

The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy convened for a full Board meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room #4, Henrico, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Megan Bureau, PT, DPT, EdD, President
Melissa Fox, PT, DPT
Margaret Guarino, PT, DPT
Michele Wiley, PT, DPT, DHS

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Rebecca Duff, PTA, DHS
Srilekha Palle, PT, DPT, Vice-President
Pam Pryor, Citizen Member

DHP STAFF PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

David E. Brown, DC, Director, Department of Health Professions
Sarah Georgen, Board Administrator
Barbara Hodgdon, PhD, Deputy Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director
Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator
Yetty Shobo, PhD, Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Corie Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director
Joi Yancey, Administrative Support Specialist

**Participant indicates attendance to count toward continuing education requirements*

BOARD COUNSEL:

Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT:

Tom Bohanon, Virginia Physical Therapy Association
Mantas Druktenis
Ashley Keesler-Young

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Bureau called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and asked the Board members and staff to introduce themselves.

Dr. Bureau welcomed Margaret Guarino, PT, DPT, to her first meeting as a new Board Member and also announced Pam Pryor's appointment to the Board.

Dr. Bureau stated that Dr. Palle, Dr Duff, and Ms. Pryor were absent from the meeting.

With four Board members present at the meeting, a quorum was established.

Dr. Bureau read the mission of the Board, which is also the mission of the Department of Health Professions.

Dr. Bureau reminded the Board members and audience about microphones, computer agenda materials, breaks, sign-in sheets, and attendance for continuing education requirements.

Ms. Tillman Wolf then read the emergency egress instructions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Bureau opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the draft minutes for a Board meeting held on November 14, 2025, and Formal Administrative Hearings held on August 13, 2025, November 14, 2025, and November 21, 2025. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

ORDERING OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Bureau opened the floor to any additional items to add to the agenda.

Ms. Tillman Wolf requested flexibility with the agenda regarding the Agency Report, noting that Dr. Brown was expected to attend the meeting but had been delayed.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Fox, and properly seconded by Dr. Wiley, the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director's Report – Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director

Welcome

Ms. Tillman Wolf welcomed Dr. Guarino and Ms. Pryor, who were recently appointed to the Board.

Board Updates

Ms. Tillman Wolf reviewed key accomplishments from 2025. She reported that the regulatory reduction process was completed in June 2025 and that the Board adopted an AI/Digital Practice Policy Document and updates to the Board Bylaws. She stated that the 2025 Workforce Reports, based on 2024 renewal survey data, were updated for the biennial renewal cycle. She also noted the successful implementation of an automated continuing education (CE) audit process utilizing a bot for correspondence and confirmed that News Briefs were distributed to licensees in September 2025 and February 2026.

Ms. Tillman Wolf outlined 2026 priorities, including legislative and regulatory committee meetings, the periodic review of the Board's regulations, and continued communications with licensees and stakeholders through News Briefs and engagement with PT/PTA education programs.

Board Updates

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided updates on recent and upcoming Board activities. She reported that the February 2026 Board Newsletter was disseminated to licensees and reported on the voluntary withdrawal of accreditation for a Virginia PTA program.

She also shared updates from FSBPT, including information on upcoming meetings and training, including the Board Member Regulatory Training, Leadership Issues Forum (LIF), and the Annual Meeting. Ms. Tillman Wolf encouraged Board members to participate, noting some events will offer virtual options. She also reminded members about monthly "Regulatory Hours" webinars, starting February 17, 2026.

Ms. Tillman Wolf also discussed recent changes to the TOEFL scoring standards, which were implemented as of January 21, 2026, earlier than expected. She noted that there would be a discussion on the use of the FSBPT recommended standard later in the agenda.

PT Compact Updates

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided an update on the Physical Therapy Compact. She announced that the Compact has reached 40 member states, with Nevada being the most recent to join and issue compact privileges. Of the total member states, 37 states are currently issuing Compact Privileges (CPs).

Ms. Tillman referenced fourth-quarter data included in the agenda packet, reporting that as of December 31, 2025, a total of 848 Physical Therapists and 187 Physical Therapist Assistants hold Compact Privileges to practice in Virginia. Additionally, 774 Virginia-licensed Physical Therapists and 150 Physical Therapist Assistants have obtained Compact Privileges to practice in other member states.

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced that the PT Compact Annual Meeting was held virtually on December 10, 2025, and included the adoption of amendments to rules, elections, and approval of the 2026 Annual Budget.

2026 Board Meetings

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided the 2026 Board meeting schedule and noted a change in the August date.

- May 12, 2026
- August 20, 2026

- November 17, 2026

Notes and Reminders

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided reminders on participation in FSBPT-funded activities as board members and on changes in contact information. She thanked the Board Members for their hard work and dedication.

With no questions, Ms. Tillman Wolf concluded her report.

Discipline Report – Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director

As of December 31, 2025, Ms. Kelley reported the following disciplinary statistics:

- 45 Patient Care Cases:
 - 3 at Informal Conferences
 - 1 at Formal Hearings
 - 9 at Enforcement
 - 32 at Probable Cause
 - 0 at Administrative Proceedings Division
- 28 Non-Patient Care Cases:
 - 0 at Informal Conferences
 - 1 at Formal Hearings
 - 1 at Enforcement
 - 26 at Probable Cause
 - 0 at Administrative Proceedings Division
- 6 cases were listed in Compliance

Ms. Kelley reported the following Total Cases Received and Closed:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Q4 2022 – 3/10 | • Q4 2024 – 9/29 |
| • Q1 2023 – 15/21 | • Q1 2025 – 18/12 |
| • Q2 2023 – 13/18 | • Q2 2025 – 15/9 |
| • Q3 2023 – 10/8 | • Q3 2025 – 16/15 |
| • Q4 2023 – 4/5 | • Q4 2025 – 15/8 |
| • Q1 2024 – 10/14 | • Q1 2026 – 28/14 |
| • Q2 2024 – 27/4 | • Q2 2026 – 16/10 |
| • Q3 2024 – 10/15 | |

Ms. Kelley provided an overview of PTA disciplinary cases in response to a Board Member's request for additional data, noting that the Board had received 30 total cases over the last two calendar years. Ms. Kelley reminded Board members that they are welcome to request information on disciplinary cases at any time and that such data can be incorporated into future meeting materials. She concluded by expressing her appreciation to the Board members for their continued efforts in conducting probable cause reviews.

It was noted that when compared to overall case numbers, the number of PTA cases tends to be in sync with the ratio of licensed PTs to PTAs – that is roughly 3 PT cases to every 1 PTA case.

With no further questions, Ms. Kelley concluded her report.

Licensing Report – Sarah Georgen, Board Administrator

Licensure Statistics – All Licenses

Ms. Georgen presented licensure statistics that included the following information and trends in license count:

License	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Change +/-
Physical Therapist	9,708	9,822	+114
Physical Therapist Assistant	3,796	3,832	+36
Total PTs and PTAs	13,504	13,654	+150
Direct Access Certification	1,217	1,221	+4

Examination Statistics

Ms. Georgen presented statistics on the Physical Therapist Assistant examinations from the January 2026 administration, including examination trends.

NPTE Year Reports

Ms. Georgen presented information on the total 2025 national pass rates for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for first-time candidates.

Customer Satisfaction

Ms. Georgen reported on the customer satisfaction statistics for FY 2025 and the call trends per year since 2019, noting a continued decrease in calls, as the Board continues to improve access to and breadth of online information for licensees and applicants.

Updates for Expense Reimbursement Vouchers

Ms. Georgen reported on the 2026 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standard mileage rate increase and the Federal Government General Services Administration (GSA) per diem rates.

With no questions, Ms. Georgen concluded her report.

Dr. Brown arrived at 10:30 a.m.

AGENCY REPORT – David E. Brown, DC, DHP Agency Director

Dr. Bureau noted that Dr. Brown was recently appointed to serve as Agency Director and previously served in that role from 2014-2022.

Dr. Brown provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Board members, emphasizing that, while changes in administration and political leadership occur, the Board's role remains the same: to protect the public. He explained that Board members are part of the executive branch and that the Governor's position on legislation represents the Board's position.

Drawing on his prior experience as a member of the Board of Medicine, Dr. Brown acknowledged the significant effort required to serve on the Board and stressed that the value of the experience depends on the commitment invested. He reminded members that their primary goal is public protection and cautioned against conflicts of interest when serving in leadership roles within professional associations. He reiterated that individual Board members cannot speak on behalf of the Board and should avoid providing unofficial guidance on practice matters. Dr. Brown encouraged members to rely on Board staff for support, noting that active engagement in board organizations is beneficial for networking and knowledge sharing. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the Board's executive staff and their efforts to make the Board member experience productive and positive.

With no questions, Dr. Brown concluded his report.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Blöse provided an update on a court case involving the Board.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REPORT

Legislative Report – Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator

Mr. Novak provided an overview of the legislative process for the agency and a report on bills of interest in the current General Assembly session.

Mr. Novak answered questions regarding the report.

With no further questions, Mr. Novak concluded this report.

Report on Status of Regulatory Actions – Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator

Mr. Novak provided an update on the status of pending regulatory actions.

With no questions, Mr. Novak concluded this report.

BOARD ACTION

Adoption of the Electronic Meeting Policy (Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3)

Mr. Novak provided information on the electronic participation policy for meetings, which is required by the Code to be adopted annually.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Wiley, and properly seconded by Dr. Fox, the Board voted to readopt the electronic participation policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Imaging Referrals by Physical Therapists – Letter from APTA-Virginia

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided an overview of a letter received from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) – Virginia related to imaging referrals by Physical Therapists. Ms. Tillman Wolf noted that referral of this issue to the Legislative/Regulatory Committee may be appropriate given the Committee's upcoming work related to the periodic review of regulations.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Wiley, and properly seconded by Dr. Guarino, the Board voted to refer this matter to the Legislative/Regulatory Committee for further discussion and recommendations to the full Board. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Overview of Licensing Provisions for Military Members and Spouses

Ms. Tillman Wolf presented an overview of key state and federal licensing provisions for military members and spouses related to licensure applications, as well as waivers and extensions that apply when a servicemember and/or their spouse is deployed overseas.

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that applicants eligible for the Physical Therapy Compact were encouraged to pursue it, as that is often the easiest and fastest pathway to practice. She stated that for those applying for a Virginia license, the Board offers expedited licensure by endorsement, with modified documentation requirements and completion of a criminal background check. She stated that above all, the key takeaway is that the licensure process is expedited to facilitate practice in their new jurisdiction.

Ms. Tillman Wolf answered clarifying questions from the Board.

Updates to TOEFL Score Requirements for Graduates of Non-CAPTE Accredited Programs

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided information on recent changes to the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination score requirements for graduates of a non-Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited programs.

She stated that the FSBPT had originally anticipated that updates to TOEFL scoring, including a revised recommended standard, which would be implemented in 2027–2028. However, FSBPT recently learned that ETS rolled out the new TOEFL scoring standards on January 21, 2026. She stated that as a result, FSBPT advised that state boards should determine which TOEFL standards to apply until FSBPT completes its standard-setting process. Additionally, she stated that the FSBPT plans to convene a Task Force in 2026 to review TOEFL and establish standards for other available English proficiency tests, such as the Cambridge English Test and the Occupational English Test.

Ms. Tillman Wolf asked the Board to weigh in on whether to continue following FSBPT's recommended passing scores for TOEFL until a new standard is established. She stated that continuing this approach offers several benefits: it maintains consistency with the Board's existing Guidance Document 112-5; aligns with FSBPT's current recommendation, which reflects the same standards in a different numerical format; and allows time for FSBPT to convene experts to review TOEFL and other language proficiency examinations before making future recommendations.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Guarino, and properly seconded by Dr. Fox, the Board voted to continue to follow the recommended passing scores from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) until such time as a new standard-setting recommendation is completed, as discussed. Ms. Tillman Wolf answered the Board's questions. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Healthcare Workforce Data Center Updates

Supply and Demand Dashboard – Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants

Dr. Shobo presented information on the Healthcare Workforce Data Center's (HWDC) Supply and Demand Dashboard for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants.

Ms. Tillman Wolf inquired whether PT Compact data could be overlaid with supply data to address maldistribution concerns. Dr. Shobo explained that it was difficult to estimate the Compact's impact because license holders are not permanently located in Virginia, and the Compact primarily provides mobility for practitioners to move between states rather than consistently increasing the state's supply.

Dr. Bureau asked about survey responses related to the PT Compact and enrollment trends in education programs. Dr. Shobo clarified that the Compact survey is separate from HWDC data and that there is no mechanism to survey individuals who are not licensed in Virginia. Regarding education enrollment, she noted that these figures are not incorporated because attendance at Virginia programs does not guarantee graduates will remain in the state. Dr. Guarino raised a question about workforce shifts toward outpatient settings and hiring trends in surgery centers. Dr. Shobo confirmed that the dashboard does not break out data by type of care but does reflect changes in reported practice settings over time.

Consideration of Addition of Renewal Survey Questions on Burnout

Dr. Shobo provided information regarding the potential addition of a renewal survey question focused on burnout. She explained the purpose of the proposed question and addressed Board members' inquiries about its wording, anticipated responses, and potential future data points that could be derived from its inclusion.

During the discussion, Dr. Wiley inquired about the phrasing of the proposed question and whether it should allow multiple response options to accommodate licensees who might identify with more than one answer. Dr. Shobo, joined by Dr. Hodgdon, addressed the inquiry by outlining potential statistical challenges associated with multiple selections and discussed strategies to mitigate these issues through careful survey design.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Wiley, and properly seconded by Dr. Guarino, the Board voted to approve the addition of a renewal survey question related to burnout, with select all that apply, as discussed. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Board Member Development

Training and Development Topics for 2026

Ms. Tillman Wolf led a discussion on board member development and the incorporation of training topics into quarterly board meetings. She invited input regarding areas where additional information or training would be beneficial. Board members suggested several topics, including an overview of workforce data and trends in employment hours, and creating a crosswalk for new members to clarify the relationship between professional associations and the Board, with emphasis on transitions and conflict-of-interest considerations. Additional suggestions included an overview of possible sanctions and the disciplinary process, as well as the Sanctioning Reference Points (SRPs) for informal conferences. Members also recommended providing case examples to illustrate factors such as aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

Further recommendations included the disciplinary process and agency roles and responsibilities throughout the adjudication of a case. Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that there may be an agency training for board members this year, possibly virtual, which typically covers topics including the legislative and regulatory processes, an overview of FOIA requirements, and a refresher on conflicts of interest. Ms. Tillman Wolf acknowledged the Board's suggestions and noted that they would be considered for incorporation into future training sessions.

Discussion of Best Practices for Meetings and Hearings

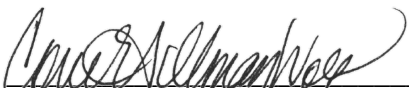
The Board deferred this topic to a future meeting to allow incorporation of member feedback regarding training.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is scheduled for May 12, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bureau called for any objections to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections and with all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.



Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director

May 12, 2026

Date