

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: 10:36 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

November 17, 2025

State Board of Physical Therapy
November 17, 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
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
Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecution
Liaison
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
and Prosecution Liaison
Adrianne McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Paul Keller, Board Administrator
Nichole Maloney, Division Chief, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs, Health
Licensing Division

ALSO PRESENT:

Scott Voshell, Physical Therapist
Alison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting Services,
Inc.

State Board of Physical Therapy

November 17, 2025

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 9:30 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters currently pending before the Board and to receive advice of counsel. The Board returned to open session at 10:36 a.m.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Physical Therapy was held on Monday, November 17, 2025.

Official Call to Order

[Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.]

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

Mr. Barrett also noted the Board entered into Executive Session this morning and conducted quasi-

1 judicial deliberations with the advice of counsel.]

2 ***

3 Roll Call of Board Members

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

7 ***

8 Introduction of Attendees

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

11 ***

12 Approval of Minutes of the September 26, 2025 meeting

13 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

14 The first order of business is to adopt
15 the draft minutes of our September 26,
16 2025 meeting.

17 Are there any comments,
18 corrections, edits to those minutes?
19 Hearing none from our other members, I
20 do have one correction on page 14, line
21 1, strike the word not. So it reads
22 "This meeting is adjourned." Did
23 anybody else have anything?

24 Hearing none, is there a
25 motion to approve the edited meeting

1 minutes of September 26th?

2 MS. MACKELL:

3 Lisa Mackell, so moved.

4 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

5 Is there a second?

6 MR. RUBY:

7 Ruby, second.

8 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

9 All those in favor, please signify by
10 responding aye. Those opposed, nay.
11 I'll do the roll call.

12

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

16 [The motion carried unanimously.]

17 ***

18 Report of Regulatory Counsel - Regulation Status

19 Report

20 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
21 reported on two active regulations. Regulation 16A-
22 6519, Student in Educational Program, is a statement
23 of policy.

24 Regarding Regulation 16A-6523, Licensure by
25 Endorsement under Act 41, Mr. Davis reported the

1 package would soon be advancing. If approved by the
2 various offices, the rulemaking will likely be
3 published in the next six to eight weeks. Mr. Davis
4 noted applicants were already being approved under
5 Act 41, and the regulation was being written to match
6 statute.]

7 ***

8 Report of Regulatory Counsel - Stakeholders List
9 [Thomas M. Davis, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
10 explained the stakeholders list as it pertains to
11 rulemakings and regulations. He noted, when drafting
12 a new rulemaking, an exposure draft is sent to the
13 regulated community. He stated, if someone would
14 like to be on the list of stakeholders, they could
15 send their information to the Board Administrator via
16 email. He added, when working on the rulemakings,
17 his office asks the public for early and often input.

18 Mr. Davis had provided the Board a copy of the
19 stakeholder list. He asked the Board to review the
20 list prior to the next meeting in case any
21 information on it needed to be updated.]

22 ***

23 Report of Board Counsel - AAP/Early Exam Discussion
24 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported the
25 Board had received various communications from

1 schools regarding the recently passed early exam
2 regulation. He stated the Board was not
3 participating in the AAP due to contractual issues.
4 He added the Board is still authorized to approve
5 early education or early examination for 90 days
6 before graduation.

7 Mr. Barrett noted the Board was keenly aware of
8 upcoming registration deadlines. He stated
9 communication would be forthcoming regarding
10 workarounds for the upcoming deadline. He added the
11 Board would have to approve applicants to sit for the
12 examination until the contract with AAP is worked
13 out, at which time applicants should be able to go
14 directly through FSBPT and made eligible through the
15 provider.

16 Chair Grzybek thanked Mr. Barrett and the
17 Department of State staff for meeting the needs of
18 students who are interested in applying early.]

19 ***

20 Report of Board Counsel - Department of

21 Transportation Exam

22 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported the
23 Board received a letter from the American Physical
24 Therapy Association - PA (APTA-PA) requesting the
25 Board authorize physical therapists as certified

1 medical examiners for the Department of
2 Transportation for CDLs. He stated the Board cannot
3 give legal advice or opine on its scope of practice.
4 He acknowledged the letter and the request as
5 received. He recommended interested parties contact
6 their representatives in the General Assembly.]

7 ***

8 Report of Board Counsel - PTCC Rulemaking/Compact
9 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, shared, if
10 anyone has any concerns, questions or comments
11 regarding the PT Compact, they should be sent to the
12 PT Compact Commission, not the Board. Information
13 about the proposed rulemaking can be found via a link
14 on the Board's website and on the Compact Commission
15 website.]

16 ***

17 Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Adjudications and
18 Orders

19 MR. BARRETT:

20 Item No. 7, James Dewayne Blakely, this
21 one we're going to table. I did not
22 finish that Adjudication and Order, so
23 I will have that for you at the next
24 meeting.

25 So I don't know if we want to

1 do a motion to table that one.

2 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

3 Is there a motion to table?

4 MS. MACKELL:

5 Lisa Mackell, motion.

6 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

7 Is there a second to table?

8 MR. RUBY:

9 Ruby, second.

10 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

11 Thank you. It's been moved and
12 seconded to table Item No. 7 on our
13 Agenda. Are you ready for the vote?
14 All those in favor, signify by saying
15 aye. Oppose, nay.

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

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 MR. BARRETT:

23 Item No. 8 on the Agenda, Erin M.
24 Riffe, Case No. 21-65-006914, based on
25 Executive Session deliberations, I

1 believe the Board Chair would entertain
2 a motion to adopt the Proposed
3 Adjudication and Order of the Hearing
4 Examiner in this case.

5 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

6 Is there a motion?

7 MS. MACKELL:

8 Lisa Mackell, so moved.

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10 Is there a second?

11 MR. RUBY:

12 Ruby, second.

13 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

14 Is there any discussion? Hearing none,
15 all those in favor signify by saying
16 aye. Opposed, nay, or abstentions.

17

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

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 Report of Board Counsel - Motion to Deem Facts

24 Admitted

25 MR. BARRETT:

1 Based on Executive Session
2 deliberations, I believe the Board
3 Chair would entertain a motion to grant
4 the Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and
5 to direct Board Counsel to Draft an
6 Adjudication and Order consistent with
7 Executive Session discussions for Item
8 No. 9, Timothy Wayne Dawes, Case No.
9 24-65-015145; Item No. 10, Sarah
10 Elizabeth Bailey, Case No. 21-65-
11 006906; and Item No. 11, Justin Charles
12 Burger, Case No. 21-65-017744.

13 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

14 Is there a motion?

15 MS. MACKELL:

16 Lisa Mackell, so moved.

17 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

18 Is there a second?

19 MR. RUBY:

20 Ruby, second.

21 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

22 It's been moved and seconded. All
23 those in favor signify by saying aye.
24 Opposed, nay.

25

1 Grzybek, aye; Eaton, aye; Bonacci, aye;
2 Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye;
3 Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

4 [The motion carried unanimously.]

5 ***

6 Report of the Prosecution

7 [William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
8 presented the Consent Agreement for Agenda Item No.
9 12, Case No. 21-65-017748.]

10 MR. BARRETT:

11 After the presentation from
12 Prosecution, does any Member of the
13 Board wish to return to Executive
14 Session for their deliberations?

15 Hearing none, based on Executive
16 Session deliberations, I believe the
17 Board Chair would entertain a motion to
18 approve the Consent Agreement at Case
19 No. 21-65-017748.

20 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

21 Is there a motion?

22 MS. MACKELL:

23 Lisa Mackell, so moved.

24 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

25 Is there a second?

1 MR. RUBY:

2 Ruby, second.

3 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

4 Thank you. It's moved and seconded.

5 All those in favor signify by saying
6 aye. Those opposed, nay or abstentions
7 as well.

8

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

12 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent at
13 Case No. 21-65-017748 is Jennifer Larmon, PTA.]

14 ***

15 Report of Board Chairperson

16 [Geraldine Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson,
17 welcomed Mr. Keller as the Board Administrator and
18 thanked him for the work he conducted on behalf of
19 the Board.

20 Chair Grzybek reported the Federation of State
21 Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) is continuing their
22 webinar series and shared information on upcoming
23 sessions. She noted the December Regulatory Hour, A
24 Year in Review, with Dale Atkinson would take place
25 December 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. She noted Ms. Wolfe

1 continues to be the Board's liaison with FSBPT.

2 Chair Grzybek reported FSBPT's annual educational
3 meeting took place October 23-25, 2025, in Spokane,
4 Washington. The meeting was entitled "Riding the
5 Regulatory Rapids," and she attended along with Ms.
6 Mackell. She invited Ms. Mackell to report on her
7 experience.

8 Lisa Mackell, Physical Therapist, shared she had
9 a wonderful experience at the meeting. She noted it
10 was nice to see how other boards function. She
11 reported on elections at FSBPT. David Relling, PT,
12 PhD, was elected a second term as President. Michele
13 Thorman, PT, DPT, MBA, was elected a second term as
14 Vice President. Mario Baker, PT, DPT, MS, was
15 elected to the Nominating Committee, and Missy
16 Anthony was elected as Chair of the Council on Board
17 Administrators.

18 Ms. Mackell reported on the breakout sessions she
19 attended. Her first session was on informed consent.
20 She noted FSBPT created a task force to help people
21 understand the difference between general consent and
22 informed consent. Guidelines will be forthcoming to
23 clarify definitions and how informed consent should
24 be valued and obtained in the practice, along with
25 free resources for practitioners. She highlighted

1 FSBPT stressed the importance that informed consent
2 must be verbal consent between the patient and the
3 treating professional and there should always be
4 documentation.

5 Ms. Mackell shared the second session she
6 attended related to creating safer spaces with
7 regards to sexual misconduct. She noted a number of
8 people reported in the session that many boards have
9 websites with a cumbersome reporting process. Ms.
10 Mackell reported she went to the Pennsylvania Board's
11 website to see the process, and it was fairly clear
12 that a complainant would need to push file complaint
13 a couple of times before taking them to the PALS
14 website. It was suggested during the breakout
15 session adding a list of options for complainants, in
16 addition to filing a Board complaint, would be
17 useful.

18 Ms. Mackell reported her last session was on the
19 new Code of Ethics the American Physical Therapy
20 Association (APTA) had approved in July 2025. She
21 noted the Code of Ethics would not be available until
22 January 1, 2026, which is the effective date. She
23 added some Boards would need to update their Practice
24 Act to reflect the new date; however, Pennsylvania is
25 not one of them.

1 Ms. Mackell thanked the Board for the opportunity
2 to be a delegate. She noted the value in being a
3 delegate for more than one term as she now knows
4 people and understands how FSBPT works. She offered
5 to serve as a delegate in 2026.

6 Chair Grzybek reported as Board Chair she
7 attended a combined Board Chair and Administrator
8 meeting on the first day of the meeting. The
9 discussed topics included a reflection on enhancing
10 the real value of regulation and consideration of the
11 impact of regulation as well as the variety of
12 stakeholders. She also attended a Board Chair forum.
13 She agreed with Ms. Mackell and noted it was
14 fascinating to see how different boards work. She
15 noted the first day concluded with a celebration of
16 retiring CEO of FSBPT, Bill Hatherill.

17 Chair Grzybek noted the second day kicked off
18 with a President's address, which included the
19 announcement Susan Newman, current COO, would be the
20 new CEO in January. There was a keynote address
21 demonstrating the value of regulatory boards to state
22 legislators. She also noted updates were shared on
23 state board initiatives including the Healthy
24 Practice Resource. She added the Healthcare
25 Regulatory Research Institute updated their website

1 and encouraged everyone to take a look at their
2 available resources. She also attended breakout
3 sessions discussing jurisprudence examinations;
4 demonstrating the value of regulation by linking job
5 requirements to public and patient safety; and
6 sharing jurisdiction and workforce information.

7 Chair Grzybek noted the final day included an
8 insightful panel discussion on paddling in sync with
9 legislators. The panel included representatives from
10 Colorado, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Maine, Michigan, and
11 Wisconsin. There was also a session on physical
12 therapist assistants and their role and contributions
13 to the clinical setting.

14 Chair Grzybek reported on attending the Code of
15 Ethics presentation. She noted speaking with an APTA
16 staff member who relayed the Board could add a link
17 on their website to the new Code of Ethics
18 educational materials. Chair Grzybek requested
19 Deputy Commissioner Eaton and Mr. Barrett verify the
20 legality of adding the link to the website. They
21 acknowledged the request and would report back.

22 Chair Grzybek stated the new Code of Ethics
23 combines the code for physical therapists and the
24 code for physical therapist assistants into an
25 overarching Code of Ethics for the entire profession.

1 She noted the code distinctly outlines practices
2 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants
3 are bound to as well as highlighting skills they
4 should aspire to and provided examples. She added
5 the code was last revised in 1975.

6 Chair Grzybek shared she also attended a
7 presentation on the PT Compact implementation and
8 best practices. The final keynote of the meeting
9 spoke to the importance of regulatory guardrails and
10 public protection.

11 Chair Grzybek noted the 2026 annual meeting would
12 be October 22-24, 2026 in Greenville, South Carolina.
13 She also shared Pennsylvania resident Dr. Kimberly
14 Swygert was recognized with FSBPT's President's Award
15 for 2025. The award recognizes individuals who have
16 made significant, outstanding contributions to FSBPT
17 in the prior year. Dr. Swygert is the Director of
18 Test Development Innovation at the National Board of
19 Medical Examiners.

20 Chair Grzybek reported she would be virtually
21 attending the PT Compact Commission annual meeting on
22 December 10, 2025. The PT Compact currently includes
23 35 jurisdictions with issuing privileges. Two
24 jurisdictions, Nevada and Kansas, are projected to
25 make progress in 2026 with six jurisdictions likely

1 to introduce legislation in 2026. She noted the
2 meeting will include Executive Board elections;
3 voting on proposed rule, bylaw and policy changes;
4 and a review of the budget.]

5 ***

6 Report of Acting Commissioner

7 [Matthew Eaton, Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of
8 Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
9 Professional and Occupational Affairs, wished
10 everyone a healthy, safe, and happy holiday season.
11 He offered to answer any questions for the
12 Commissioner's office.]

13 ***

14 Public Comment Period - No Comments.

15 ***

16 Adjournment

17 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

18 Do we have any other questions or
19 matters to be brought before this
20 Board? I'm not seeing any hands up.

21 Hearing none, I think this
22 concludes the business of the State
23 Board of Physical Therapy. May I have
24 a motion adjourn the meeting?

25 MS. MACKELL:

1 Lisa Mackell, so moved.

2 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

3 Is there a second?

4 MR. RUBY:

5 Ruby, second.

6 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

7 And this meeting is adjourned. Thank
8 you so much and enjoy a healthy and
9 happy holiday season.

10 ***

11 [There being no further business, the State Board
12 Physical Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.]

13 ***

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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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allison Walker', is written over a horizontal line.

Allison Walker,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

November 17, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
9:30	Executive Session
10:36	Return to Open Session
10:36	Official Call to Order
10:36	Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees
10:39	Approval of Minutes
10:40	Report of Regulatory Counsel
10:44	Report of Board Counsel
10:52	Report of Prosecution
10:54	Report of Board Chairperson
11:12	Report of Commissioner
11:13	Adjournment