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Board Members

President

Karen Brandon, DSc P.T.

Vice-President

Samuel Qiu

Members

Karen Brandon, DSc P.T.

Dayle C. Armstrong, PhD., P.T., MS, DPT

Tala Khalaf, PT, DPT, OMPT

Tonia McMillian

Samuel Qiu

Vacant, PT Member

Vacant, Public Member

**Physical Therapy Board of California
Adopted Meeting Minutes**

June 25-26, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Department of Consumer Affairs
2005 Evergreen St., Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95815

Board Staff

Jason Kaiser, Executive Officer

Sarah Conley, Assistant Executive

Officer

Brooke Arneson, Specialist

Liz Constancio, Manager

Valerie Kearney, Manager

Carole Phelps, Manager

2 For the sake of clarity, agenda items discussed during the meeting follow their original
3 order on the agenda in these minutes though some agenda items may have been taken
4 out of order during the meeting.

5

6

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

7

8

1. Call to Order

9

10 The Physical Therapy Board of California (Board) meeting was called to order
11 by President Brandon at 9:00 a.m. and recessed at 2:48 p.m.

12

13

2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

14

15

Brandon – Present

16

Qiu- Present

17

Armstrong- Present

18

Khalaf – Present

19

McMillian - Absent

20

21

22 All Members except for Ms. McMillian were present, and a quorum was
23 established. Also present at the meeting were: Jason Kaiser, Executive Officer,
24 Michael Kanotz, PTBC Legal Counsel, Sarah Conley, Assistant Executive
25 Officer; Brooke Arneson, Legislation and Regulation Manager; Carole Phelps,
26 Enforcement Manager; Valerie Kearney, Licensing Manager; and Board staff:
27 Kim Rozakis, April Beauchamps, and Vincent Azar.

28
29 **3. Reading of the Board's Mission Statement**
30

31 Dr. Armstrong read the Board's mission statement: To advance and protect the
32 interests of the people of California by the effective administration of the
33 Physical Therapy Practice Act.
34

35 **4. (A) Petition for Reinstatement – James Kyong Cho, P.T.**

36 *After submission of the matters, the Board will convene in CLOSED SESSION*
37 *to deliberate on the petitions pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3).*

38 **5. Closed Session**
39

- 40 (A) Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board will
41 convene to Deliberate on Disciplinary Actions and Decisions to be
42 Reached in Administrative Procedure Act Proceedings.
43

44 **6. Review and Approval of March 18-19, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
45

46 Ms. Rozakis gave a synopsis of her roles and responsibilities as the Board
47 Relations Liaison for the Executive Unit.
48

49 Ms. Rozakis presented the draft meeting minutes for March 18-19. The Board
50 reviewed the minutes and made editorial changes.
51

52 **MOTION:** Adopt the March 18-19,2025, Meeting Minutes.
53

54 **M/S:** Qiu/Armstrong
55

56 **VOTE:** Brandon – Aye
57 Qiu – Aye
58 Armstrong- Aye
59 Khalaf- Aye
60 McMillian - Absent
61 4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried

62
63 A member of the public provided public comment on the March 18-19, 2025,
64 meeting minutes.
65

66 **7. President's Report**

67 Dr. Brandon introduced the newest Board Member appointed by the Governor;
68 Dr. Tala Khalaf. This position was previously held by Dr. Daniel Drummer.

69
70 Mr. Kaiser added, Dr. Khalaf is from San Carlos, California and has been a
71 senior physical therapist at the Stanford Orthopedic and Sports Medicine
72 physical therapy clinic since 2008. Since 2014, Dr. Khalaf has been a faculty
73 member of the physical therapy residency program at Stanford Healthcare. In
74 addition, Dr. Khalaf has been a self-employed concierge physical therapist since
75 2001 and a co-founder of Physio Hand since 2020.

76
77 Mr. Kaiser shared Dr. Khalaf holds a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from
78 Massachusetts General Hospital and a Bachelor of Science degree in physical
79 therapy from the Ohio State University.

80
81 (A) 2025 Adopted Meeting Calendar

82
83 Mr. Kaiser shared the Board will be entering into the sunset process with
84 the legislature and for the members to look for additional availability
85 dates in the months of August, September, October and November. The
86 Board will have to prepare a report to present to the legislature due by
87 January 1, 2026. In March 2026, the Board will be testifying before the
88 legislative committee that reviews the report.

89
90 Mr. Kaiser recommended members consider putting together a
91 committee to assist in preparing the report for the legislature that would
92 work with staff. The committee can participate remotely and add possibly
93 2 dates to the existing 2025 calendar for recommendation.

94
95 Mr. Kanotz, Legal Counsel, explained that if a committee is composed
96 of two members, it is not required to hold a public meeting. However, if
97 the committee consists of three or members, it is considered an advisory
98 committee, and a different procedure under the Open Meetings Act must
99 be followed, which allows for a fully virtual meeting.

100
101 Mr. Kaiser added for the upcoming September 2025 meeting in Loma
102 Linda, the Board will hold an Expert Consultant Training on September
103 22, 2025, and September 23-24, 2025, will be the Board meeting. The
104 agenda for the September 23-24, 2025, meeting may include up to a 4-
105 hour block dedicated to reviewing the draft Sundet Report.

Mr. Kaiser shared that the Expert Consultant Training will include both returning consultants, who will be participating in a refresher, and new consultants who have not previously completed this training.

Dr. Armstrong asked if continuing education is being offered when taking the expert consultant training. Mr. Kaiser responded, "Yes for expert consultants." Mr. Kaiser added continuing education is also offered for attending a board meeting.

(B) 2026 Proposed Meeting Calendar

Mr. Kaiser shared Gurnick Academy in San Jose is a potential host for March 2026 Board meeting, Gurnick Academy is unable to host the first week of March.

8. Executive Officer's Report

(A) Executive Services

Mr. Kaiser shared at this meeting the Board is looking at the third quarter of 2024/2025 statistics.

Mr. Kaiser reported that outreach averages three presentations per month. Social media engagements have increased on TikTok, Instagram and X, and have decreased on Facebook and LinkedIn. Blue Sky has recently been added; however, no data is currently available due to the Board being new to Blue Sky.

(B) Administrative Services

Mr. Kaiser reported the Board continues to operate under the Department of Finance Budget letters 23-24 and 23-27, which anticipates a significant General fund deficit fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. These budget letters require the Board to take immediate action to reduce expenditure and identify all possible operational savings.

Mr. Kaiser added that in June 2025, the Governor's Office issued Budget Letter 2505, directing that travel in FY 2025-2026 shall be limited to essential travel to conduct official state business. All out of state travel requests will be submitted to the governor's office for approval. Approval will be limited to mission critical travel only and discretionary trips will not be considered this year.

Mr. Kaiser welcomed Mr. Brett Argento to the Continuing Competency Unit of the Licensing services Program as Associate Governmental Program Analyst. Mr. Argento holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento, and brings 19 years of experience in vendor supervision, program development, auditing, interpreting processes and procedures, and evaluating the qualifications and performance of service providers. Mr. Argento's duties include developing and maintaining the Board's recognized approval agency database and registry to ensure quality continuing competency providers and courses.

Mr. Kaiser gave a reminder of Executive Order N-22-5, which requires all agencies and departments that offer telework as an option to implement a hybrid telework policy with a default minimum of four in-person days per week effective July 1, 2025. Board staff will be returning to the office of a minimum of four days per week. Mr. Kaiser thanked staff for their patience, logistics, planning and understanding of return to the office.

Mr. Kaiser added the Board would like to thank Dr. Alicia Rabena-Amen of Stockton for her contributions to the Board and consumers of California. Dr. Rabena-Amen served as a Board member from 2014-2025 and as Board president from 2018-2022. Additionally, Mr. Kaiser shared the Board would like to thank Ms. Katarina Eleby of Carson for her contribution to the Board and consumers of California. Ms. Eleby served as a Board member for 2013-2025 and as Board president from 2016-2017 and vice president from 2020-2021. Mr. Kaiser, on behalf of staff and consumers of California, thanked Dr. Rabena-Amen and Ms. Eleby for over a decade of invaluable dedication and service.

181
182 (C) Licensing Services
183

184 Mr. Kaiser stated the profession continues to grow, as there has been
185 an 8% increase in applications year to year.
186

187 Mr. Kaiser thanked staff for maintaining their workload with this increase
188 but also improving on their own performance measure timelines.
189 However, there will be a time when staff will be unable to maintain that
190 performance. The Board will have to keep an eye on the number and
191 plan for staffing increases in the future with the increase in the
192 applications received.
193

194 (D) Consumer Protection Services

195 Mr. Kaiser stated at the March 2025 meeting that, by the end of the
196 second enforcement period, almost 60% of the anticipated budget had
197 been expended. In response, an augmentation package was prepared
198 for the Attorney General (AG) and Office of Administrative Hearing
199 (OAH) costs which were approved for \$93,000.
200

201
202 (E) 2027 Legislative Sunset Review

203 Mr. Kaiser reported the Board's last Sunset hearing was held on March
204 10, 2022, and the Board's authority was extended. The Board's current
205 authority expires on January 1, 2027.
206

207 Mr. Kaiser shared one of the items the Board is expected to address
208 relates to issues that were identified from previous sunsets. One of the
209 issues that is still relevant for this sunset process is the statutory
210 authority for the Board's fees. Fee limits remain an ongoing issue, as the
211 Board cannot raise fees without legislative action.
212

213 Mr. Kaiser added that the Board has asked the Legislature to consider
214 extending the statutory fee cap to address any unplanned expenditures
215 requiring fee increases. He recommended that the members consider
216 including a fee increase in the upcoming sunset report.
217

218 Mr. Kaiser reported that several issues from the prior sunset review have
219 been resolved. He noted that the clarification of the Board's retired
220 license status has been completed in both statute and regulation. The

221 exemption from English proficiency requirements for TOEFL
222 examinations has been resolved through statute and regulation.
223 Additionally, treatment plan requirements for children covered under the
224 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) have been clarified.
225 Lastly, the waiver extension for direct access, which was granted during
226 the pandemic and allowed licensees to meet the physician/surgeon
227 referral requirement through telehealth after 12 visits or 45 days, has
228 been made permanent following the Board's recommendation at the last
229 sunset review.

230
231 Mr. Kaiser shared that several new issues were identified in the last
232 report. One issue concerned a request for a statutory requirement to
233 provide a Webex or virtual component whenever the Board convenes
234 for business, with the goal of increasing public engagement and access.
235 This request was not granted. Another issue addressed the Executive
236 Officer's exempt-level position and whether the classification is
237 appropriate given the size of the Board.

238
239 Mr. Kaiser added that a sunset questionnaire was provided to the
240 members and noted a few sections for consideration. Section 7
241 addresses workforce development and job creation, while Section 8
242 concerns current issues, including the Board's participation in the
243 development of online applications, payment capabilities, and other IT-
244 related matters. Mr. Kaiser stated that Section 8 will be straightforward
245 to complete, as all applications are already available online and
246 payments can be made through the online portal. He further explained
247 that the questionnaire template was developed by the Department of
248 Consumer Affairs (DCA) for use by all boards and bureaus.

249
250 Dr. Brandon asked when the last time the Board raised its fees. Mr.
251 Kaiser responded 2015 with an effective date of 2016 was the last time
252 the Board raised its fees.

253
254 Dr. Brandon asked if the workforce survey for licenses is completed and
255 the outcomes for the licensee's population. Mr. Kaiser responded that
256 the Board has already collected two years of full renewal cycles worth
257 of workforce data for both the initial application process and the renewal
258 process for licenses.

259
260 Dr. Brandon expressed that she would like to have a two-person
261 committee for sunset. Dr. Brandon and Dr. Armstrong expressed interest
262 in the committee for sunset.
263

264 **9. Consumer and Professional Associations and Intergovernmental**
265 **Relations Reports**
266

267 (A) Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)
268

269 Mr. Kaiser shared that, with the assistance of FSBPT and several other
270 states, the Board is moving closer to implementing a number of
271 resources for licensees, consumers, educational programs, and
272 students. These resources will be available on the Board's website by
273 the end of the year. He also reported that earlier this year, FSBPT
274 hosted its first national student-based webinar, which was attended
275 online by approximately 800 students.
276

277 Mr. Kaiser stated that the Workforce Data Committee Task Force is
278 charged with collecting data at both the jurisdictional and national levels
279 and exploring opportunities for collaboration. He explained that the
280 outcome of this task force will be the development of a collective
281 workforce dataset that can be queried nationally and analyzed by
282 jurisdictional and regional boundaries.
283

284 Mr. Kaiser added he recently became Co-Chair of their Council of Board
285 Administrators, and being a co-chair, there is an obligation to serve as
286 the Educational Committee for FSBPT.
287

288 Dr. Brandon shared she was able to participate in the regulatory training,
289 which she found valuable and enjoyed engaging with other states. Dr.
290 Brandon added it was a great opportunity to understand what roles and
291 responsibilities are, but the influence and impact the members have in
292 these roles.
293

294 (B) Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) - Executive Office
295

296 Ms. Bourdykina-Jelobniouk, Legislative and Regulatory Manager with
297 DCA shared Governor Newsom released his proposed 2025-2026 state
298 budget, which includes a proposal to split DCA's oversight agency, the
299 Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency, into two state
300 agencies, the California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA)
301 and the Business and Consumer Services Agency (BCSA). The

302 proposed CHHA will oversee housing and homelessness solutions and
303 safeguard civil rights. The new BCSA will be responsible for consumer
304 affairs, licensing, and enforcement, DCA will be among the eight
305 departments in this new agency.

306
307 Ms. Bourdykina-Jelobniouk stated on April 4, 2025, the Governor's
308 reorganization plan was delivered to the nonpartisan Little Hoover
309 Commission for review. The submission to this Commission began an
310 approximate 90-day formal review process. The Commission held public
311 hearings on April 23, 2025, and April 24, 2025, to receive testimony and
312 for interested parties to provide input on the proposed reorganization.
313 Ms. Kirchmeyer, Directory of DCA and other impacted department
314 leaders, testified in support of the Governor's plan and responded to
315 questions from the commissioners. In May 2025, the Little Hoover
316 Commission released its full report recommending the Legislature allow
317 the Governor's reorganization plan to take effect. The Legislature has
318 until July 4, 2025, to consider the reorganization proposal. Unless
319 rejected by the Legislature, the plan goes into effect July 5, 2025. BSCA
320 will become operative on July 1, 2026.

321
322 Ms. Bourdykina-Jelobniouk added on March 3, 2025, Governor Newsom
323 issued an Executive Order requiring all state agencies and departments
324 to update their hybrid telework policies for employees, an increase from
325 two to four days in office per week beginning July 1, 2025. On March 13,
326 2025, the California Department of Human Resources issued guidance
327 of the Executive Order. The guidelines provide defined parameters for
328 when agencies can make case-by-case exceptions to the four-day in-
329 office minimum requirements. DCA has worked with a few programs on
330 identifying additional space needed for this transition and has held bi-
331 weekly meeting with the Board and Bureau leadership to provide
332 updates and respond to questions.

333
334 Ms. Bourdykina-Jelobniouk shared on June 9, 2025, Department of
335 Finance issued guidance for out-of-state travel in the upcoming fiscal
336 year. Travel outside of California will be limited to essential travel that is
337 required to conduct mission critical state business. On June 16, 2025,
338 DCA distributed a memo to all Board and Bureaus detailing the criteria
339 for mission-critical travel, which included but not limited to enforcement

actions, revenue collection, statutory requirements, auditing and litigation. Additionally, all requests must be provided to DCA's Budget Office eight weeks in advance to allow for review.

Ms. Bourdykina-Jelobniouk added on April 28, 2025, Mr. Hall began serving as DCA's new Compliance and Equity Officer. Mr. Hall will be responsible for leading and coordinating departmentwide improvement efforts to ensure consistency and regulatory compliance. This position oversees DCA's Strategic Organizational Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID) Planning and Training Services, the Organizational improvement Office, the Equal Opportunity Office (EEO) and the Internal Audit Office. Additionally, this position services as the liaison in the department's diversity, equity and inclusion steering committee.

(C) California Physical Therapy (CPTA)

Ms. Island, Executive Associate of CPTA, shared the annual conference that will be held September 20-21, 2025, in Palm Springs at the Palm Springs Renaissance.

Ms. Island shared the continuing education program continues to grow strongly especially with Webinar Wednesday and Clinical Instructor (CI) courses. Additionally, continuing education goals for CPTA is to hold three webinars on Wednesday each month or tentatively thirty-six webinars annually, five in person online weekend courses, two-day lab courses with one primary focus on therapeutic exercise and twelve CI courses.

Ms. Island stated the top priority currently is the modernization of the Physical Therapy Practice Act to ensure the act is current and allows Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants to practice at the level of their education and training. CPTA does not currently have legislation that was introduced to address this matter in 2025 but anticipates the introduction of legislation for 2026.

Ms. Island addressed AB 574 authored by Assembly Member Gonzalez, which address authorization of access to physical therapy services. This

bill is the same legislation that was introduced in 2023, which was vetoed by Governor Newsom. Prior authorization is not required for physical therapy. This bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee, with a hearing scheduled for June 30, 2025.

Ms. Island stated that AB 1009, introduced by Assembly Member Rubio, addresses school credentialing for occupational therapists and physical therapists (PTs). This bill is now titled AB 2725 and was previously vetoed by the Governor. This new bill creates a pathway for occupational therapists and physical therapists to obtain credentials that allow them to pursue administrative and leadership positions in schools. The legislation would allow a valid OT or PT license, verification of basic skills requirements, and three years of school-based OT or PT experience to satisfy the requirements for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in administrative services. This bill is in the Senate and was placed in the Suspense file on June 23, 2025.

Ms. Island requested the Board consider supporting AB 574 and AB 1009.

10. Executive Services Update

(A) Legislation Report

2024/25 Legislative Session Summary

Ms. Arneson gave a synopsis of her roles and responsibilities as the Legislation & Regulation Manager for the Executive Unit.

Ms. Arneson reported the Board is in its first year of the 2025-26 legislative session. With the Appropriations deadline now passed, bills that did not advance are now classified as 2-Year bills. The June 6, 2025, deadline required all bills to clear their house of origin and move to their second house. Looking ahead, fiscal committees must approve bills by August 29, 2025, with the final deadline for each house to pass bills set for September 12, 2025.

Ms. Arneson shared the meeting materials on page 32, which included a chart comparing the Appropriations deadline outcomes from prior years. This data shows a steady increase in the number of fiscal bills failing to advance with 213 in 2021 (10.5% of 2,019 bills), 306 in 2023 (14.3% of 2,136), and 337 in 2025 (18.7% of 1,802). This trend highlights growing

417 challenges in bill advancement, largely due to budget constraints, which
418 continue to hinder the progression of bills with significant fiscal impacts.

419
420 Ms. Arneson provided a quick summary of a few bills that the Board is
421 watching.

422
423 Dr. Rabena-Amen, PT, made a public comment recommending that the
424 Board establish a task force or group of licensees to contribute to
425 regulation package language. Dr. Rabena-Amen added including
426 licensees in this process may be helpful.

427
428
429 **AB 224 (Bonta) Health Care Coverage: Essential Health Benefits**

430
431 Ms. Arneson reported this bill expresses the intent of the Legislature to
432 review California's essential health benefits benchmark plan and establish
433 a new benchmark plan for the year 2027. Specifically, this bill adds,
434 commencing January 1, 2027, the following benefits to the benchmark plan:
435 specified services to evaluate, diagnose and treat infertility; specified
436 durable medical equipment including mobility devices such as wheelchairs
437 and walkers; an annual hearing exam and one hearing aid per ear every
438 three years. This bill is currently in the Senate Health Committee.

439
440
441 **AB 489 Health Care Professions Deceptive Terms or Letters Artificial**
442 **Intelligence**

443
444 Ms. Arneson reported this bill extends the enforceability of existing title
445 protections for various licensed health care professions to expressly apply
446 against a person or entity who develops or deploys artificial intelligence
447 (AI) or generative AI (GenAI) systems that misrepresent themselves as
448 titled health care professionals. This bill also authorizes state boards to
449 pursue legal recourse against developers and deployers of AI and GenAI
450 systems that impersonate healthcare workers. Currently this bill is in the
451 Senate Judiciary Committee.

452
453
454 **AB 574 (González) Prior Authorization: Physical Therapy**

455
456 Mr. Arneson reported this bill would prohibit a health care service plan or
457 health insurer that provides coverage for physical therapy from requiring
458 prior authorization for the initial 12 treatment visits for a new episode of care.
459 This bill is similar to AB 931 of the 2023-24 legislative session which was

vetoed by the Governor. A copy of the veto message was included in the bill analysis on page 45. The Board did take a support position on AB 931 and that letter is also included in the meeting materials. Currently this bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee with a hearing scheduled for June 30, 2025.

MOTION: To Support AB 574

M/S: Brandon/Armstrong

VOTE: Brandon – Aye
Qiu – Aye
Armstrong- Aye
Khalaf- Aye
McMillian - Absent
4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried

AB 667 (Solache) Professions and Vocations: License Examinations: Interpreters

Ms. Arneson reported this bill was amended in early April 2025 to exclude healthcare boards, so it no longer pertains to the Board. This bill, beginning July 1, 2026, requires each non-healing arts licensing board within Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to allow an applicant who cannot read, speak or write in English to use an interpreter when taking a license examination. This bill is currently in the Senate B&P Committee and set for hearing on July 14, 2025.

AB 742 (Elhawary) DCA: Licensing: Applicants Who Are Descendants of Slaves

Ms. Arneson reported this bill prioritizes licensure applications from individuals who are descendants of slaves. This bill is currently in the Senate B&P Committee with a hearing scheduled for July 15, 2025.

AB 1009 (Blanca Rubio) Teacher Credentialing: Administrative Services Credential: Occupational and Physical Therapists

Ms. Arneson reported this bill allows occupational therapists (OTs) and physical therapists (PTs) to qualify for a preliminary services credential with

a specialization in administrative services. To meet the minimum requirements, candidates must hold a valid license to practice occupational therapy or physical therapy, demonstrate basic skills competency, and have at least three years of experience as a school-based OT or PT. This bill is similar to AB 2725 from the previous legislative session, which the Board supported but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. Copies of the veto message and support letters are included within the meeting materials. Currently this bill is in the Senate and was placed on Suspense file on June 23, 2025. Suspense file is where bills that have been identified with significant fiscal are placed for further assessment and potential hearing by the appropriations committee.

Dr. Armstrong asked whether the Board would need to resubmit its support for this bill, due to the Board supporting this bill prior. Ms. Areson said yes, and resubmission is needed. Mr. Kaiser added, because this a new iteration of the legislation addressing issues identified in prior sessions, a motion and a vote is required.

MOTION: To Support AB 1009

M/S: Armstrong/Khalif

VOTE: Brandon – Aye
Qiu – Aye
Armstrong- Aye
Khalaf- Aye
McMillian - Absent
4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried

AB 1186 (Patel) Data Collection: Race and Ethnicity: Minimum Categories

Ms. Arneson reported this bill mandates that state boards collecting demographic data on ethnic origin, ethnicity, or race include minimum race and ethnicity categories in their reporting. Boards must gather and publish data on at least the nine largest detailed categories, which include: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and White. This bill is dead as it did not pass out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

544
545 **AB 1458 (Wallis) Physical Therapy and Veterinary Medicine: Animal**
546 **Physical Therapy**
547

548 Ms. Arneson reported this bill has been designated a two-year bill and will
549 not advance in 2025. This bill seeks to clarify the nexus and the scope of
550 the Physical Therapy and Veterinary Medical Practice Acts as it pertains to
551 physical therapy performed on animals. Included is a very lengthy analysis
552 in the meeting materials regarding all the proposed provisions of this bill as
553 currently written. Also provided for handouts to the members and the public
554 are support letters from the animal physical therapy coalition and an
555 opposition letter from the California Veterinary Medical Association.
556

557 Mr. Airs, representative of the Animal Physical Therapy Coalition, provided
558 public comment expressing appreciation for the Board's decision on taking
559 a watch position on this bill in the past and maintaining this position.
560 Additionally, he thanked Ms. Arneson for her analysis.
561

562 Ms. Atlas, a physical therapist, and President of the Animal Physical
563 Therapy Coalition (APTC), made public comment that this bill is now a two-
564 year bill and cannot be heard until January 2026. The legislature is taking a
565 look at how to regulate all non-veterinary professionals and not just physical
566 therapists, especially in light of SB 687, and this bill will likely be changed
567 significantly. Ms. Atlas shared it is premature for the Board to take position
568 on this bill at this time.
569

570 Ms. Atlas thanked the Board for having remote access to the meeting and
571 hope this will continue.
572

573 Mr. Sims, a physical therapist, made a public comment requesting that the
574 Board members receive additional education on this bill. Mr. Sims also
575 thanked Ms. Arneson for her well written analysis but would like to see
576 historical details added for the members. Mr. Sims added in the analysis in
577 PT impact in the second paragraph states, "the language of this bill does
578 not provide authority to establish regulations or impose fees" and
579 questioned why Business and Professions Code section 2615 of the
580 practice act does says "the board shall adopt those regulations that maybe
581 necessary to effectuate this chapter". Mr. Sims states the Board does have
582 authority to establish regulations under section 2615. Lastly, Mr. Sims
583 invited the Board to input this bill and wanted clarification on the distinction
584 watch position vs neutral position.
585

586 **SB 62 (Menjivar) Health Care Coverage: Essential Health Benefits**

Ms. Arneson reported this bill is a parallel effort to AB 224 which was previously discussed, and this bill also expands California's Essential Health Benefits benchmark coverage, to include services to evaluate, diagnose, and treat infertility; durable medical equipment such as mobility devices (including walkers and wheelchairs); and hearing aids. This bill is currently in the Assembly Health Committee.

SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing

Ms. Arneson reported this bill extends the January 1, 2026, repeal date for certain provisions in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act until January 1, 2030, authorizing and specifying conditions under which a state body may hold a meeting by teleconference. This bill helps maintain hybrid meeting flexibility for state agencies and advisory boards, supporting broader public access and member participation. SB 470 aligns with previous legislation, including AB 1733 (Statutes of 2022) and SB 544 (Statutes of 2023), both of which the Board offered letters of support, and those letters are included in the meeting materials.

Mr. Kaiser asked the Board for a letter of support for this bill. Mr. Kaiser added if this bill were to sunset the Board would be unable to provide any kind of hybrid meeting where board member's attendance would be less than every member represented at a local location.

MOTION: To Support SB 470

M/S: Armstrong/Qiu

VOTE: Brandon – Aye
Qiu – Aye
Armstrong- Aye
Khalaf- Aye
McMillian - Absent
4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried

SB 518 (Pierson) Descendants of Enslaved Persons: Reparations

Ms. Arneson reported as AB 742 will only take effect if SB 518 is enacted. SB 518 (Descendants of Enslaved Persons: Reparations) is contingent

upon legislative appropriation of sufficient funding. This bill establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery within state government, assigning it responsibilities such as determining an individual's status as a descendant and reviewing complaints regarding property takings due to racially motivated eminent domain. SB 518 is currently in the Assembly B&P Committee with a hearing scheduled for July 1, 2025.

SB 641 (Ashby) DCA and Department of Real Estate: States of Emergency: Waivers and Exemptions

Ms. Arneson reported this bill authorizes the Department of Real Estate and boards under DCA to waive certain licensure requirements for applicants and licensees affected by a declared federal, state, or local emergency. This includes exemptions from examination, fee, and continuing education requirements for those impacted by disasters. This bill also establishes specific protections for real estate transactions in disaster areas. Currently this bill is in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee with a hearing date of July 8, 2025.

SB 687 (Ochoa Bogh) Chiropractors: Animal Chiropractic Practitioners

Ms. Arneson reported this bill has been included in the legislative summary and agenda as informational only, given its close connection to AB 1458 (Animal Physical Therapy), which was previously discussed. This bill establishes registration requirements for chiropractors practicing animal chiropractic and prohibits them from providing chiropractic care for animals unless registered with the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and meeting specific certification requirements. Additionally, it exempts registered animal chiropractic practitioners from the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act. Like AB 1458, SB 687 has been designated a two-year bill and will not advance further in 2025.

(B) Rulemaking Report –

2025 Rulemaking Update for Pending or Proposed Regulations
1) Update Regarding the Development of Possible Amendments to the Board's Continuing Competency Regulations

Ms. Arneson directed members to the flow chart provided by the DCA Regulations unit which depicts the 4 stages of the regulatory process on page 115 of the meeting materials. Continuing Competency regulations is

in the first phase on that chart, the concept phase of the regulatory process and the goal of this phase is that the proposed language is drafted and approved by the Board to move forward.

Ms. Arneson, shared Board staff, is currently researching and drafting proposed language for the Board's consideration at an upcoming meeting. In this initial regulatory development phase, the Board is actively collecting workforce and program data to support the creation of two comprehensive regulatory packages. This data will be used to evaluate compliance with continuing competency program policies and to identify necessary updates to the Board's existing regulations to ensure alignment with statutory requirements.

Ms. Arneson reported the proposed Continue Competency regulation packages will be two separate packages one addressing amendments to the current Continue Competency regulations and the second package will be addressing continuing competency approval agency fees.

(C) Communication & Education Update

Ms. Beauchamps gave a synopsis of her roles and responsibilities as the Communication and Education Liaison for the Executive Unit.

Ms. Beauchamps presented the outreach report. Ms. Beauchamps reported that in Quarter 3 (Q3), the Board provided 8 outreach presentations to PTA programs in California. The Board also attended the California Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Career Fair at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento on March 29, 2025.

Ms. Beauchamps shared she has been reaching out to the harder to reach groups like community centers to see if they have health fairs in the near future. Additionally, the Board will be attending a health fair in September, logistics are still in the works and the Board will be attending the CPTA conference in September 20-21, 2025, in Palm Springs.

Ms. Beauchamps reported that the spring/summer 2025 newsletter is out, and the outreach calendar is included in the materials.

Dr. Brandon asked which content was the most frequently utilized. Ms. Beauchamps responded that this quarter, content related to the fires received the most engagement. Ms. Beauchamps added that new items, such as newsletters and event photos tend to generate a higher number of shares.

Dr. Brandon asked for additional details regarding the upcoming September event. Ms. Beauchamps reported that it is a senior health fair organized by a small business, marking its 11th year. Ms. Beauchamps added that she identifies these types of events through outreach calls and online searches.

Ms. Island, Executive Associate of CPTA, made a public comment offering to collaborate with eh Board in sharing updates or important content to help reach a larger audience through social media or printed materials.

11. Exempt Level Increase Process

Ms. Bachiller, Appointment and Recruitment Specialist for Department of Consumer Affairs human resources, presented the process for requesting a level and salary adjustment for the executive officer position.

Dr. Khalaf asked what the difference is between level M and level L in terms of responsibilities. Ms. Bachiller answered level L is equivalent to a Career Executive Assignment (CEA).

Dr. Brandon expressed she would like to create a two-person committee to meet and review the history and process from prior years and complete the application for the Executive Officer Exempt Level Increase. Mr. Qiu volunteered to be on this committee.

12. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Fisk, representative of the California Acupuncture Coalition, made a public comment expressing concern about continued efforts to allow physical therapists to perform dry needling without an acupuncture license. Ms. Fisk urged the Board to oppose any attempts to authorize dry needling outside of the existing acupuncture licensing system.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 2:48 p.m.

Thursday; June 26, 2025

753 **14. Call to Order**

754
755 The Physical Therapy Board of California (Board) meeting was called to order
756 by President Dr. Brandon at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 10:24 a.m.
757

758 **15. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

759
760 Brandon – Present
761 Qiu- Present
762 Armstrong- Present
763 Khalaf – Present
764 McMillian - Absent

765
766 All Members were present except Ms. McMillian, and a quorum was established.
767 Also present at the meeting were: Michael Kanotz, PTBC Legal Counsel; Jason
768 Kaiser, Executive Officer; Sarah Conley, Assistant Executive Officer; Brooke
769 Arneson, Legislation and Regulation Manager; Carole Phelps, Enforcement
770 Manager; Valerie Kearney, Licensing Manager; and Board staff: Kim Rozakis,
771 April Beauchamps and Vincent Azar.
772

773 **16. Reading of the Board's Mission Statement**

774 Dr. Khalaf read the Board's mission statement: To advance and protect the
775 interests of the people of California by the effective administration of the
776 Physical Therapy Practice Act.
777

778 **17. 2024-2025 Strategic Planning Update**

779
780 Ms. Conley, Executive Officer, introduced Mr. Azar. Mr. Azar gave a synopsis
781 of his roles and responsibilities as the Board Technology Liaison for the
782 Executive Unit.
783

784 Ms. Conley presented an update on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Conley gave a brief
785 background on the Strategic Plan, facilitated by SOLID team, Ms. Irani and Ms.
786 Fisher, the Board developed the 2024-2029 strategic plan in December 2023
787 and adopted in June 2024. In October 2024 Ms. Irani and Ms. Fisher facilitated
788 an action plan development with Board staff.
789

790 Ms. Conley presented the first-year progress of completing the action plan tasks

and achieving the 2024-2029 strategic plan goals and objectives.

Ms. Conley shared completion of each goal, Goal 1 Enforcement 8% complete, Goal 2 Licensing 13% complete, Goal 3 Outreach and Communication 6% complete, Goal 4 Organization Effectiveness 6% complete and Goal 5 Continuing Competency does not have any progress identified, but does not mean no progress has been made, but instead no tasks have been completed.

Ms. Conley added the Strategic Plan sets forth 80 tasks, so far, staff have completed 6 tasks in all goal areas with the exception of continuing competency.

Ms. Conley reported that completed tasks include holding annual Expert Consultant Trainings, providing feedback to further develop these trainings as appropriate, reviewing the licensing website pages for currency and accuracy, implementing the Jurisprudence Assessment Module (CAL-JAM), conducting military outreach, and providing staff development opportunities.

Ms. Conley stated staff have worked on 33 tasks this year, which is 41% progress towards achieving the goals for this plan. Ms. Conley shared the breakdown of pending tasks of each goal, Goal 1 Enforcement 21%, Goal 2 Licensing 13%, Goal 3 Outreach and Communication 47%, Goal 4 Organizational Effectiveness and Goal 5 Continuing Competency 38%.

Ms. Conley shared some of the pending tasks include implementing a stakeholder educational component at each Board meeting, exam of occupational analysis, development of outreach materials, outreach events that are consumer focused, reviewing the Board's website updating office guidelines, automating continuing competency processes and continuing competency workload studies.

Ms. Conley added completing some tasks does not mean that staff stops doing them, for example, outreach and website updates continues even if that project says complete.

18. Administrative Services Update

(A) Staff Introductions

(B) Program Updates

(C) Statistical Updates

Ms. Stokes, Administrative Services Lead Analyst, introduced the administrative staff, and each staff member provided a presentation of their roles and responsibilities within the Administrative Services Unit.

Ms. Stokes shared purchases experienced a brief delay due to budget constraints largely stemming from increased enforcement costs but was successful in reallocating funds within the Boards operating and equipment budgets to address these challenges.

Ms. Stokes added travel remains status quo and has been prioritized for mission critical needs only, and all other travel requests are being reviewed and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Stokes states training remains status quo and is currently limited to job required courses. The Board is utilizing SOLID's unit to meet the Boards training needs with associated cost covered though pro-rata. Training that is not offered through SOLID, Administrative Services is actively working with other units to identify practical and cost-effective alternatives. Lastly, all Board staff are up to date and fully compliant with their mandatory training and reporting requirements.

Ms. Stokes added during quarter 3 (Q3) the Board is authorized for 29.3 positions and currently the Board has 3 vacancies, one Staff Services Analyst and two Associate Governmental Personal Analyst (AGPA) successfully filing one AGPA.

Ms. Stokes shared the Board is authorized \$7,086,000 which includes personnel services, operating expenses and equipment. During Q3 the Board spent \$1,480,596 year to date expenditure total \$5,466,476 which represents 77% of the Board's allocation. The board collected \$1,839,358 in Q3 with a year-to-date revenue collected of \$6,222,812. As of March 31, 2025 the Board's revenue collection is sufficient to support current operational costs with expenditures well within the approved budget.

Dr. Brandon asked about the overage in equipment expenditures. Mr. Kaiser stated the board scheduled to do an IT overhaul and replaced computer desktops and laptops. There was delay during that fiscal year and denied so it rolled into the next fiscal year for approval. When the equipment was ready, the cost landed in a fiscal year where it was not part of the schedule.

19. Licensing Services Update

- (A) Staff Introductions
- (B) Program Updates
- (C) Statistical Updates

Ms. Kearney, Licensing Services Manager, introduced the Licensing Services Unit staff, and each staff member provided a presentation of their roles and responsibilities within the Licensing Services Unit.

Dr. Khalaf asked what the difference is with continuing competency and continuing education. Ms. Lam, Continuing Competency Analyst, responded that licensees have to maintain a certain amount of education to maintain their license and continuing competency services ensure licensees are in compliant.

Mr. Row, Applications Services Lead, presented the Licensing Services report.

Mr. Row reported Application Services initial licensees application received increased by 8% from fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 quarter 1 (Q1) through Quarter 3 (Q3) to FY 2024-2025 Q1 through Q3, with Physical Therapist (PT) initial applications received up 5% and Physical Therapists (PTA) applications up 17% overall from Q1-Q3 the previous FY. U.S. Educated PT applications received increased 7% while U.S. Educated PTA applications received increased 21% Q1 through Q3 over the same time period to FY 2023-2024.

Mr. Row added the first three quarters of FY 2024-2025 saw a decrease in foreign educated applications received by 19% and an increase of 10% in Enforcement Applications received. Military applications received continue to increase by 50% over FY 2023-2024 Q1 through Q3.

Mr. Row stated of the initial 2009 initial applications received year to date (YTD), 93% were U.S. educated with 66% exam applicants and 34% were by endorsement, foreign-educated and military applications were 7% and 3% respectively. For U.S. graduates averted 29 days while foreign education applications processing times averaged 48 days. Military applications averaged 8 days. The target turnaround time to license issuance for U.S. graduate complete applications is 45 days for applications by endorsement and 90 days for new graduate applications.

Mr. Row shared license maintenance received and completed 55 retired status requests through Q3 for FY 2024-2025 with an average processing time of less than 1 day. The 30 retire status requests for Q1 through Q3 received is down 26% from the 74 retired status requests received in Q1 through Q3 of FY 2023-2024.

Mr. Row added Continuing Competency audited 212 PT licenses over Q1 through Q3 of FY 2024-2025 with a pass rate of 94%. PTA licensee's audits resulted in an 81% pass rate for 68 PTAs for FY 2024-2025 Q1 through Q3.

Mr. Row shared on May 1, 2025 Brett Argento was appointed to Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) in the Continuing Competency Unit of the Licensing Services Program. Mr. Argento's duties include development and maintenance of the Board's Recognized Approval Agencies database and registry to ensure quality continuing competency providers and courses.

MOTION: Remove AHP healthcare from continuing competency recognition.

M/S: Armstrong/Brandon

VOTE: Brandon – Aye
Qiu – Aye
Armstrong- Aye
Khalaf- Aye
McMillian - Absent
4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried

Dr. Rabena-Ament, PT, made a public comment regarding whether a completed application awaiting PTLA approval could be automatically approved. Ms. Kearney responded that the system does not automatically approve applications, an Analyst would have to set it. Ms. Kearney explained that for PTLA or missing exam scores, the Analyst must manually set the approval, which works well for new graduate applications for both PT and PTA.

Mr. Row added that while FSBPT releases exam scores on a specific date posted on their website, the Board does not receive all scores simultaneously, which can take up to three days. Within 24–48 hours of receipt, applicants receive an automated notification from the Breeze application system confirming their license issuance.

Mr. Kaiser added that if there is a deficiency in an application, the applicant can view it in their Breeze account, and an email notification is sent to the address on file. Additionally, FSBPT may reserve test scores for up to 14 days before distributing them to jurisdictions to conduct forensic analyses and ensure exam integrity.

956 **Consumer Protection Services Update**

- 957 (D) Staff Introductions
958 (E) Program Updates
959 (F) Statistical Updates

960 Ms. Phelps, Consumer Protection Services Manager, introduced the Consumer
961 Protection Services Unit (CPS) staff, and each staff member provided a
962 presentation of their roles and responsibilities within the CPS Unit.

963
964 Ms. Phelps shared that in January 2025, the CPS Unit migrated its document
965 storage structure over to SharePoint. CPS Unit continues to work with Mr. Azar,
966 IT Analyst, on additional SharePoint workflows to simplify tasks, make timely
967 information readily available, and automate or streamline internal procedures.
968 The CPS Unit currently has automated reports to assist with tracking cases out
969 for vote, compliance payments received, applicant cases and disciplinary
970 sections for reporting purposes. Additionally, there are workflows to assist
971 Executive Officer review of finalized documents and receipt of internal
972 complaints.

973
974 Ms. Phelps stated the CPS Unit and Board Management continue to hold
975 quarterly meetings with the Division of Investigation (DOI) and the Attorney
976 General's Office (AG) to discuss outstanding issues and collaborate to ensure
977 effective case and program management. DOI is planning to conduct their 2025
978 investigator training on board specific investigations in August 2025, and the
979 Board will be holding expert consultant training that is scheduled to be held on
980 September 22, 2025, in conjunction with the Board's September Board
981 Meeting.

982
983 Ms. Phelps presented the CPS report which can be found in the materials on
984 pages 137 through 142.

985
986 **20. Probation Monitoring Services Update**

- 987 (A) Staff Introductions
988 (B) Program Updates
989 (C) Statistical Updates

990 Mr. Martin gave a synopsis of his roles and responsibilities as the Probation
991 Monitor for the Consumer Protection Services Unit.

992 Ms. Martin reported that at the end of Q3, the number of probationers decreased
993 from 66 to 61 and 46 were actively practicing in California,. The remaining were

tolling, meaning they were not receiving credit towards the completion of probation because they were either practicing PT or practicing in another state or not practicing due to unemployment or underemployment. 2 licensees were placed on probation in Q3 and 6 licensees completed probation in this quarter. No probations were revoked in the quarter and 2 licensees stipulated to surrender their license to the Board.

Mr. Martin added of the 46 licensees that are not tolling, 9 are enrolled and participating in the Board's substance abuse rehabilitation program, equaling about 20% of all licensees on probation that were not tolling. No new licensees enrolled in the Board's substance abuse rehabilitation program in the quarter, and 1 licensee completed the program.

Mr. Martin stated there were 5 instances of non-compliance with probation in Q3. The instance of non-compliance were minor violations for missing interviews or submitting paperwork late.

Mr. Martin shared the contract with Maximus ended on December 31, 2024, and as of January 1, 2025, Priemer is the new provider for the Board's recovery monitoring program. Participants have reported their experiences with Premier have been positive thus far and the Board looks forward to working with Premier.

Lastly, there was 1 petition received for early termination of probation in Q3.

21. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Fisk, California Acupuncture Coalition representative made a public comment and stated acupuncture is a regulated medical procedure in the State of California and any efforts to sidestep those protections threatens safety and accountability, and urges the Board to continue treating this as a public health and regulatory issue.

22. Agenda for Future Meeting

September 23-24, 2025

Location: Loma Linda University

Dr. Rabena-Amen, PT, made a public comment requesting that the Board prepare a future presentation on workforce data in California, particularly

1030 identifying services that are lacking for consumers. Dr. Rabena-Amen
1031 suggested that, once assessed, the Board could follow up with possible
1032 solutions. Additionally, Dr. Rabena-Amen requested that the Board consider
1033 revisiting the requirement for clinical instructors for foreign-educated licensees.
1034

1035 **23. Closed Session**

1036
1037 (A) Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board will convene
1038 to Deliberate on Disciplinary Actions and Decisions to be Reached in
1039 Administrative Procedure Act Proceedings
1040

1041
1042 **24. Adjournment**
1043

1044 The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m. on June 26, 2025.

1045