

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
SPECIAL SESSION - MINUTES**

May 11, 2022

**Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23233**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Board of Physical Therapy convened by telephone conference call on May 11, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. to consider whether a practitioner's ability to practice as a Physical Therapist constituted a substantial danger to the public health and safety pursuant to Va. Code §54.1-2408.1. A quorum of the Board was present, with Dr. Allen Jones, President, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Allen R. Jones, Jr., PT, DPT
Dr. Mira H. Mariano, PT, PhD
Dr. Rebecca Duff, PTA, DHSc
Dr. Tracey Adler, PT, DPT, CMTPT
Dr. Elizabeth Locke, PT, PhD
Susan Szasz Palmer, MLS, Citizen Member

DHP STAFF PRESENT:

Corie Tillman Wolf, Executive Director
Kelley Palmatier, Deputy Executive Director
Angela Pearson, Senior Discipline Manager

**PARTIES ON BEHALF OF
THE COMMONWEALTH:**

James Schliessmann, Assistant Attorney General
Claire Foley, Adjudication Specialist

BOARD COUNSEL:

James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General

MATTER:

**Christopher Harris Emmerich, PT
License # 2305-214229
Case Numbers 214163**

DISCUSSION:

The Board received information from Assistant Attorney General, James Schliessmann in order to determine whether Christopher Harris Emmerich, P.T.'s ability to practice as a physical therapist constituted a substantial danger to public health and safety. James Schliessmann provided details of the case to the Board for its consideration.

CLOSED SESSION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Tracey Adler, and duly seconded by Dr. Mira Mariano, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Christopher Harris Emmerich, P.T. Additionally, she moved that Mr. James Rutkowski, Ms. Corie Tillman Wolf, Ms. Kelley Palmatier and Ms. Angela Pearson attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its discussions.

RECONVENE:

Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee re-convened in open session.

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Tracey Adler and duly seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Locke, the Board determined that the continued practice of Christopher Harris Emmerich, P.T. constitutes a substantial danger to the public health and safety. The board voted to summarily suspend his license to practice as a physical therapist, simultaneous with the institution of proceedings for a formal administrative hearing pursuant to §54.1-2408.1 of the Code of Virginia.

VOTE:

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Corie Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director

November 15, 2022

Date

