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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

**F I N A L M I N U T E S**

MEETING OF:

**STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

TIME: 10:48 A.M.

Held at

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

January 29, 2026

State Board of Physical Therapy  
January 29, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Geraldine M. Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson  
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
Professional and Occupational Affairs  
Robert Bonacci, M.D., Secretary of Health Designee  
Lisa Mackell, Physical Therapist  
Jeremy Robb, Attorney General's Office Designee  
Craig Ruby, Physical Therapist, Secretary  
Ian S. Steele, Physical Therapist  
Krista Wolfe, Physical Therapist, Vice Chair

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel  
William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecution  
Liaison  
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor  
and Prosecution Liaison  
Adrienne McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator  
Caitlin Ostrowski, Dentistry Board Administrator  
Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,  
Prosecution Division  
Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of  
Chief Counsel  
Stephanie Dunkerly, Legal Analyst, Office of General  
Counsel  
Ronald Jackson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Deena Parmelee, Legal Office Administrator  
Ronald Rouse, Esquire, PA Office of General Counsel

ALSO PRESENT:

Stephen Gaus, Director of Business Development,  
TruMerit  
Hadley Munro, TruMerit  
Alicia Harris, Customer Success Executive, TruMerit  
Lynda Belmehdi, Manager of Programs for ICD, TruMerit  
Kenny Erb, Physical Therapist, Adjunct Professor,  
Duquesne University  
Beata Maslanka, L.OM, MSTOM, Founder, The Great  
Turning Acupuncture

State Board of Physical Therapy  
January 29, 2026

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ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

Melissa Dehoff, Director, Rehabilitation Services  
Divisions, Rehabilitation & Community Providers  
Association  
Suzanne Kaczor, President, Association for  
Professional Acupuncture in Pennsylvania  
Ted Mowatt, Vice President, Executive Director,  
Wanner Associates  
Wanner Intern, Wanner Associates  
Jessica Ashman, Sargent's Court Reporting Services,  
Inc.

1 \*\*\*

2 State Board of Physical Therapy

3 January 29, 2026

4 \*\*\*

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,  
6 at 10:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive  
7 Session with Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
8 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial  
9 deliberations on a number of matters currently  
10 pending before the Board and to receive advice of  
11 counsel. The Board returned to open session at 10:48  
12 a.m.]

13 \*\*\*

14 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
15 Board of Physical Therapy was held on Thursday,  
16 January 29, 2026.

17 \*\*\*

18 Official Call to Order

19 [Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, called  
20 the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m.]

21 \*\*\*

22 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
23 meeting was being recorded and voluntary  
24 participation constituted consent to be recorded.

25 Mr. Barrett also noted the Board entered into

1 Executive Session this morning and conducted quasi-  
2 judicial deliberations with the advice of counsel.]

3 \*\*\*

4 Roll Call of Board Members and Bureau Personnel

5 [Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, provided  
6 a roll call of Board Members and Bureau personnel. A  
7 quorum was noted to be present.]

8 \*\*\*

9 Introduction of Attendees

10 [Paul Keller, Board Administrator, provided an  
11 introduction of attendees.]

12 \*\*\*

13 Appointment - Prosecution Annual Report

14 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,  
15 Prosecution Division, explained the Bureau of  
16 Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) provides  
17 administrative and legal support to the 29  
18 professional and occupational licensing boards and  
19 commissions within the department. The Prosecution  
20 Division works with its investigative (BEI) and  
21 compliance arms (PCO) who receive complaints,  
22 investigate allegations, and enforce compliance with  
23 the acts and regulations that govern the boards and  
24 commissions. She stated the Prosecution Division is  
25 comprised of five senior prosecuting attorneys as

1 well as 34 prosecuting attorneys including each board  
2 liaison.

3 Ms. Walter stated the prosecution process always  
4 begins with a complaint. She reported in both 2024  
5 and 2025 the department received approximately 23,000  
6 total complaints for all boards. Ms. Walter provided  
7 an overview of the investigative process in which the  
8 complaint moves through several levels of review.  
9 She noted the primary role of prosecution at Board  
10 meetings is to present Consent Agreements to the  
11 Board.

12 Ms. Walter explained after the investigative  
13 process, the evidence is reviewed by the prosecuting  
14 attorney to determine if they believe there have been  
15 any violations of the act or regulations, how  
16 sufficient the evidence is and determine if  
17 additional files need to be opened. She stated if a  
18 violation is suspected the available options include  
19 immediate temporary suspension; filing an order to  
20 show cause; automatic suspension; an order for a  
21 mental or physical examination; and a petition for  
22 appropriate relief if the case violates a previous  
23 Board order. Avenues for discipline types are  
24 revocation, suspension, probation, public reprimand,  
25 civil penalty, remedial education, and cost of

1 investigation. She added all investigations are  
2 confidential and are not subject to right-to-know  
3 requests. Information can be shared with other  
4 licensing boards and law enforcement. The only  
5 information shared publicly via the PALS website are  
6 the final actions.

7 Ms. Walters shared in 2025 there were 17,354  
8 cases opened, slightly more than calendar year 2024.  
9 However, the division closed significantly more in  
10 2025, having closed 19,131. Specifically for the  
11 State Board of Physical Therapy in 2025, she reported  
12 89 were opened with 87 cases being closed. Cases  
13 were closed in about 377 days on average. The  
14 penalties included seven monetary penalties and eight  
15 had an ability to practice affected. There were 27  
16 warning letters. Ms. Walter shared the State Board  
17 of Physical Therapy has about 28,900 active licenses  
18 and 99 open cases.]

19

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20 Approval of Minutes of the November 17, 2025 meeting

21 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

22 The next item on the Agenda is approval  
23 of the draft minutes of November 17,  
24 2025. Does anyone have any comments,  
25 corrections, edits?

1 [Chair Grzybek noted two corrections.]

2 MR. STEELE:

3 Steele, so moved.

4 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

5 Is there a second?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 Claggett, second.

8 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

9 Thank you. It's been moved and  
10 seconded. Are you ready for the vote?

11

12 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, abstain;  
13 Bonacci, aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye;  
14 Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

15 [The motion carried. Acting Commissioner Claggett  
16 abstained from voting on the matter.]

17

\*\*\*

18 Appointment - TruMerit Presentation

19 [Stephen Gaus, Director of Business Development,  
20 TruMerit noted his company includes the International  
21 Consultants of Delaware (ICD). He explained he was  
22 joined by Hadley Munro; Alicia Harris, Customer  
23 Success Executive; and Lynda Belmehdi, Manager of  
24 Programs for ICD. Mr. Gaus provided the Board with a  
25 brief history of TruMerit and ICD which was acquired

1 in 1987. ICD is a charter member of the National  
2 Association of Credential Evaluation Services  
3 (NACES). He noted Ms. Belmehdi is also a NACES  
4 certified senior analyst. He mentioned both TruMerit  
5 and ICD are general considered world-class recognized  
6 leaders in credential evaluations.

7 Mr. Gaus explained they were presenting at the  
8 meeting with the goal of making the Board familiar  
9 with their services and asking if they could be  
10 approved as a credentialing agency for educated PTs.  
11 He noted TruMerit processes applications from foreign  
12 educated health care providers who want to migrate to  
13 the United States, Canada, New Zealand and soon to be  
14 Aruba. Their primary business is nursing and are  
15 accepted by all 50 state boards of nursing. From a  
16 PT perspective, they are accepted by 36 states.

17 Ms. Belmehdi described the documentation required  
18 for ICD to complete a PT evaluation including two  
19 notarized forms of ID, one of which must be a photo  
20 ID with signature; and a comprehensive set of  
21 educational documents, including official  
22 transcripts, copy of diploma and the curriculum. The  
23 school also has to complete the ICD Education  
24 Verification form. She noted, while English language  
25 proficiency is generally optional for ICD evaluation,

1 proficiency is required for PT evaluation.

2 Ms. Belmehdi explained, once all documents are  
3 received, their International credential evaluator  
4 determines the U.S. compatibility by using internal  
5 and standard industry resources to verify the  
6 specific credential earned. ICD also verifies the  
7 accreditation status of the educational institution  
8 and the program. She also explained the conversion  
9 of foreign credit to U.S. standards is based on the  
10 program structure, country of education and the  
11 original unit awarded. ICD uses the Coursework Tools  
12 (CWT) created by the Federation of State Boards of  
13 Physical Therapy (FSBPT) for the evaluation. The  
14 specific CWT used is determined by the individual  
15 state board guidelines and the applicant's graduation  
16 year.

17 Once a report is completed, the report is sent to  
18 the state board via an email as a notification with a  
19 secure link. Board staff can use the link to  
20 download the digital PDF of the report. The  
21 applicant also receives a copy of the report but only  
22 the board copy is considered official. Ms. Belmehdi  
23 provided the Board with examples of the report cover  
24 page to demonstrate a clear comparability stated of  
25 substantially equivalent or not substantially

1 equivalent. The report also describes in what areas  
2 the applicant is deficient. Reevaluation can be done  
3 after the applicant completes required education.  
4 The report also includes the CWT assessment, an  
5 appendix and a detailed list of any educational  
6 deficiencies. Ms. Belmehdi provided three slides  
7 with detailed examples of the report and explained  
8 each slide. She noted the detail level provided  
9 ensures the Board can see exactly which credits were  
10 counted toward professional equivalency and which  
11 were excluded.

12 Ms. Belmehdi mentioned the report also specifies  
13 the exact number of credits an applicant still needs  
14 to fulfill the minimum requirement, providing the  
15 applicant with a clear roadmap to qualification.

16 Ms. Belmehdi provided the Board with statistics  
17 showing the 2025 volume of cases, country of  
18 education, and type of degrees. She acknowledged  
19 timing is everything for both the boards and  
20 applicants. ICD maintains a ten-week turnaround time  
21 from the time the last required document is received  
22 to the time the report is issued.

23 Mr. Gaus offered to supply a full redacted report  
24 for the Board to see the evidence of the full output  
25 of ICD's work. He noted ICD is performing better

1 than their published times. He added they track at  
2 about half the time and price of the other evaluator,  
3 which helps make the journey easier for candidates  
4 from resource challenged countries. In addition, Mr.  
5 Gaus reported there had been a couple of boards  
6 interested in working with TruMerit on a mechanism  
7 for reentry to practice. He noted, if the Board was  
8 interested in a reentry mechanism, TruMerit would  
9 likely be convening a multi-state board to take a  
10 look at requirements.

11 It was noted the Board would need additional  
12 information regarding the scope and process of the  
13 reentry mechanism before considering it.

14 Acting Commissioner Claggett stated the Board  
15 would need time to review the information shared and  
16 would possibly take action during the March meeting.]

17 \*\*\*

18 Report of Regulatory Counsel

19 [Geraldine M. Grzybek, Physical Therapist,  
20 Chairperson shared the Regulatory Counsel position  
21 with the Board was vacant as Thomas Davis, Esquire,  
22 moved back into being Board Counsel for the Massage  
23 Therapy, Veterinary Medicine and Social Work Boards.  
24 A replacement would soon be hired.]

25 \*\*\*

1 Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Adjudications and  
2 Orders

3 MR. BARRETT:

4 Agenda No. 2, Kristen Anne Baker, Case  
5 No. 24-65-002316. Before we take any  
6 motion on this, I'll note Chairperson  
7 Grzybek was recused from any  
8 deliberation on this matter.

9 So based on Executive Session  
10 deliberations, I believe the Board  
11 Chair would entertain a motion to  
12 direct Board Counsel to draft an  
13 Adjudication and Order consistent with  
14 Executive Session Deliberations on this  
15 matter.

16 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

17 Is there a motion?

18 MR. STEELE:

19 Steele, so moved.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

21 Claggett, second.

22 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

23 Is there further discussion? Hearing  
24 none. Ready for the vote? All those  
25 in favor signify by saying aye; oppose,

1                   nay; or abstain.

2

3                   Grzybek, recuse; Claggett, aye;

4                   Bonacci, aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye;

5                   Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

6 [The motion carried. Chair Grzybek was recused from  
7 deliberations and voting on the matter.]

8

\*\*\*

9 Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudication and  
10 Order

11 MR. BARRETT:

12                   Moving on to Item No. 3, the Final  
13 Adjudication and Order.

14                   Based on Executive Session  
15 Deliberations, I believe the Board  
16 Chair would entertain a motion to  
17 approve the Final Adjudication and  
18 Order subject to correcting the  
19 typographical errors at Case No. 22-65-  
20 009987, James Blakeley.

21 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

22                   Is there a motion?

23 MR. STEELE:

24                   Steele, so moved.

25 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

1 Claggett, second.

2 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

3 It's been moved and seconded. Is there  
4 any further discussion? We're ready  
5 for the vote. All those in favor  
6 signify by saying aye; oppose, nay; or  
7 abstain.

8

9 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
10 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
11 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13

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14 Report of the Prosecution

15 [J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor  
16 and Prosecution Liaison, presented the Consent  
17 Agreement for Agenda Item No. 4, Case No. 21-65-  
18 006916. The Board decided to reenter Executive  
19 Session later in the meeting for deliberations.]

20

\*\*\*

21 Report of Board Chairperson

22 [Geraldine Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson,  
23 provided the Board with a report of recent  
24 activities. She highlighted the FSBPT collaborated  
25 with the Healthcare Regulatory Research Institute to

1 develop a Healthy Practice Resource, accessible on  
2 the FSBPT website.

3 Chair Grzybek reported she represented the Board  
4 at the PT Compact Commission annual meeting on  
5 December 10, 2025. She noted Nevada and Kansas were  
6 added to the compact, now totaling 37 jurisdictions.

7 She stated the 2025 practice analysis update for  
8 the National Physical Therapy Examination was  
9 available on the FSBPT website. The comprehensive  
10 report prepared by the Human Resources Research  
11 Organization, in cooperation with FSBPT, provides an  
12 in-depth analysis of work activities, knowledge, and  
13 skill necessary for entry-level physical therapists  
14 and physical therapist assistants. The report also  
15 helps guide updates to test specifications and item  
16 development, ensuring the exam reflects the realities  
17 of current clinical practice.

18 Chair Grzybek noted Ms. Wolfe, current member of  
19 the FSBPT Board of Directors, would continue to be  
20 the liaison for Pennsylvania. Chair Grzybek provided  
21 upcoming FSBPT workshop information. She also noted  
22 Ms. Mackell was appointed to serve on the FSBPT  
23 Education Committee.

24 Chair Grzybek reported the Compact Commission  
25 provided the fourth quarter 2025 report for

1 Pennsylvania. She noted Pennsylvania met compliance  
2 threshold at 100 percent for timely weekly data  
3 sharing and the use of the FSBPT ID. Pennsylvania  
4 did not meet the requirement for reporting  
5 disciplinary actions within 14 days for two  
6 individuals and did not flag individuals under  
7 investigation. The Compact Commission has offered  
8 education to both the acting Board Administrator and  
9 to the next Board Administrator.

10 Chair Grzybek noted FSBPT continues to offer  
11 Regulatory Hour educational sessions.

12 Chair Grzybek stated the APTA revised Code of  
13 Ethics was published on January 1, 2026. She asked  
14 if there were any updates to the November discussion  
15 regarding adding a link to the Code of Ethics on the  
16 Board's website.

17 Mr. Barrett hesitated to add a link to the  
18 website. He noted linking to any standard code of  
19 conduct may violate the Regulatory Procedures Act as  
20 people may assume the Board requires adherence to a  
21 standard of practice not currently in the Board's  
22 Regulations.

23 Chair Grzybek indicated there was a recent scam  
24 alert. A licensee reported a phone call on her cell  
25 phone which indicated her PT license was compromised

1 regarding a legal case out of state. After  
2 consulting with Mr. Barrett and Mr. Robb, advice was  
3 given to the licensee that the call was likely a scam  
4 in an attempt to get personal information from the  
5 licensee. She highlighted all licensees should be on  
6 alert and to report suspicious activity or  
7 communications to the Department of State for  
8 appropriate investigation.

9 Chair Grzybek noted, at the prior meeting, a  
10 stakeholder spreadsheet was shared. She asked if a  
11 revised list with edits from Board Members could be  
12 shared for review.

13 Mr. Barrett stated he would share the list again.  
14 He noted the Board should confirm the list has up-to-  
15 date information. He will make a combined master  
16 list with all edits for redistribution.]

17

\*\*\*

18 Report of Acting Commissioner

19 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
20 Professional and Occupational Affairs, stated he did  
21 not have a report.

22 Chair Grzybek stated she reviewed the list of  
23 Board members, noting there were two vacant physical  
24 therapist positions, one vacant physical therapist  
25 assistant position and two vacant public members

1 positions. In addition, she noted Ms. Wolfe and  
2 herself both had terms ending in 2026. She expressed  
3 concern about the Board maintaining a quorum if new  
4 members were not appointed and asked if there was any  
5 advice Acting Commissioner Claggett could give on  
6 facilitating new members.

7 Acting Commissioner Claggett stated he could  
8 follow-up with a contact in the Governor's office  
9 regarding reappointments and new appointments.

10 Ms. Mackell stated it would be helpful for the  
11 Board to know if they should be trying to recruit  
12 people. She added her application was with the  
13 Governor's office for three years before being  
14 approved.

15 Acting Commissioner Claggett stated he would  
16 follow-up during his report at the next meeting.

17 Mr. Barrett stated he was not concerned about the  
18 Board maintaining quorum as the requirement for the  
19 Physical Therapy Board was a simple majority of  
20 members serving. He preferred a full Board for  
21 discussion purposes but noted the Board could  
22 function with only a few people. He also explained  
23 there were multiple steps to a person being appointed  
24 including the Governor's approval, background vetting  
25 and confirmation by the Senate.]

1 \*\*\*

2 Report of Board Administrator

3 [Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator announced he  
4 sent an invitation to all Board Members to  
5 participate in an annual training seminar to be held  
6 on May 4, 2026 in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He stated  
7 the deadline for registration is March 16, 2026, and  
8 urged Board Members to respond if they were or were  
9 not attending. He added attendance is optional for  
10 professional members and mandatory for public  
11 members.]

12 \*\*\*

13 Report of Board Administrator - Applications

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 At Item No. 5, based on Executive  
16 Session deliberations, I believe the  
17 Board Chair would entertain a motion to  
18 approve the Application of Nita  
19 Kidiyoor.

20 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

21 Is there a motion?

22 MR. STEELE:

23 Steele, so moved.

24 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

25 Is there a second?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 Claggett, second.

3 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

4 Is there any further discussion?

5 Hearing none, we're ready for the vote.

6 All those in favor signify by saying  
7 aye; oppose, nay; or abstain.

8

9 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
10 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
11 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13

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14 MR. BARRETT:

15 We'll do Item Nos. 6 and 7 together. I  
16 believe we can do the same motion and  
17 vote.

18 Based on Executive Session  
19 deliberations, I believe the Board  
20 Chair would entertain a motion to  
21 provisionally deny with the  
22 instructions to remediate educational  
23 requirements of the Applications of  
24 Pawan Singh and Yesha Desai.

25 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

1 Is there a motion?

2 MR. STEELE:

3 Steele, so moved.

4 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

5 Is there a second?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 Claggett, second.

8 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

9 It's been moved and seconded. All  
10 those in favor signify by saying aye;  
11 oppose, nay; or abstain.

12

13 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
14 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
15 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

16 [The motion carried unanimously.]

17

\*\*\*

18 MR. BARRETT:

19 At Item No. 8, the Reactivation  
20 Application request for a CE waiver of  
21 Reily Piotrowski.

22

23 Based on Executive Session  
24 deliberations, I believe the Board  
25 Chair would entertain a motion to deny  
the waiver request for the Reactivation

1 Application related to CEs of Reily  
2 Piotrowski.

3 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

4 Is there a motion?

5 MR. STEELE:

6 Steele, so moved.

7 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

8 Is there a second?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

10 Claggett, second.

11 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

12 Any further discussion? We're ready  
13 for the vote.

14

15 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
16 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
17 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19

\*\*\*

20 MR. BARRETT:

21 Item No. 9, the CE Application of The  
22 Institute of Clinical Excellence.

23

24 Based on Executive Session  
25 deliberations, I believe the Board  
Chair would entertain a motion to

1                   provisionally deny that Application.

2 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

3                   Is there a motion?

4 MR. STEELE:

5                   Steele, so moved.

6 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

7                   Is there a second?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

9                   Claggett, second.

10 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

11                   It's been moved and seconded. Is there  
12 any further discussion? Hearing none,  
13 we're ready for the vote.

14

15                   Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
16 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
17 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19

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20 Miscellaneous - 2027 Proposed Meeting Dates - Vote

21 [Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator, provided  
22 the Board with a list of proposed dates for 2027. He  
23 noted the dates were chosen based on the availability  
24 of the conference room. He stated, for formality  
25 purposes, the Board needed to vote to accept the

1 dates.]

2

\*\*\*

3 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

4 Great. Do I have a motion to approve  
5 these meeting dates for 2027 for this  
6 Board?

7 MR. STEELE:

8 Steele, so moved.

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10 Is there a second?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 Claggett, second.

13 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

14 Is there any further discussion?  
15 Hearing none, we'll go to the vote.

16

17 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
18 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
19 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21

\*\*\*

22 Miscellaneous - Sunshine Act Presentation

23 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel presented the  
24 biannual Sunshine Act and Recusal Guidelines  
25 Presentation. He summarized that the Sunshine Act

1 ensures transparency in government by requiring open  
2 meetings for all official actions and deliberations  
3 involving agency matters. Any time a quorum of Board  
4 members meets to discuss Board business, the meeting  
5 must be publicly advertised. Deliberations are  
6 defined as discussions intended to lead to decisions,  
7 and official actions include votes or policy  
8 decisions.

9 Public notice of meetings must be issued at the  
10 beginning of the calendar year and at least three  
11 days in advance, with any changes requiring 24-hour  
12 notice. Emergency meetings are exempt but must be  
13 justified. All meetings and Agendas are posted  
14 publicly, including in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and  
15 on the Board's website.

16 Mr. Barrett noted the amendments to the Sunshine  
17 Act in 2021 require, if the agenda changes within 24  
18 hours of the meeting, an amended agenda must be  
19 published afterward. Meeting locations and agendas  
20 must be made available in advance, and discussions  
21 outside the posted agenda are only allowed if there  
22 is a natural connection. All votes must be publicly  
23 cast, so virtual participant members must have  
24 cameras on. Meeting minutes must include the time,  
25 place, attendance, and substance of discussions,

1 though not verbatim. Executive Sessions may be held  
2 for limited purposes, such as discussing litigation  
3 strategy, deliberation matters, or personnel issues,  
4 though personnel issues typically fall outside Board  
5 purview. Executive Sessions must be announced with  
6 reasons and remain confidential even after the  
7 meeting.

8 He warned that violations of the Sunshine Act can  
9 invalidate meeting actions and lead to litigation or  
10 attorney fees. Criminal penalties are rare and  
11 require District Attorney action. He clarified that  
12 actions of Board committees like the Application  
13 Committee or Probable Cause Committee are not  
14 considered to be a meeting if there is no quorum and  
15 if actions are preliminary or administrative.

16 Regarding recusals, Mr. Barrett outlined the  
17 types of recusals and the impact of those recusals.  
18 Mandatory recusals include involvement in  
19 prosecution, being a complainant, or having a direct  
20 financial interest. Strongly recommended recusals  
21 include personal connections or outside knowledge of  
22 a case. Discretionary recusals apply when  
23 impartiality is uncertain. He advised Board members  
24 to consult Counsel in advance when unsure.  
25 Abstentions from voting are allowed for lack of

1 preparation or uncertainty but prevent a member from  
2 requesting reconsideration later. Members may still  
3 attend for quorum purposes, but recusals count  
4 against quorum.

5 He also detailed conflict-of-interest rules.  
6 Professional members may not serve as officers or  
7 agents of statewide professional associations, and  
8 public members may not be part of the regulated  
9 profession or have immediate family members who are.  
10 Public members must not hold any other appointed  
11 office in the Commonwealth.]

12 \*\*\*

13 Miscellaneous - Election of Officers

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 Are there any nominations for the  
16 position of Chairperson?

17 MS. WOLFE:

18 I nominate Geraldine Grzybek for Chair.

19 MR. BARRETT:

20 And Chairperson Grzybek, if elected  
21 would you wish to serve in that  
22 capacity?

23 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

24 Gladly. Thank you.

25 MR. BARRETT:

1                   Are there any other nominations for the  
2                   position of Chairperson? Hearing none,  
3                   based on that, we could hold a roll  
4                   call vote for election of Geraldine  
5                   Grzybek as Chairperson of the State  
6                   Board of Physical Therapy.

7

8                   Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
9                   aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
10                  aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12

\*\*\*

13 MR. BARRETT:

14                   Now for the position of Vice Chair, are  
15                   there any nominations for the position  
16                   of Vice Chair?

17 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

18                   Grzybek nominates Krista Wolfe as our  
19                   Vice Chair.

20 MR. BARRETT:

21                   And Vice Chair Wolfe, if elected to  
22                   that position, would you wish to  
23                   continue serving in that capacity?

24 MS. WOLFE:

25                   Yes sir.

1 MR. BARRETT:

2 Are there any other nominations for  
3 that position? Hearing none, I guess  
4 we do a roll call vote for the election  
5 of Krista Wolfe as Vice Chair of the  
6 State Board of Physical Therapy.

7

8 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
9 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
10 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12

\*\*\*

13 MR. BARRETT:

14 And then moving on to the position of  
15 Secretary, are there any nominations  
16 for the position of Secretary?

17 MR. STEELE:

18 Steele, I nominate Craig Ruby.

19 MR. BARRETT:

20 Secretary Ruby, if you are elected to  
21 that position, would you wish to  
22 continue serving in that capacity?

23 MR. RUBY:

24 Yes.

25 MR. BARRETT:

1 Are there any other nominations for  
2 Secretary? I hear none. Can we do a  
3 roll call for the election of Craig  
4 Ruby as Secretary of the State Board of  
5 Physical Therapy?

6  
7 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
8 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
9 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 \*\*\*

12 Miscellaneous - Creation and Election of Committee  
13 Members

14 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel explained there  
15 had been some applications received, which made him  
16 feel the Board should adopt an Application Committee.  
17 The Application Committee would be empowered to  
18 review applications where Counsel or staff might have  
19 a question or needs a matter of discretion without  
20 waiting for a full Board. He noted the committee  
21 would not be able to outright deny applications and  
22 if there was going to be a denial, the application  
23 would be referred to the Board as a whole. He added  
24 the committee would speed up the potential for people  
25 to be licenses. He recommended three Board Members

1 serve on the committee.

2 Ms. Wolfe stated she thought the committee was a  
3 great idea and volunteered to serve on it.

4 Mr. Steele also volunteered to serve on the  
5 committee.

6 Mr. Barrett noted the process for forming the  
7 Committee was two steps. First the Board needed to  
8 vote to create the committee and then Chair Grzybek  
9 would be able to appoint members to the Committee.]

10 \*\*\*

11 MR. BARRETT:

12 I believe the Board Chair would  
13 entertain a motion to create an  
14 Application Committee comprised of  
15 three members with the purpose of  
16 reviewing applications for physical  
17 therapists and physical therapist  
18 assistants who apply and have issues  
19 relating to those applications.

20 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

21 Is there a motion?

22 MR. STEELE:

23 Steele, so moved.

24 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

25 Is there a second?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 Claggett, second.

3 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

4 It's been moved and seconded to create  
5 a committee for the purposes of  
6 application review. All those in  
7 favor, please signify by saying aye,  
8 those opposed, nay.

9

10 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
11 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
12 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14

\*\*\*

15 [Chair Grzybek asked for volunteers for the  
16 committee. Mr. Steele, Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Mackell and  
17 Mr. Ruby expressed interest in the committee.

18 Mr. Barrett noted for other boards, the  
19 Application Committee often is quite busy. He did  
20 not anticipate the Physical Therapy Board having a  
21 lot of reviews. He encouraged anyone chosen to check  
22 their email frequently.

23 Chair Grzybek asked if an email could be sent to  
24 the Members personal emails notifying them to check  
25 their Commonwealth email for reviews.

1 Mr. Keller responded notifications could  
2 definitely be sent to personal emails. He added he  
3 would not be the Board Administrator after the  
4 meeting but would pass the request along to the new  
5 full-time Board Administrator. He also noted no  
6 information could be shared to the personal emails  
7 beyond a notification to check their pa.gov email.

8 Chair Grzybek appointed Mr. Steele, Ms. Mackell,  
9 and Ms. Wolfe to the Application Committee.

10 Chair Grzybek asked if committee appointments  
11 needed to be reviewed on an annual basis.

12 Mr. Barrett replied that committee appointments  
13 do not need reviewed. He added appointments stay in  
14 effect as long as there is not an absence of a person  
15 such as a term expiring or if someone stepped down.]

16 \*\*\*

17 Miscellaneous - FSBPT Budget Documentation

18 [Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator noted the  
19 Board received correspondence from FSBPT which he  
20 included in the Board packet.]

21 \*\*\*

22 Miscellaneous - FSBPT Delegate Selection

23 [Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator, suggested  
24 the Board discuss nominating a delegate and an  
25 alternative for FSBPT.]

1 \*\*\*

2 MR. KELLER:

3 Based on discussions here, I believe  
4 the Board Chair would entertain a  
5 motion to have Lisa Mackell be the  
6 delegate to the FSBPT meeting.

7 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

8 Is there a motion? Is there a second  
9 to the motion?

10 MR. STEELE:

11 Steele, so moved.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 Claggett, second.

14 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

15 Thank you. All those in favor of Lisa  
16 Mackell as our funded delegate to the  
17 FSBPT meetings in July as well as  
18 October.

19  
20 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
21 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
22 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

23 [The motion carried unanimously.]

24 \*\*\*

25 MR. KELLER:

1                   Based on discussions, I believe the  
2                   Board Chair would entertain a motion to  
3                   select Chairperson Grzybek as the  
4                   alternate voting delegate to the FSBPT.

5 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

6                   Is there a motion?

7 MR. STEELE:

8                   Steele, so moved.

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10                   Is there a second?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12                   Claggett, second.

13 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

14                   It's been moved and seconded. We're  
15                   ready for the vote.

16  
17                   Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
18                   aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
19                   aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21                   \*\*\*

22 [Chair Grzybek noted Mr. Keller indicated he would no  
23 longer be the Board Administrator. She strongly  
24 encouraged his replacement to attend the Leadership  
25 Issues Forum FSBPT meeting in July as well as the

1 annual FSBPT meeting in October. She noted it would  
2 be an opportunity for the administrator to get up to  
3 speed on occurrences around the country. In  
4 addition, she stated there is also a Council of Board  
5 Administrators the new administrator could be  
6 involved with.]

7 \*\*\*

8 Report of Acting Commissioner (cont.)  
9 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
10 Professional and Occupational Affairs, reported on  
11 coordinating with the Governor's office during the  
12 meeting and received information regarding earlier  
13 questions on Board appointments. He stated Ms.  
14 Mackell's reappointment was being addressed. He  
15 added there is also a person in the pipeline to  
16 potentially be appointed in the fall. He noted the  
17 Board should always work on recruiting new  
18 individuals to the Board. He added Mr. Keller could  
19 share the landing page that describes the  
20 requirements of a Board Member.]

21 \*\*\*

22 Public Comment Period - No Comments.

23 \*\*\*

24 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,  
25 at 12:20 p.m., the Board entered into Executive

1 Session with Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
2 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial  
3 deliberations and to receive the advice of Board  
4 Counsel. The Board returned to open session at 12:34  
5 p.m.]

6 \*\*\*

7 Report of Prosecution - Motion

8 MR. BARRETT:

9 Based on the report of Prosecution and  
10 Executive Session deliberations, I  
11 believe the Board Chair would entertain  
12 a motion at Item No.4, Case No. 21-65-  
13 006916, to reject the Consent Agreement  
14 as too lenient.

15 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

16 Is there a motion?

17 MR. STEELE:

18 Steele, so moved.

19 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

20 Is there a second?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 Claggett, second.

23 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

24 It's been moved and seconded. Is there  
25 any further discussion? Hearing none,

1 we'll go to the vote.

2

3 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci,  
4 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,  
5 aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7

\*\*\*

8 Adjournment

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10 Seeing no further business on our  
11 Agenda, I'd like to move that this  
12 meeting be adjourned. Our next meeting  
13 will be March 26, 2026. We do not need  
14 a vote for this. I hope you all stay  
15 warm and healthy, and we'll see you in  
16 March, hopefully a lot warmer. Thank  
17 you all for your service.

18

\*\*\*

19 [There being no further business, the State Board  
20 Physical Therapy Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.]

21

\*\*\*

22

23

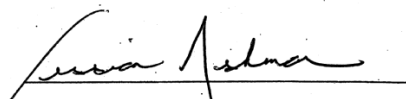
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Physical Therapy meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Physical Therapy meeting.



Jessica Ashman,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
REFERENCE INDEX

January 29, 2026

	TIME	AGENDA
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9	10:00	Executive Session
10	10:48	Return to Open Session
11		
12	10:48	Official Call to Order
13		
14	10:48	Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees
15		
16	10:50	Appointment - Prosecution Annual Report
17		
18	11:00	Approval of Minutes
19		
20	11:00	Appointment - TruMerit Presentation
21		
22	11:18	Report of Regulatory Counsel
23		
24	11:20	Report of Board Counsel
25		
26	11:23	Report of Prosecution
27		
28	11:28	Report of Board Chairperson
29		
30	11:39	Report of Commissioner
31		
32	11:41	Report of Board Administrator
33		
34	11:47	Miscellaneous
35		
36	12:20	Executive Session
37	12:34	Return to Open Session
38		
39	12:35	Report of Prosecution - Motion
40		
41	12:36	Adjournment
42		
43		
44		
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