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Board of Physical Therapy Minutes

December 11, 2023

Labor & Industries, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Members Present: Rodney Copes, Physical Therapist, Vice-chairperson; Jennifer Aglubat, Physical Therapist; Kathryn Dale, Physical Therapist, Chairperson; Jeffrey Foucrier, Physical Therapist; Destini Jammeh, Physical Therapist Assistant; Celeste Misko, Physical Therapist

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Allyson McIver, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Lydia Koroma, Supervising Staff Attorney; Catharine Roner-Reiter, Supervising Staff Attorney; Rachel Campbell, Fiscal Analyst; Shani Hue, Budget Analyst; Lilia Lopez, Senior Counsel; Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

Guests and Other Participants: Alanna Hildebrand, Physical Therapist, EvergreenHealth; Inau; Elizabeth Dart, Acupuncturist, Massage Therapist, NaturoMedica; Emily Bohannon, Physical Therapist, Apto Physical Therapy; Lisa VanHaagen, Acupuncturist, Massage Therapist, Sedro-Wooley Massage; Neil Bhagat, Physical Therapist, Seattle Children's; Amy Sanderson, Physical Therapist, Apex Physical Therapy; Brian Thacker, Physical Therapist, Olympic Sports & Spine; Kristine McGinley, Acupuncturist, Kristine Acupuncture; Gregorio Daez, Physical Therapist; Chaiya Sherman, Acupuncturist, Washington Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association; Leslie; Catherine Dayhoff, Acupuncturist, Dayhoff Orthopedic Acupuncture; Melissa Johnson, APTA-WA; Daniel McIntyre, PT

1. Call to Order

On December 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., Chairperson Dale officially called the meeting to order.

1.1. Introductions

Following the call to order, Chairperson Dale facilitated introductions, allowing each board member and department staff to be acknowledged. Attendees joining virtually also had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Dale presented the proposed agenda, seeking approval from the board. No objections were raised, and a motion to approve was initiated by Dr. Aglubat. Vice-chairperson Copes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

1.3. Approval of October 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The meeting then moved to the approval of the minutes from the previous session held on October 2, 2023. Chairperson Dale presented the minutes, Dr. Aglubat moved for approval, Vice-chairperson Copes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum

Chairperson Dale initiated the open forum session, providing a platform for the public to address non-rule hearing issues related to physical therapy. Noteworthy was Ms. Johnson's update on legislative advocacy, specifically focusing on House Bill 1655 for increased reimbursement.

3. Intramuscular Needling Rules Workshop

The following agenda item centered around a workshop led by Chairperson Dale on intramuscular needling rules, including three sub-sections:

3.1. Fee Presentation

Ms. Campbell discussed the proposed one-time fee of \$100 for the initial dry needling endorsement application. The board engaged in a Q&A with Ms. Campbell, covering funding details.

3.2. Public Comment

Public comments included support for the rules draft, clarifications on clinical review, and concerns about rule details.

3.3. Board Discussion

Discussions focused on key changes in physical therapy rules, clarifying endorsement requirements. The board unanimously approved the draft rules with a correction to the statute reference in item 10. Vice-chairperson Copes moved to approve the draft rules with this correction, seconded by Dr. Foucrier, and the motion was carried out without opposition.

4. Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

This agenda item encompassed updates on the Compact Commission and a report-out on the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Annual Education Conference, including two sub-sections:

4.1. Compact Commission Updates

Updates included Election Commission appointments. Concerns were raised about outdated rules last approved on October 30, 2022.

4.2. FSBPT Annual Education Conference Report-out

Chairperson Dale, Dr. Foucrier, and Dr. Aglubat highlighted the FSBPT Annual Meeting, covering boundary violations, legalized marijuana's impact, and ongoing discussions on diversity initiatives.

5. Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Rules

The board proposed moving agenda item 5 down the agenda for a more detailed review. Ms. Richter discussed the need for updates due to discrepancies between the prior version (October 30, 2022) and recent changes (June 27, 2023). After discussion, a motion to authorize Ms. McIver to open the rules (246-915A) for expedited rulemaking was made by Dr. Foucrier, seconded by Ms. Aglubat, and unanimously approved.

The meeting resumed after a break from 11:11 a.m. to 11:16 a.m.

6. Second Substitute House Bill 1724 State Review

Ms. McIver led a detailed discussion on the review of Second Substitute House Bill 1724. The bill mandates the granting of licenses to applicants from other states with at least two years of licensing, no more than a 90-day gap, and substantially equivalent requirements. A list of 18 states was presented, including education, exam details, and recommendations. After thorough board discussion, Dr. Aglubat moved to approve the presented states, and it was seconded by Dr. Foucrier. The motion was carried out without opposition.

7. Website FAQ Review

This section involved a comprehensive discussion about the website FAQ section. Dr. Foucrier suggested improvements, such as creating dropdown menus for better navigation. The board discussed the timeframe for application reviews, with a suggestion for a more flexible approach tied to the next review panel meeting. Additionally, considerations were made to include staff contacts in the FAQ section, and a dedicated section for this purpose was agreed upon. The board expressed gratitude for ongoing efforts, and a motion to approve the FAQ with the suggested amendment by Dr. Foucrier, seconded by Dr. Aglubat, was unanimously approved.

8. Correspondence

In the correspondence section, Chairperson Dale reported no significant correspondence since the last meeting.

8.1. Request for Lists and Labels

8.1.1. Puget Sound Home Health and Hospice

The application from Puget Sound Home Health and Hospice for lists and labels was discussed. Concerns were raised about its nature, resembling recruitment more than an educational association. A motion to reject the application from Dr. Foucrier was seconded by Vice-chairperson Copes and unanimously approved.

9. Program Report

The program report covered various aspects, including a budget report, rulemaking update, board member recruitment update, legislative updates, and planning for upcoming meetings.

9.1. Budget Report

Ms. McIver presented the board budget report for July 1st, 2023, to October 31st, 2023. She highlighted the initial fund balance, adjustments pending for fiscal year 2024-25 due to a health assessment, and successful fee increases implemented on June 1st. The expenses breakdown was discussed, and Ms. McIver affirmed the positive financial trend.

9.2. Rulemaking Update

Ms. McIver provided a brief update on rulemaking, including health equity CE CR-103, dry needling CR-102 filing with a tentative hearing date of April 15th, initial licensure rules filing, and expedited rules – WAC 246-915A filing.

9.3. Board Member Recruitment Update

Ms. McIver updated the board on member recruitment efforts. No new applications were received, and strategies for outreach, including social media and a pamphlet distribution targeting specific criteria, were discussed.

9.4. Legislative Updates

9.4.1. Solicit Volunteers from the Board for the Legislative Update Calls

Under legislative updates, Ms. McIver briefed the board on the upcoming 2024 legislative session, emphasizing its short duration from January 8th to March 7th. Volunteers for the legislative update calls were requested, and Dr. Aglubat and Dr. Foucrier volunteered.

9.5. Planning for Upcoming Meetings

Ms. McIver provided updates on upcoming meetings, including agenda items, Department of Health updates, legislative impact, team growth, and specialization. She concluded by inviting further questions to be directed to her.

10. Consent Agenda

Items listed under the consent agenda (informal items) were considered routine matters and approved without discussion upon approval of the agenda.

10.1. Q3 NPTE Survey Results

The Q3 NPTE survey results were presented without further discussion.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson Dale formally adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m. A motion to adjourn, initiated by Vice-chairperson Copes and seconded by Dr. Aglubat, was unanimously approved.

Washington State Board of Physical Therapy

Kathryn Dale, Chairperson

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