



Virginia Department of  
**Health Professions**  
Board of Physical Therapy

**Final Minutes**  
**Full Board Meeting**

**August 10, 2021**

The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy convened for a full board meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room #2, Henrico, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Allen R. Jones, Jr., PT, DPT, President  
Mira H. Mariano, PT, PhD, OCS, Vice-President\*  
Tracey Adler, PT, DPT, CMTPT\*  
Rebecca Duff, PTA, DHSc\*  
Elizabeth Locke, PT, PhD\*  
Susan Szasz Palmer, MLS

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Arkena L. Dailey, PT, DPT

**DHP STAFF PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Barbara Allison-Bryan, MD, DHP Deputy Director  
Erin Barrett, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Sarah Georgen, Licensing and Operations Manager  
Laura Mueller, Program Manager  
Corie Tillman Wolf, Executive Director  
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst

*\*participant indicates attendance to count toward continuing education requirements*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked the Board members and staff to introduce themselves.

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

Dr. Jones congratulated Dr. Mariano, Dr. Locke, and Ms. Szasz Palmer on their reappointments to the Board.

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

Dr. Jones provided reminders to the Board members and audience regarding sign in sheets, computer agenda materials, attendance for continuing education requirements, and breaks.

Ms. Tillman Wolf then read the emergency egress instructions.

## **APPROVAL OF MINTUES**

Dr. Jones opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the draft minutes for meetings held between May 25, 2021 and June 29, 2021, including a Board meeting on May 25, 2021. Dr. Mariano noted one spelling edit to her name on the informal conference minutes in the Board's agenda packet. With no other edits or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **ORDERING OF THE AGENDA**

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Locke, and properly seconded by Dr. Adler, the Board voted to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board did not receive any public comment.

## **AGENCY REPORT**

Dr. Allison-Bryan thanked the Board members, staff, and public for wearing a mask during the meeting and remaining socially distanced during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that of those contracting COVID, the majority are unvaccinated. She encouraged everyone to get the vaccine.

Dr. Allison-Bryan spoke to the Governor's Executive Order 77 to eliminate most single-use plastics at state agencies and waste sent to landfills by 2025.

Dr. Allison-Bryan announced the reorganization of the Board of Health Professions stating that Leslie Knachel is the new Executive Director of that Board.

With no questions, Dr. Allison-Bryan concluded her report.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

Ms. Tillman Wolf congratulated Dr. Mariano, Dr. Locke, and Ms. Szasz Palmer on their reappointments to the Board of Physical Therapy.

### ***COVID Response***

Ms. Tillman Wolf welcomed back the Board members to in-person meetings.

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided information to the Board members regarding the Board Operations following the end of the emergency order in Virginia for the COVID-19 pandemic, which included information on in-person meetings and hearings, board operations, and telework for board staff.

### ***FSBPT Updates***

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided updates on the Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) meeting that was held on July 17-18, 2021.

She stated that Dr. Locke was a candidate for the Board of Directors, “Director I” position with the FSBPT and that the elections will be completed at the FSBPT Virtual Annual meeting in October.

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported on the upcoming virtual meetings and trainings to be held by the FSBPT in 2021.

She provided updates from the Task Force and Committees to include updates on the Exam, Licensure, Discipline Database (ELDD), continuing competency, re-entry to practice, boundary violations, and impaired practitioners. She stated that a number of resources were available on the FSBPT website. Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that the FSBPT also discussed issues facing the Boards including COVID, telehealth, continuing education, deregulation, and imaging.

### *Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Belonging (DEI&B)*

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided an overview of the Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Belonging (DEI&B) efforts underway at the state, agency, and board levels, including information presented at the recent FSBPT LIF meeting about efforts underway in Virginia.

Ms. Tillman Wolf discussed initiatives launched by the Governor including the development of the ONE Virginia plan, the creation of Health Equity Dashboards to track public health data in response to COVID, and the creation of DEI and cultural competence training and resources available to state employees.

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that DHP has established a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Council for employees. She also stated that DHP has sponsored staff trainings; a DEI catalog is available to all employees.

Ms. Tillman Wolf also discussed how DEI principles can be reviewed and implemented at the Board level. Efforts include ensuring diverse Board representation through collaboration with the Secretary’s Office and reviewing board regulations during the Periodic Review Process to identify unnecessary barriers and ensure equitable language and application. She also stated that the disciplinary review process includes the Sanction Reference Points (SRPs) as a tool designed to focus on case type and factors that minimize the possibility of bias.

Dr. Allison-Bryan added that, as part of the ONE Virginia plan, Governor Northam appointed a cabinet-level Diversity Officer to oversee DEI efforts and each agency was required to submit a DEI plan. Dr. Allison-Bryan noted that Dr. Locke’s presentation on “The Adversity to Diversity” presented to the Board in February 2020 was included in the DHP DEI plan.

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that Board members will have access to training opportunities through DHP’s Board member trainings and that information on future trainings will be forthcoming.

### *Virginia Physical Therapy Workforce: Diversity Trends*

In discussing Board resources related to DEI, Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that an important source of data for the physical therapy profession is the Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC), which compiles survey information from licensees after each renewal cycle.

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided an overview of the diversity trends reported by the HWDC and compiled by Dr. Yetty Shobo, PhD, for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. The data trends included

trends in age distribution, median age, gender diversity, race and ethnicity, diversity index, under 40 diversity index, median education debt by gender, median education debt by race/ethnicity, median income by gender, and median income by race/ethnicity.

*PT Compact – Updates*

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported on the status of the PT Compact, including new states that have enacted legislation or have begun issuing privileges. She reported that 1,540 Compact Privileges were issued across 21 active states through June 2021, and over 5,074 Compact Privileges have been issued from 2018 to June 2021.

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that as of August 5, 2021, 298 compact privileges had been issued (243 Physical Therapists and 55 Physical Therapy Assistants) in Virginia. Of interest, there was a sizeable increase in privileges issued during the month of July (n=41) likely attributable to two factors: (1) Maryland began issuance of Compact Privileges on July 1, 2021, and (2) the end of the emergency Executive Order that permitted out-of-state licensees to treat Virginia patients via telehealth during the COVID emergency (June 30, 2021).

*Expenditure and Revenue Summary as of June 30, 2021*

Ms. Tillman Wolf presented the Expenditure and Revenue Summary as of June 30, 2021.

Cash Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$1,496,604
YTD FY21 Revenue	\$ 836,810
<u>Less FY201 Direct &amp; In-Direct Expenditures</u>	<u>\$ 631,066</u>
<b>Cash Balance as of June 30, 2021</b>	<b>\$1,702,347</b>

*Board Meeting Dates*

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced the remaining 2021 and tentative 2022 Board meeting dates.

- November 9, 2021
- February 15, 2022
- May 3, 2022
- August 9, 2022
- November 3, 2022

*Notes and Reminders*

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided reminders to the Board in regards to updated Conflict of Interest training due by October 1, 2021, changes in contact information, and continuing education for attendance at board meetings. She thanked the Board members for their service to the Board.

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

*Discipline Report – Corie Tillman Wolf, Executive Director*

As of July 30, 2021, Ms. Tillman Wolf reported the following disciplinary statistics:

- 40 Patient Care cases
  - 2 at Informal Conferences
  - 2 at Formal Hearing
  - 19 at Enforcement
  - 17 at Probable Cause
  - 0 at APD
- 3 Non Patient Care Cases
  - 0 at Informal
  - 0 at Formal
  - 2 at Enforcement
  - 1 at Probable Cause
  - 0 at APD
- 3 cases at Compliance

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported on the Virginia Performs statistics for Q3 2021 that remain unchanged from the Board's last meeting in May and which have not yet been updated for Q4 2021.

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

***Licensure Report – Sarah Georgen, Licensing and Operations Manager***

Ms. Georgen presented licensure statistics that included the following information:

**Licensure Statistics – All Licenses**

<b>License</b>	<b>Q3 2021 (Jan 1-Mar 31)</b>	<b>Q2 2021 (Oct 1-Dec 31)</b>	<b>Change +/-</b>
Physical Therapist	8,603	8,372	231
Physical Therapist Assistant	3,641	3,574	67
<b>Total PT's and PTA's</b>	<b>12,244</b>	<b>11,946</b>	<b>298</b>
Direct Access Certification	1,333	1,323	10

Ms. Georgen presented the PT and PTA exam statistics from the April administrations of the exams.

Ms. Georgen provided the following statistics regarding the Virginia Performs – Customer Satisfaction Survey Results:

- Q2 2020 – 97.7%
- Q3 2020 – 97.4%
- Q4 2020 – 89.6%
- Q1 2021 – 100%
- Q2 2021 – 97%
- Q3 2021 – 98.2%
- Q4 2021 – 91%

With no questions, Ms. Georgen concluded her report.

**BOARD COUNSEL REPORT – Erin Barrett, Assistant Attorney General**

Ms. Barrett had no information to report.

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

### ***Board President Report – Allen R. Jones, Jr., PT, DPT***

Dr. Jones offered thanks to Board staff with the technical organization of Board meetings during the pandemic.

He congratulated Dr. Mariano, Dr. Locke, and Ms. Szasz Palmer on their reappointment to the Board.

With no questions, Dr. Jones concluded his report.

### ***Board of Health Professions Report – Allen R. Jones, PT, DPT***

Dr. Jones reported that the Board of Health Professions did not meet within the last quarter, therefore he had no report.

With no questions, Dr. Jones concluded his report.

### ***Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) Report – Allen R. Jones, PT, DPT***

Dr. Jones reported on the FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum (LIF), which included noteworthy content on issues in other jurisdictions, as well as helpful breakout sessions and information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Jones noted possible issues in the future with Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants entering the workforce after having been out of work for a significant amount of time during the pandemic. He noted that this may cause possible disciplinary issues in the future.

With no questions, Dr. Jones concluded his report.

## **LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY REPORT**

### ***Report on Status of Regulations***

Ms. Yeatts had no information to report on pending regulatory actions.

### ***Legislative Report***

Ms. Yeatts provided a reminder regarding the enactment of legislation from the 2022 General Assembly (SB 1187) effective July 1, 2021, which extends the time allowed for a qualified physical therapist to evaluate and treat patients without a referral under certain circumstances from 30 to 60 days.

With no questions, Ms. Yeatts concluded her report.

## **BREAK**

The Board took a break at 10:58 a.m. and returned at 11:10 a.m.

## **BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS**

### *Retraction of Fast-Track Regulation and Adoption of Guidance Document – Credentialing and TOEFL Requirements for Physical Therapy Graduates of Schools Not Approved by CAPTE (18VAC112-20-50)*

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided information to the Board on the recommended retraction of fast-track regulations initiated at the Board's last meeting related to the credentialing tool utilized for graduates of physical therapy schools not approved by CAPTE. In the alternative, she recommended that the Board consider adoption of a Guidance Document to outline the Board's credentialing and TOEFL requirements for Physical Therapy graduates of schools not approved by CAPTE (18VAC112-20-50).

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Duff, and properly seconded by Ms. Szasz Palmer, the Board voted to retract the fast-track regulation and adopt a Guidance Document regarding the credentialing and TOEFL requirements for graduates of physical therapy schools not approved by CAPTE under 18VAC112-20-50 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## **ELECTIONS**

### *President*

Dr. Jones stated that in accordance with the Bylaws, at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the organizational year, the Board shall elect its officers.

Dr. Jones opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Physical Therapy. Dr. Jones nominated himself for the position of President for a second term.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Locke, the Board voted to elect Dr. Jones for the position of President of the Board of Physical Therapy. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Jones called for a voice vote for the election of the one nominee, Dr. Jones, for the position of President of the Board of Physical Therapy.

By unanimous vote, Dr. Jones was elected President of the Board of Physical Therapy.

### *Vice-President*

Dr. Jones opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Physical Therapy. Dr. Mariano nominated herself for the position of Vice-President for a second term.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Adler, the Board voted to elect Dr. Mariano for the position of Vice-President of the Board of Physical Therapy. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Jones called for a voice vote for the election of the one nominee, Dr. Mariano, for the position of Vice-President of the Board of Physical Therapy.

By unanimous vote, Dr. Mariano was elected Vice-President of the Board of Physical Therapy.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is November 9, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

  
Corie Tillman Wolf, J.D., Executive Director

February 15, 2022  
Date