

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY Advisory Committee on Direct Access MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Physical Therapy Advisory Committee on Direct Access met on Friday, May 11, 2007 at the Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor, Conference Room #4, Richmond, Virginia. The following committee members were present:

David R. Diduch, MD
Wilford K. Gibson, MD
Brian Hoke, PT, DPT, SCS
Myra Pumphrey, PT, OCS, FAAOMPT
Lisa Shoaf, PT, Ph.D.
Julious P. Smith, III, MD

DHP staff present for all or part of the meeting included:

Lisa R. Hahn, Executive Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Rashaun K. Minor, Discipline Operations Manager

Guests present for all or part of the meeting included:

Richard K. Grossman, Virginia Physical Therapy Association
George Maihafer, PhD, Chair, Board of Physical Therapy
D. Calloway Whitehead, III, Virginia Orthopaedic Society
Scott Crabtree, Virginia Physical Therapy Association
Sydney Sawyer, Virginia Physical Therapy Association

CALLED TO ORDER

Ms. Hahn called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Hahn asked the committee members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves. Ms. Hahn welcomed and thanked the committee members for agreeing to be a part of the Advisory Committee.

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION

Ms. Yeatts reviewed and read the legislation that requires the Committee to meet and address the roles and requirements of the Committee.

CHARGE TO THE COMMITTEE FROM THE LEGISLATION

Section 54.1-3482.1.C. In promulgating minimum education, training, and experience criteria, the Board shall consult with an advisory committee comprised of three members selected by the Medical Society of Virginia and three members selected by the Virginia Physical Therapy Association. All members of the advisory committee shall be licensed by the Board of Physical Therapy or the Board of Medicine and shall engage in clinical practice. The education, training, and experience necessary to promote patient safety. The advisory committee shall prepare a written report of its recommendations and shall submit this report to the Board of Physical Therapy and shall also submit its recommendations to the Board of Medicine for such comments as may be deemed appropriate, prior to the promulgations of draft regulations. The advisory committee may meet periodically to advise the Board on the regulations of such procedure.”

The Committee began its discussions with consideration of the minimum criteria set out in subsection B of [54.1-3482.1](#), as follows: *The minimum education, training, and experience requirements for certification shall include evidence that the applicant has successfully completed (i) a doctor of physical therapy program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association; (ii) a transitional program in physical therapy as recognized by the Board; or (iii) at least three years of active practice with evidence of continuing education relating to carrying out direct access duties under § [54.1-3482](#).*

The physical therapists on the Committee described the scope of the doctoral program and the transitional program in physical therapy, including the preparation for practice in a direct access environment. Students graduating from accredited physical therapy programs currently receive the DPT or Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Physical therapists who graduated before schools adopted doctoral programs may enter a transitional program that leads to a doctoral degree. Virginia physical therapy schools have been graduating doctoral students for at least three years. The physical therapists also provided information about courses available for continuing education in medical screening and differential diagnosis.

The medical doctors on the Committee proposed to recommend a year of clinical practice requirement to the DPT and Transitional program in order to qualify for certification. The physical therapists on the Committee explained that students or physical therapists that complete the doctoral program or the transitional degree program have adequate educational and practice preparation in medical screening and differential diagnosis.

Recommendation for report to the Boards of Medicine and Physical Therapy

Ms. Hahn stated the intent of the Advisory Committee is to have a recommendation to the Board of Medicine at its next board meeting June 21, 2007 and the Board of Physical Therapy next board meeting is July 20, 2007.

Based on the information provided and its responsibility to recommend the education, training and experience criteria necessary to promote patient safety, the Committee recommends the following qualifications for certification:

- 1) Evidence of completion of a doctor of physical therapy program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and completion of at least one year of post-licensure, full-time, clinical practice;
- 2) Evidence of completion of a transitional program in physical therapy as recognized by the Board of Physical Therapy and completion of at least one year of post-licensure, full-time, clinical practice; or
- 3) Evidence of completion of at least 15 contact hours of continuing education with a post-course examination offered by a provider approved by the Board and at least three years of post-licensure, full-time, clinical practice. The 15 contact hours of continuing education would incorporate lecture and examination. Additionally, online course work is acceptable.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business concluded, Ms. Hahn adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

George Maihafer, Ph.D., PT.
President

Lisa R. Hahn, Executive Director

Date

Date