

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: 10:38 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

March 26, 2026

State Board of Physical Therapy
March 26, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Geraldine M. Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Sirisha Reddy, Special Assistant to the Secretary of
Health, on behalf of 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 - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel
William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecution
Liaison
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
and Prosecution Liaison
Ronald Jackson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adrianne McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator
Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of
Chief Counsel
Stephanie Dunkerley, Legal Analyst, Office of General
Counsel
Nichole Maloney, Division Chief, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs, Health
Licensing Division

ALSO PRESENT:

Stephen Gaus, Director of Business Development,
TruMerit
Kenny Erb, Physical Therapist, Adjunct Professor,
Duquesne University
Melissa Dehoff, Director, Rehabilitation Services
Divisions, Rehabilitation & Community Providers
Association
Joshua Prall, PT, DPT, EdD, OCS, CSCS, FAAOMPT,
Worksafe Solutions
Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting Services,
Inc.

State Board of Physical Therapy

March 26, 2026

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 10:00 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 10:38 a.m.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Physical Therapy was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Official Call to Order

[Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:38 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

1 Executive Session prior to the meeting and conducted
2 quasi-judicial deliberations with the advice of
3 counsel.]

4 ***

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

9 ***

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

13 ***

14 Approval of Minutes of the January 29, 2026 meeting
15 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

16 Now, we'll move on to matters for
17 business. The approval of the minutes
18 of January 29, 2026 of this Board. I
19 trust that you've all had the
20 opportunity to review them.

21 Are there any additions or
22 corrections?

23 Hearing none, may I have a motion
24 to approve the draft minutes of January
25 29, 2026?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 Claggett, so moved.

3 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

4 Is there a second?

5 MS. MACKELL:

6 Mackell, second.

7 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

8 It's been moved and seconded.

9 All those in favor for adopting
10 the minutes from January 29, 2026,
11 signify by saying aye; opposed, nay; as
12 well as abstentions.

13 I'll go through the roll call.

14
15 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
16 abstain; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
17 aye; Steele, aye.

18 [The motion carried. Ms. Reddy abstained from voting
19 on the motion.]

20 ***

21 Appointment - Streamlining DOT Physical Exams

22 [Joshua Prall, PT, DPT, EdD, OCS, CSCS, FAAOMPT,
23 Worksafe Solutions, introduced himself as a physical
24 therapist who spends most of his time in the
25 occupational health space. He heard physical

1 therapists in other states are permitted to perform
2 Department of Transportation (DOT) physical
3 examinations, so he researched the topic and was able
4 to confirm DOT physicals were within the scope of
5 practice. He stated DOT physical exams are
6 completely regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier
7 Safety Administration (FMCSA), a federal agency house
8 within DOT.

9 Mr. Prall explained, in 2012, FMCSA implemented a
10 certification process for becoming a DOT medical
11 examiner. He reviewed the four steps of the process,
12 which includes registration, online training,
13 examinations, and validations with certification. He
14 noted, during the registration process, the website
15 would not allow registrations from unapproved states.

16 To become an approved state, the FMSCA requires
17 the state licensing board to send either an email or
18 a letter requesting the FMCSA template letter and
19 relevant documentation to say that DOT exams are
20 within the scope of practice for physical therapists.

21 Mr. Prall stated, currently, the six states that
22 allow physical therapists to perform DOT exams are
23 Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas, Ohio, and North
24 Dakota. He urged that Pennsylvania be the seventh
25 state. He provided an example letter from Louisiana.

1 He also provided an example of the certification that
2 would be received from the National Registry of
3 Certified Medical Examiners.

4 Mr. Prall explained the fundamental obligation of
5 a certified medical examiner is to assess but not to
6 diagnose. He added the medical examiner is taking
7 all of the provided information, looking at what is
8 normal or abnormal, and then making a determination
9 based on medical guidelines if the person is fit for
10 duty.

11 Mr. Prall provided a sample health history, which
12 is filled out by the driver and then reviewed by the
13 medical examiner. If the driver replies yes to any
14 of the medical conditions, there is a space to
15 provide more detail on the treatment of the
16 condition. Mr. Prall noted part of the DOT physical
17 examination is a 14-system body check, all of which
18 are covered in physical therapy school and part of
19 the board exam. He elaborated the Commission on
20 Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
21 requirements, National Physical Therapy Exam, and DOT
22 physical exam certification all contain the same
23 content.

24 Mr. Prall reviewed the outline of the DOT medical
25 examiner certification test. He noted obtaining

1 patient histories is a big part of a physical
2 therapist's process, which is a main part of the DOT
3 exam. He also noted most physicians only spend
4 between three and eight minutes with their patients
5 while physical therapists have 40 to 50-minute time
6 slots. He stated everything on the DOT physical
7 exams translates over to the scope of practice of a
8 physical therapist.

9 Mr. Prall provided a sample test question from
10 the DOT physical exam and reviewed the answer. He
11 stressed the role as a medical examiner is to
12 determine the patient's condition and whether a
13 person can safely operate a vehicle. He noted, once
14 again, the task falls into the regular scope of
15 practice for a physical therapist. He also reviewed
16 sample guidelines for high blood pressure to
17 demonstrate the guidelines set by the FMCSA. He
18 concluded by providing references for additional
19 information and offered to answer any questions.

20 Chair Grzybek thanked Mr. Prall for his detailed
21 presentation.]

22 ***

23 Report of Regulatory Counsel

24 [Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted there
25 were no updates to any of the Board's open

1 regulations. He stated a new Regulatory Counsel
2 would soon be assigned to the Board.]

3 ***

4 Report of Board Counsel

5 MR. BARRETT:

6 This is Item No. 2 on the Agenda, Riley
7 Piotrowski, Reactivation.

8 Based on Executive Session
9 deliberations and the actions of the
10 Application Committee, I believe the
11 Board Chair would entertain a motion to
12 rescind the provisional denial in this
13 matter.

14 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

15 Is there a motion to rescind?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 Claggett, so moved.

18 CHAIR GRXYBEK:

19 Is there a second?

20 MS. MACKELL:

21 Mackell, second.

22 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

23 It's been moved and seconded. Is there
24 any discussion?

25 Hearing none, we'll go for the

1 vote.

2 All those in favor signify by
3 saying aye; oppose, nay; or abstain.

4
5 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
6 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
7 aye; Steele, aye.

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 ***

10 Report of the Prosecution

11 [Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
12 presented the Consent Agreement for Agenda Item No.
13 3, Case No. 25-65-003977.]

14 ***

15 MR. BARRETT:

16 Based on the presentation of
17 Prosecution, does any member of the
18 Board wish to return to Executive
19 Session for further deliberations?

20 Hearing none, based on Executive
21 Session deliberations, I believe the
22 Board Chair would entertain a motion to
23 approve the Consent Agreement at Case
24 No. 25-65-003977.

25 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

1 Is there a motion?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 Claggett, so moved.

4 CHAIR GRXYBEK:

5 Is there a second?

6 MS. MACKELL:

7 Mackell, second.

8 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

9 It's been moved and seconded.

10 We'll go for the vote.

11 All those in favor signify by
12 saying aye; oppose, nay.

13

14 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
15 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
16 aye; Steele, aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent at
18 Agenda Item No. 2, Case No. 25-65-003977 is Craig Lee
19 Snider, PT.]

20 ***

21 [Ronald Jackson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
22 the Consent Agreement for Agenda Item No. 4, Case No.
23 21-65-006907.]

24 ***

25 MR. BARRETT:

1 Based on the presentation of
2 Prosecution, does any member of the
3 Board wish to return to Executive
4 Session for further deliberations?

5 Hearing none, based on Executive
6 Session deliberations and the
7 presentation of Prosecution, I believe
8 the Board Chair would entertain a
9 motion to reject the Consent Agreement
10 at Case No. 21-65-006907 as too
11 lenient.

12 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

13 Is there a motion?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

15 Claggett, so moved.

16 CHAIR GRXYBEK:

17 Is there a second?

18 MS. MACKELL:

19 Mackell, second.

20 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

21 It's been moved and seconded.

22 Is there any further discussion?

23 Hearing none, we'll move to the vote.

24 All those in favor signify by
25 saying aye; oppose, nay; or abstain.

1

2

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,

3

aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,

4

aye; Steele, aye.

5

[The motion carried unanimously.]

6

7

Report of Board Chairperson

8

[Geraldine Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson,

9

reported Vice Chair Krista Wolfe had shared an update

10

with her regarding the Test of English as a Foreign

11

Language (TOEFL), which was also included in the

12

FSBPT (Federation of State Boards of Physical

13

Therapy) monthly Board brief. TOEFL was recently

14

updated with a new design and scoring model. The new

15

exam is adaptive, has enhanced security features, and

16

report scores align with the Common European

17

Framework of Reference.

18

Chair Grzybek noted a key consideration is the

19

new TOEFL score is not directly compatible with

20

existing federal minimal English proficiency

21

standards set by United States Citizenship and

22

Immigration Services (USCIS) and by the Health

23

Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It

24

also does not meet FSBPT minimal standards. The

25

Education Testing Services (ETS) previously indicated

1 the old TOEFL would remain available for most of
2 2027. However, FSBPT recently learned ETS would only
3 provide total scores on the old scale and would no
4 longer offer subscale scores required to determine
5 English proficiency under federal or FSBPT
6 guidelines. Jurisdictions can reference FSBPT
7 recommended standards and the ETS Crosswalk, both
8 available on the FSBPT website. She added
9 jurisdictions will need to make a policy
10 determination regarding score acceptance thresholds.

11 Chair Grzybek reported the new scores became
12 available on January 26, 2026, and FSBPT is
13 supporting the Board in the matter. FSBPT provided a
14 presentation to Board Administrators and is working
15 with ETS to provide additional guidance. FSBPT is
16 also working with credentialing organizations seeking
17 guidance from HRSA and USCIS. FSBPT plans to set a
18 new joint standard in 2026 for jurisdiction use.

19 Chair Grzybek also reported FSBPT is seeking
20 topics for the annual education meeting in Greenville
21 as well as webinar topics. The next webinar was
22 scheduled for April 21, 2026, to be led by Dale
23 Atkinson.]

24 ***

25 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report.

Report of Board Administrator

[Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator, announced the deadline for the Pennsylvania Board to make people eligible to sit for the PT examination with FSBPT is March 31, 2026. He noted, at the time of this meeting, there were only a dozen applications waiting to be processed dating back no more than two days. Additionally, he noted approximately 50 people had registered with FSBPT but did not apply through the Board. He added it is a two-step process and both FSBPT registrations and application for a Pennsylvania license are required in order to sit for the examination.]

Report of Board Administrator - Applications

MR. BARRETT:

So No. 5 and No. 6 on the Agenda, I believe we can do those both together.

So based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the applications of Hasti Jadeja and Krina Adhia for physical therapist initial application.

1 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

2 Is there a motion?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

4 Claggett, so moved.

5 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

6 Is there a second?

7 MS. MACKELL:

8 Mackell, second.

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10 It's been moved and seconded.

11 Does anyone have any further
12 discussion on these matters?

13 Hearing none, we'll go to the
14 vote.

15 All those in favor signify by
16 saying aye; oppose, nay; or abstain.

17
18 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
19 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
20 aye; Steele, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 MR. BARRETT:

24 Based on Executive Session
25 deliberations, I believe the Board

1 Chair would entertain a motion to grant
2 the application of Jocelyn Ruiz De
3 Guzman, initial application.

4 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

5 Is there a motion?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 Claggett, so moved.

8 CHAIR GRXYBEK:

9 Is there a second?

10 MS. MACKELL:

11 Mackell, second.

12 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

13 It's been moved and seconded.

14 Does anyone have any further
15 discussion on this matter?

16 Hearing none, we'll go to the
17 vote.

18

19 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
20 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
21 aye; Steele, aye.

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 ***

24 Miscellaneous

25 MR. BARRETT:

1 Based on the presentation at the last
2 Board meeting and after discussion in
3 Executive Session, I believe the Board
4 Chair would entertain a motion to
5 approve the International Consultants
6 of Delaware as an approved foreign
7 credential evaluator under the
8 regulations at Section 40.17 (5).

9 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

10 Thank you. Is there a motion?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 Claggett, so moved.

13 CHAIR GRXYBEK:

14 Is there a second?

15 MS. MACKELL:

16 Mackell, second.

17 CHAIR GRZYBEK:

18 It's been moved and seconded. Is there
19 any further discussion? Hearing none,
20 we'll go to the vote.

21

22 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
23 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
24 aye; Steele, aye.

25 [The motion carried unanimously.]

[Geraldine Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson, reported, at the last meeting, Lisa Mackell was elected to be the FSBPT delegate at the Leadership Issues Forum in July and the Annual Education Meeting in October. However, due to family obligations, Ms. Mackell can no longer attend the meeting.]

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Can I have some nominations for the FSBPT delegate?

MS. MACKELL:

I would like to nominate Ian Steele.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second to nominate Ian Steele?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

Claggett, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Mr. Steele, if you are elected, would you be able to serve in this capacity?

MR. STEELE:

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Are there any other nominations from

1 the floor?

2 Hearing none, we'll go to the
3 vote.

4 All those in favor of designating
5 Ian Steele, Member of this Board to
6 represent Pennsylvania at the FSBPT
7 LIFE meeting as well as the educational
8 meeting as delegate, please signify by
9 saying aye; oppose, nay; or abstain.
10

11 Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Reddy,
12 aye; Mackell, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby,
13 aye; Steele, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 Public Comment Period - No Comments.

17 ***

18 [Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator, read off
19 the upcoming meeting dates for 2026 and 2027. 2026
20 dates are May 28, July 30, September 24 at Central
21 Penn College, and November 18. 2027 dates are
22 January 28, March 25, May 20, July 22, September 23,
23 and December 3. He noted locations may change based
24 on the availability of alternative locations closer
25 to the meeting dates.]

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Adjournment

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there anything else from any Member
of this Board?

Hearing nothing else, I wish you
all a good day, a wonderful spring
season, and this meeting of this Board
is now adjourned.

Thank you, and I'll see you in
May.

[There being no further business, the State Board
Physical Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.]

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.



Erin Badstuebner,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

March 29, 2026

TIME

AGENDA

10:00	Executive Session
10:38	Return to Open Session
10:38	Official Call to Order
10:39	Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees
10:42	Approval of Minutes
10:43	Appointment - Streamlining DOT Physical Exams
10:57	Report of Regulatory Counsel
10:58	Report of Board Counsel
10:59	Report of Prosecution
11:06	Report of Board Chairperson
11:11	Report of Board Administrator
11:14	Miscellaneous
11:21	Adjournment