

The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy convened for a full Board meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 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
Srilekha Palle, PT, DPT, Vice-President
Melissa Fox, PT, DPT
Margaret Guarino, PT, DPT
Michele Wiley, PT, DPT, DHSc

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

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
Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director
Laura Mueller, Senior Licensing Specialist
Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator
Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director
Joi Yancey, Administrative Support Specialist

BOARD COUNSEL:

Sara Blöse, Senior Assistant Attorney General

PRESENTERS:

Michele Thorman, PT, DPT, MBA, Vice President, FSBPT Board of Directors
Leslie Adrian, PT, DPT, MPA, FSBPT Director of Professional Standards

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT:

Jess Tang, Virginia Commonwealth University
Emily Hawkins, APTA Virginia*
Ken Hutcheson, APTA Virginia

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

Dr. Bureau stated that Ms. Pryor was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Bureau announced the passing of Dr. Rebecca Duff, Physical Therapist Assistant Board Member, on April 30, 2026. Dr. Bureau expressed her condolences and appreciation for her dedicated service.

With five 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 edits or corrections to the draft minutes for the Board meeting held on February 4, 2026, and the Legislative/Regulatory Committee meeting held on April 24, 2026. 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.

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 (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENCY REPORT

Dr. Brown provided an update on departmental activities, noting that DHP is preparing to implement an upgraded licensing software system that has been well-received in other states. He remarked that, having served through four administrations, each of which moves quickly, the current administration has placed a strong emphasis on healthcare affordability, access, and workforce support. The Department continues to participate actively in these discussions.

Dr. Brown reported increased cross-agency collaboration, including efforts to identify areas of overlap and engage multiple agencies in joint meetings. He highlighted ongoing work with the Department of

Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) on legislation to streamline the fee-increase process. He expressed appreciation for the strengthened partnership.

He answered questions from the Board. With no further questions, Dr. Brown concluded his report.

PRESENTATION AND UPDATES FROM FSBPT - *Michele Thorman, PT, DPT, MBA, Vice President, FSBPT Board of Directors, Leslie Adrian, PT, DPT, MPA, FSBPT Director of Professional Standards*

Dr. Thorman and Dr. Adrian provided a presentation and update from FSBPT. Dr. Thorman thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak, expressed appreciation to Ms. Tillman Wolf and Dr. Bureau for their work and support, and thanked board members who attended the recent FSBPT regulatory training.

Dr. Thorman outlined the purpose of the presentation, noting FSBPT's commitment to supporting state boards and providing a broad regulatory perspective. She highlighted FSBPT's role as custodian of the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and the Exam Licensure and Disciplinary Database (ELDD), to which Virginia contributes data. She noted that, while distinct from the PT Compact, both entities share resources and data. She acknowledged Ms. Tillman Wolf's contributions to both FSBPT and PT Compact initiatives.

Dr. Thorman also described key strategic initiatives, including integrating the Healthcare Regulatory Research Institute (HRRI) into FSBPT's strategic planning to enhance workforce data analysis and expand participation by additional health professions.

Dr. Adrian provided updates on upcoming initiatives, including a mini practice analysis on imaging, conducted with subject matter experts and external consultants. She referenced FSBPT resources available on the website, including a prior ethics and legislation survey of state laws and rules.

Dr. Adrian noted ongoing work to improve the FSBPT website, acknowledging current navigation challenges. She highlighted available regulatory resources for practitioners and board members, including information on imaging, informed consent, the Model Practice Act, and military-related practice issues, as well as additional materials available through the member portal.

In response a question from Dr. Fox about staying informed of new resources, Ms. Tillman Wolf noted that the FSBPT newsletter is a helpful tool sent regularly to Board Members. Ms. Tillman Wolf thanked Dr. Thorman and Dr. Adrian for their presentation and acknowledged Dr. Adrian's recent article on military law.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director's Report and Physical Therapy Compact Update – Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director

Ms. Tillman Wolf began by recognizing the recent passing of Board member, Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Duff, PTA, DHSc, and acknowledging her dedicated service to the Board.

Board Updates

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported that the February 2026 News Brief was distributed to 17,420 licensees and achieved an 80 percent open rate, significantly exceeding industry averages. The Brief demonstrated strong engagement with resources on continuing education and telehealth.

She further informed the Board of several upcoming initiatives, including the development of a concise continuing education reference sheet for the 2026 renewal cycle, enhanced informational materials for military applicants and their spouses, and strengthened communication with PT and PTA educational programs. She also noted that planning efforts are underway for a multi-year upgrade of the Board's licensing and database systems.

Additionally, she reported recent improvements to the Board's website to increase accessibility for visually impaired users.

FSBPT Updates

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced the upcoming national meetings, including the Leadership Issues Forum on July 18–19, 2026, in Alexandria, and the Annual Meeting on October 22–24, 2026, in Greenville, South Carolina, noting that the President and Vice-President traditionally represent the Board at the annual meeting.

Ms. Tillman Wolf reviewed an update from FSBPT on recent efforts related to standard setting for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Standard recommendations are expected to be released at the October Annual Meeting.

She also highlighted the schedule of FSBPT's 2026 regulatory webinars and reminded members that while the webinars provide valuable national regulatory perspectives, Board staff should be consulted for any Virginia-specific questions.

PT Compact Updates

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported that the Compact now includes 40 member states, with Nevada as the most recent addition.

She reviewed first-quarter 2026 data showing that 834 physical therapists and 203 physical therapist assistants hold Compact Privileges in Virginia, while 878 Virginia physical therapists and 166 Virginia PTAs hold Compact Privileges in other states. She noted that 2025 revenue from Compact Privileges totaled \$39,456 and that first-quarter 2026 revenue reached \$14,208, suggesting the Board is on track to exceed the prior year's totals.

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced that the 2025 Annual Report will be released soon and described recent updates to the PT Compact website, including new eligibility tools and a chatbot designed to assist licensees and applicants.

She provided a brief overview of licensure compact models across health professions, including compact privilege, multistate licensure, mutual recognition, and expedited licensure, and discussed emerging compacts in other healthcare fields.

2026 Board Meetings

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided the 2026 Board meeting schedule:

- August 20, 2026
- November 20, 2026

Notes and Reminders

Ms. Tillman Wolf concluded by reminding Board members to keep staff informed regarding committee and workgroup participation, FSBPT-funded travel, and any updates to their contact information. She provided reminders regarding presentations given on behalf of the Board. She expressed appreciation for the Board members' continued service.

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

BREAK

The Board took a break at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

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

As of March 31, 2026, Ms. Kelley reported the following disciplinary statistics:

- 43 Patient Care Cases:
 - 0 at Informal Conferences
 - 1 at Formal Hearings
 - 11 at Enforcement
 - 31 at Probable Cause
 - 0 at Administrative Proceedings Division
- 26 Non-Patient Care Cases:
 - 1 at Informal Conferences
 - 0 at Formal Hearings
 - 4 at Enforcement
 - 21 at Probable Cause
 - 0 at Administrative Proceedings Division
- 5 cases were listed in Compliance

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

- Q1 2023 – 15/21
- Q2 2023 – 13/18
- Q3 2023 – 10/8
- Q4 2023 – 4/5
- Q1 2024 – 10/14
- Q2 2024 – 27/4
- Q3 2024 – 10/15
- Q4 2024 – 9/29
- Q1 2025 – 18/12
- Q2 2025 – 15/9
- Q3 2025 – 16/15
- Q4 2025 – 15/8
- Q1 2026 – 28/14
- Q2 2026 – 16/10
- Q3 2026 – 19/24

Ms. Kelley provided an overview of PTA disciplinary cases from Q1 2024 to Q1 2026.

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	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Change +/-
Physical Therapist	9,822	9,932	+110
Physical Therapist Assistant	3,832	3,871	+39
Total PTs and PTAs	13,654	13,803	+149
Direct Access Certification	1,221	1,229	+8

Criminal Background Check Statistics 2025

	PT	PTA	Total
Total Applicants	673	193	866
CBC Record Not Disclosed	3	3	6
Self Disclosed	9	4	13
Total Convictions	12	7	19

Examination Statistics

Ms. Georgen presented statistics on the Physical Therapist examinations from the January and April 2026 administrations, including examination trends.

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

With no questions, Ms. Georgen concluded her report.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Blöse had no matters to report to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative/Regulatory Committee Report

Dr. Bureau stated that the Legislative/Regulatory Committee met on April 24, 2026, and stated that the Committee would meet again in July 2026 and will then provide recommendations to the full Board at the August meeting.

FSBPT Ethics and Legislation Committee

Dr. Palle provided an update on her recent ad hoc appointment to the FSBPT Ethics and Legislation Committee and summarized key outcomes from the committee's two-day meeting. She noted that the committee's work centered on public protection, national best practices, and consistent enforcement standards. Discussions emphasized aligning FSBPT initiatives with emerging regulatory needs at both the state and national levels. The committee also conducted a detailed review of FSBPT and American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) ethics resources with a focus on transparency, accessibility, and strengthening the Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethical Practice.

Dr. Palle reported that major areas of discussion included streamlining licensure processes to improve interstate portability, reinforcing public protection and privacy requirements, and ensuring education, implementation, and enforceability of ethical standards. The committee reviewed ethical considerations related to professional conduct, including boundaries, workplace practices, and legal requirements. Additional topics included score transfer procedures and internships for foreign-trained graduates. The group also discussed the importance of both proactive and reactive legislative strategies and the need to align FSBPT efforts with state regulations nationwide.

Report from FSBPT Regulatory Training

Dr. Wiley reported on the April FSBPT Regulatory Training, noting that it provided a comprehensive overview of regulatory board members' responsibilities, current regulatory trends, and opportunities to exchange ideas with other jurisdictions. She stated that the training reinforced the Board's authority and public protection mission, highlighting Virginia's strong performance. She added that Virginia received a positive performance evaluation and suggested increasing outreach to licensees and educational programs, including potential presentations at APTA events.

Dr. Guarino added that the conference featured a video segment with Ms. Tillman Wolf and highlighted key resources, including the Model Practice Act, materials on sexual misconduct, and the Exam Licensing and Disciplinary Database (ELDD). She emphasized the value of Virginia's participation in ELDD and noted discussions on continuing competence, varying CE requirements nationwide, practitioner wellbeing, and the

development and oversight of the national licensing exam. She also referenced brief conversations on artificial intelligence and the need for guidance as its use expands in the profession.

The Board discussed website resources, including potential additions of FSBPT materials. Ms. Tillman Wolf noted that a website update is planned for 2026 and that staff will evaluate opportunities to expand public resources. She also confirmed her ability to help facilitate educational outreach for APTA as needed.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REPORT

Legislative Report – Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator

Mr. Novak provided a report on bills of interest from the 2026 General Assembly session.

Mr. Novak answered the Board's 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 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Understanding the Discipline Process – Agency Roles and Responsibilities – Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director

Ms. Kelley presented an overview of the discipline process and the roles and responsibilities of the Enforcement Division, Board Members, and the Administrative Proceedings Division (APD). She outlined how Enforcement receives, reviews, and prioritizes complaints, emphasizing the importance of objective investigations and timely case processing.

Ms. Kelley discussed Board Members' responsibilities in probable cause review, including evaluating investigative reports, assessing evidence, applying relevant laws and regulations, and determining appropriate case dispositions.

Ms. Kelley also outlined expectations for Board conduct during informal conferences and formal hearings, including maintaining impartiality, avoiding conflicts of interest, and ensuring adherence to statutory standards of evidence.

Finally, Ms. Kelley reviewed APD's role in preparing disciplinary documents, presenting cases, drafting orders, and supporting the Board throughout informal and formal proceedings. She summarized the potential outcomes of both informal conferences and formal hearings.

ELECTIONS

Dr. Bureau stated that, in accordance with the Bylaws, the board shall elect a President and Vice-President from its members during the last meeting of the organizational year.

Dr. Bureau provided remarks regarding the process for making floor nominations.

Dr. Bureau announced that she and Dr. Palle submitted nomination forms to be considered for President of the Board.

Dr. Bureau opened the floor for additional nominations for President of the Board of Physical Therapy.

There were no other nominations, and the nominations were closed.

Dr. Bureau called for a voice vote on the nominations.

Upon a majority **VOTE** of four (4) votes for Dr. Bureau and one (1) vote for Dr. Palle (Palle), Dr. Bureau was re-elected as President of the Board of Physical Therapy, effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Bureau announced that Dr. Palle submitted a nomination form to be considered for Vice-President of the Board.

Dr. Bureau opened the floor for additional nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Physical Therapy.

There were no other nominations, and the nominations were closed.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Wiley, properly seconded by Dr. Guarino, the Board voted to re-elect Dr. Palle as Vice-President of the Board of Physical Therapy. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

Dr. Bureau recognized and honored the late Dr. Rebecca Duff, PTA, DHSc, the Board's Physical Therapist Assistant member, whose tenure was nearing completion at the time of her passing. Dr. Duff was appointed to the Board by Governor Northam in 2018 and reappointed to a second term by Governor Youngkin in 2022. Over the past eight years, she served in numerous business and committee meetings and was a highly valued voice on the Board. Dr. Bureau noted that Dr. Duff was an exceptional representative of physical therapist assistants across the Commonwealth and made meaningful contributions to the profession. The Board expressed its sincere gratitude for her dedicated service and acknowledged the significant impact she made during her tenure. The Board extended heartfelt condolences to her family, colleagues, and the broader PT community.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is scheduled for August 20, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bureau called for any objections to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections and with all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director

Date