Kelley to L. Pitwood re: Occupational Therapists and Suturing, 9.23.10 Email from P. Kelley to J. Cannan re: Physical Therapists and Suturing, 3.28.24 Letter from R. Colandreo and B. Winston of Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts re: Suturing and Athletic Trainer Scope of Practice
- 3.12.24 Email from C. Co re: Soft Tissue Mobilization Techniques and Physical Therapist Scope of Practice