

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: 10:30 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

July 31, 2025

State Board of Physical Therapy
July 31, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Geraldine M. Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson
Matthew Eaton, Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Robert Bonacci, M.D., Secretary of Health Designee
Lisa Mackell, Physical Therapist - Absent
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:

Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecution
Liaison
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
and Prosecution Liaison
Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Riley Baker, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Michelle Roberts, Board Administrator
Stephanie Dunkerley, Legal Analyst, Office of General
Counsel

ALSO PRESENT:

Melissa Dehoff, Director, Rehabilitation Services
Divisions, Rehabilitation and Community Providers
Association
Wesley Rish, Attorney, Rish Law Office LLC
Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting
Services, Inc.

1 ***

2 State Board of Physical Therapy

3 July 31, 2025

4 ***

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
6 at 9:30 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session
7 with Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the
8 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on
9 a number of matters currently pending before the
10 Board and to receive advice of counsel. The Board
11 returned to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

12 ***

13 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
14 Board of Physical Therapy was held on Thursday, July
15 31, 2025.

16 ***

17 Official Call to Order

18 [Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, called
19 the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.]

20 ***

21 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
22 meeting was being recorded and voluntary
23 participation constituted consent to be recorded.
24 She added any AI programs or AR programs that are
25 disruptive to the meeting are subject to be removed.

1 Ms. Tully also noted the Board entered into
2 Executive Session this morning and conducted quasi-
3 judicial deliberations with the advice of counsel.]

4 ***

5 Roll Call of Board Members

6 [Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, provided
7 a roll call of Board members. A quorum was noted to
8 be present.]

9 ***

10 Introduction of Attendees

11 [Michelle Roberts, Board Administrator, provided an
12 introduction of attendees.]

13 ***

14 Approval of minutes of the May 22, 2025 meeting

15 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

16 The first order of business is the
17 approval of the Minutes of May 22,
18 2025. I'm sure you've all had the
19 opportunity to read them.

20 Are there any comments or edits?
21 I only had one edit that I identified
22 on page 13, line 10, to strike the
23 capital letter A in the acronym FSBPTA
24 and have it read FSBPT. Are there any
25 other corrections?

1 Hearing none, may I have a motion
2 to approve the minutes?

3 MR. RUBY:

4 Ruby, so moved.

5 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

6 Is there a second?

7 MR. STEELE:

8 Steele, second.

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10 All those in favor of adopting the
11 minutes from the May 22, 2025 meeting
12 with suggested edits, please signify by
13 saying aye and I will do a roll call
14 vote.

15
16 Grzybek, aye; Eaton, aye; Bonacci, aye;
17 Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye;
18 Wolfe, aye.

19 [The motion carried unanimously.]

20 ***

21 Report of the Prosecution

22 [Riley Baker, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
23 the Consent Agreement for Agenda Item No. 2, Case No.
24 21-65-017746.]

25 MS. TULLY:

1 Did any member of the Board wish to
2 reenter Executive Sessions on this
3 Matter?

4 Then seeing none, I believe our
5 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to
6 accept the Consent Agreement offered at
7 Case No. 21-65-017746.

8 MR. RUBY:

9 Ruby, so moved.

10 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

11 Second?

12 MR. STEELE:

13 Steele, second.

14 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

15 It's moved and seconded. Is there any
16 further discussion? Hearing none,
17 we'll do the roll call.

18

19 Grzybek, aye; Eaton, aye; Bonacci, aye;
20 Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye;
21 Wolfe, aye.

22 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent at
23 Case No. 21-65-017746 is Lori Lynn Dowler.]

24 ***

25 [William Newport, Board Prosecution Liaison,

1 presented the VRP Consent Agreement for Agenda Item
2 No. 4, Case No. 25-65-008330.]

3 MS. TULLY:

4 Relative to Item 3 of the Agenda, is
5 there any member of the Board that
6 would wish to reenter Executive Session
7 for deliberations?

8 Seeing none, I believe our
9 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to
10 adopt the Consent Agreement on Case No.
11 25-65-008330.

12 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

13 Is there a motion?

14 MR. RUBY:

15 Ruby, so moved.

16 CHAIR GRZYBECK:

17 Thank you. Is there a second?

18 MR. STEELE:

19 Steele, second.

20 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

21 Thank you. It's been moved and
22 seconded. Is there any further
23 discussion on the matter? Hearing
24 none, are you ready for the vote? Roll
25 call.

1

2

Grzybek, aye; Eaton, aye; Bonacci, aye;

3

Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye;

4

Wolfe, aye.

5

[The motion carried unanimously.]

6

7

Report of Board Counsel - Motion to Deem Facts

8

Admitted

9

MS. TULLY:

10

I can move on to Item No. 4. This was

11

a Motion to Deem Facts Admitted

12

relative to Case No. 24-65-015145,

13

respondent named Timothy Wayne Dawes,

14

PTA.

15

I believe our Chairwoman would

16

entertain a Motion to Deem Facts

17

Admitted and authorize Board Counsel to

18

draft an Adjudication and Order

19

consistent with the Executive Session

20

deliberations.

21

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

22

Is there a motion?

23

MR. RUBY:

24

Ruby, so moved.

25

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

1 Is there a second?

2 MR. STEELE:

3 Steele, second.

4 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

5 It's been moved and seconded. Is there
6 any further discussion? Hearing none,
7 we'll go for the vote.

8

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

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 Report of Regulatory Counsel - Status of Regulations
15 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
16 presented on the status of regulations. He noted a
17 written Regulatory Report provided for the Board's
18 review.

19 Mr. Davis reported an update to Regulation 16A-
20 6522, regarding Early Exam and CE for Clinical
21 Instructors. 16A-6522 was published as final in the
22 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on July 5, 2025, and was now in
23 effect.

24 Mr. Davis highlighted key points of the
25 regulation. 16A-6522 allows physical therapy

1 students and physical therapist assistants students
2 to sit for requisite examinations up to 90 days prior
3 to graduation of their respective programs. The
4 regulation also allows PTs and PTAs to receive a
5 limited amount of continuing education for providing
6 clinical instruction to students at clinical
7 facilities affiliated with accredited programs.
8 Additionally, it allows applicants to sit for a third
9 or successive examination after two failures without
10 first seeking the Board's permission.

11 Chair Grzybek acknowledged Mr. Davis, past Chair
12 Cindy Potter, and former Board Member Sandy Campbell
13 for their work on Regulation 16A-6522. She also
14 expressed her appreciation to Acting Commissioner
15 Arion Claggett and Board Administrator Michelle
16 Roberts for their patience with the Board through the
17 process.]

18 ***

19 Report of Board Chairperson
20 [Geraldine Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson,
21 reported Pennsylvania fully implemented the PT
22 Compact on July 7, 2025, allowing for PTs and PTAs to
23 apply for a multi-state license. She noted the
24 Physical Therapy Compact is an agreement among more
25 than 30 states to provide PTs and PTAs the

1 opportunity to obtain practice privileges in multiple
2 member states. The Compact is managed by the
3 Physical Therapy Compact Commission.

4 Chair Grzybek extended her appreciation for all
5 of the people, past and present, who worked to get
6 the Compact approved.

7 She noted the next step is adopting the Compact
8 Commission rules. The need for regulation is
9 undergoing internal review with the anticipated
10 publication date unknown. Notice of the Compact
11 approval was published on the Physical Therapy
12 Board's website on July 7, 2025. In addition, notice
13 was published stating new applicants for healthcare
14 practitioner licenses must obtain a fingerprint-based
15 FBI background check for review as part of their
16 application. Licensees renewing their Pennsylvania
17 or multi-state licenses are not required to obtain a
18 background check for renewal.

19 Chair Grzybek noted the Federation of State
20 Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) will be electing
21 new officers in October 2025. She encouraged Board
22 members to read the candidate statements and provide
23 feedback to Pennsylvania's delegate Lisa Mackell. A
24 search was underway for FSBPT's next CEO as CEO
25 William Hatherill will be retiring at the end of the

1 year 2025. She noted the next FSBPT webinar is on
2 August 20, 2025.

3 Chair Grzybek noted Michelle Roberts, Krista
4 Wolfe, and Lisa Mackell attended FSBPT's Legislative
5 Forum July 19 and 20, 2025.

6 Krista Wolfe, Physical Therapist, Vice Chair,
7 suggested attending the August 20, 2025 webinar. She
8 reported Legislative Forum was a great meeting.
9 Discussions were held regarding workforce data and
10 how it can be used across jurisdictions as well as
11 futuristic planning regarding a workforce data
12 compact. Information was also shared regarding the
13 Examination Licensure Discipline Database and how
14 different jurisdictions utilize it. Roundtable
15 discussions were held about the Physical Therapy
16 Compact and hurdles faced in different jurisdictions.

17 Ms. Wolfe noted a key takeaway was the mission of
18 the FSBPT as well as state boards of physical therapy
19 would be the protection of the public, part of which
20 is being transparent and communicating with all
21 parties involved. She added three hurdles were
22 brought forth during discussions; possible lack of
23 support or enough staffing to adequately complete
24 demanding jobs in jurisdictions; outdated data
25 resources impacting some states to be able to join

1 the Compact and ways around the issue; and the
2 standardization of policy, procedures and rules
3 across jurisdictions.

4 Michelle Roberts, Board Administrator, added
5 there was a discussion on informed consent and the
6 need for it to be a standard for all healthcare
7 professions.

8 Chair Grzybek noted FSBPT continues to offer
9 grant money to support member jurisdictions in their
10 mission to protect the public.

11 Chair Grzybek highlighted the May FSBPT News
12 Brief. There was an article from the *New England*
13 *Journal of Medicine* regarding AI. The article noted
14 several states have enacted or are considering
15 legislation to regulate the use of artificial
16 intelligence in healthcare. She noted there is no
17 bills pending in the Pennsylvania legislature
18 specific to AI in healthcare. Chair Grzybek added
19 the Shapiro Administration, the Departments of Aging,
20 Banking and Securities, and the Insurance Department
21 are leading a coordinated effort to defend consumers,
22 older adults, and families from AI driven fraud.
23 Senate Bill 649, signed into law by the Governor,
24 created new criminal penalties for anyone using AI to
25 produce non-consensual forged digital likenesses to

1 defraud or harm Pennsylvanians. She noted the
2 September 30, 2025 FSBPT Regulatory Hour is entitled
3 *Legal Landscape Related to Artificial Intelligence*.

4 Chair Grzybek noted the University of Scranton
5 petitioned the Board to send a representative to
6 speak to their Doctor of Physical Therapy Class
7 regarding the National Physical Therapy Examination.
8 Ian Steele will be traveling to Scranton on September
9 17, 2025 for the presentation.

10 Chair Grzybek concluded by reminding FSBPT
11 members to periodically reference available member
12 resources.]

13 ***

14 Report of Education Committee

15 MS. TULLY:

16 I believe our Chairwoman would
17 entertain a motion to ratify the
18 Approval of Application for the 3rd Exam
19 Attempt of Jaclyn Fantom, Simone
20 Golicher, and Terrance Walker.

21 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

22 Is there a motion?

23 MR. RUBY:

24 Ruby, so moved.

25 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

1 Thank you. Is there a second?

2 MR. STEELE:

3 Steele, second.

4 CHAIR GRYZBEK:

5 It's been moved and seconded. Is there
6 any further discussion? Hearing none,
7 are you ready for the vote?

8

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

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report.

15 ***

16 Public Comment Period - No Comments.

17 ***

18 Adjournment

19 CHAIR GRZBEK:

20 Does anyone else want to bring anything
21 forward to this Board hearing?

22 Hearing none, I move to adjourn
23 this meeting. Is there a motion?

24 MR. RUBY:

25 So moved.

1 MR. STEELE:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR GRZBEK:

4 Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

5 ***

6 [There being no further business, the State Board
7 Physical Therapy Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.]

8 ***

9
10 CERTIFICATE

11
12 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
13 minutes of the State Board of Physical Therapy
14 meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my
15 supervision, and that the minutes accurately
16 summarize the substance of the State Board of
17 Physical Therapy meeting.

18
19
20 

21 Erin Badstuebner,

22 Minute Clerk

23 Sargent's Court Reporting
24 Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

July 31, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
9:30	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:30	Official Call to Order
10:31	Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees
10:32	Approval of Minutes
10:34	Report of Prosecution
10:40	Report of Board Counsel
10:41	Report of Board Regulatory Counsel
10:45	Report of Board Chairperson
10:58	Report of Education Committee
11:08	Adjournment