

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY Task Force on Dry Needling**

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Physical Therapy Task Force on Dry Needling met on Friday, March 2, 2007 at the Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room #3, Richmond, Virginia. The following members were present:

George Maihafer, Ph.D., PT  
Tracey Adler, PT, MS, OCS  
Dixie Bowman, Ed.D., PT  
Ann Furniss, L.Ac.M.Ac., NCCAOM  
Hillary S. Hawkins, M.D.

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

Lisa R. Hahn, Executive Director  
Rashaun K. Minor, Discipline Operations Manager

Guests present for all or part of the meeting included:

Chelsea Rock, Acupuncture Society of Virginia  
Jeff Buthe, Medical Society of Virginia

#### **CALLED TO ORDER**

Dr. George Maihafer, P.T., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### **WELCOME**

Dr. Maihafer welcomed and thanked the Task Force members for agreeing to be a part of the Committee. Dr. Maihafer stated that it is the intent of the Task Force to have a recommendation to the Board of Physical Therapy by the Board's next board meeting, on April 27, 2007.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Maihafer introduced himself and asked all parties present to introduce themselves; Rashaun Minor, Discipline Operations Manager with the Board of Physical Therapy, Ann Furniss a Licensed Acupuncturist, Dixie Bowman, Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, Lisa Hahn, Executive Director of the Board of Physical Therapy, Tracey Adler, Licensed Physical Therapist in private practice, and Hillary

Hawkins, Medical Doctor at Sheltering Arms and previously licensed as a Physical Therapist.

## **MISSION**

Dr. Maihafer stated the mission of the Task Force:

The Task Force will make a recommendation to the Board of Physical Therapy determining if dry needling is within the scope of practice for Physical Therapy.

## **IDENTIFY CONCERNS, PROBLEMS, AND ISSUES**

Dr. Maihafer stated that the Task Force should identify the concerns regarding dry needling as a first step in tackling the issue of its treatment and scope of practice.

## **REVIEW & REVISE GOALS**

The Task Force reviewed the Medical Practice Act relating to Acupuncture and the Medical Practice Act relating to Physical Therapy.

It was noted that some issues are (1) what is dry needling, (2) it may be misleading to the public as the practice of acupuncture, and (3) that a practitioner may provide the procedure without prescriptive authority and without specialty training.

Incidents were given of where the procedure was misused, not clearly explained to the consumer, and failure to have a script from the physician for this type of treatment.

It was recommended that prior to dry needling being used by a physical therapist that the physical therapist have the proper referral and script for the procedure, that full disclosure is made to the patient that this treatment is not acupuncture, used along with a consent form, and that the physical therapist should have specialty training.

After much deliberation, the Task Force decided that a concise operational definition of dry needling must be developed in order to properly address the issue before the Committee.

## **ASSIGNMENT**

The Task Force was asked to further investigate dry needling and to bring a definition of dry needling and scope of practice to the next meeting. Ms. Adler was asked to bring a copy of her consent form, Dr. Hawkins was asked to research and share with the Committee the prescriptive nature of dry needling, and Ms. Furniss was asked to research

acupuncture schools and find out what schools offer dry needling as a part of their coursework and share the schools' curriculum with the Committee.

### SET FUTURE MEETINGS

The Task Force tentatively scheduled the next meeting for Friday, March 30, 2007 at 8:30am.

### ADJOURNMENT

With all business concluded, Dr. Maihafer adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33am.

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George Maihafer, Ph.D., PT.  
President

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Lisa R. Hahn, Executive Director

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Date

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Date

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