

February 10, 2025

The Legislative/Regulatory Committee of the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy convened on Monday, February 10, 2025, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room #2, Henrico, Virginia.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mira H. Mariano, PT, PhD, Board Member, Vice-President, Committee Chair  
Megan Bureau, PT, DPT, Board Member  
Susan Szasz Palmer, MLS, Board Member

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

Sarah Georgen, Licensing and Operations Supervisor  
Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director  
Matt Novak, Policy and Economic Analyst  
Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Corie Tillman Wolf, Executive Director

### **OTHER GUESTS PRESENT:**

Joseph Gianfortoni, MD  
Paige Roberts  
Helen Simpson

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Mariano called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked the Board members and staff to introduce themselves.

With three Committee members present at the meeting, a quorum was established.

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

Dr. Mariano 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 THE AGENDA**

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

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Bureau and properly seconded by Ms. Szasz Palmer, the Committee voted to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **DISCUSSION AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Mariano opened the meeting to discussion of and review of policy documents.

### ***Discussion and Committee Recommendations – Review of Policy Documents***

#### ***By-Laws of the Board of Physical Therapy (Last Revision August 13, 2019)***

Ms. Tillman Wolf introduced proposed staff amendments for the Committee's consideration.

Upon a **MOTION** by Ms. Szasz Palmer and properly seconded by Dr. Bureau, the Committee voted to submit the proposed amendments of the Board's By-Laws as presented and amended to the full Board for consideration and action. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### ***Guidelines for Processing Applications for Licensure (Last Revision November 12, 2019)***

Ms. Tillman Wolf introduced proposed staff amendments for the Committee's consideration.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Bureau and properly seconded by Ms. Szasz Palmer, the Committee voted to submit the proposed amendments of the Board's guidelines for processing applications as presented to the full Board for consideration and action. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### ***Discussion of Use and Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Technology in the Practice of Physical Therapy***

#### ***Review and Recommendations for Board Guidance on Telehealth, 112-21***

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided background information regarding past discussions on the use and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technology in the practice of Physical Therapy. Ms. Tillman Wolf reviewed proposed amendments to the Board's Guidance on Telehealth based upon the Committee's previous discussion. Committee members further discussed digital practice in physical therapy and the structure of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Saunders suggested to the Committee the conversion of this document into a policy document, followed by incorporating proposed amendments. Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that she will reformat the draft document to allow for coverage of additional digital practice topic areas beyond telehealth and will present the revised draft for the Committee's review at its next meeting.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Bureau and properly seconded by Ms. Szasz Palmer, the Committee voted to recommend that this document be provided to Board Counsel to confer with the Board President to convert it into a policy document. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

***Discussion of Clarifications or Revisions to Continuing Education Requirements (18VAC112-20-131)***

Ms. Tillman Wolf introduced the topic of whether there may be a need or desire to clarify and/or revise the current continuing education (CE) requirements for licensees, in light of questions received by Board staff during the license renewal timeframe and implementation of the CE Broker tool.

Following the discussion, the Committee members expressed the need to review the current CE requirements, but tabled the discussion of any changes for further discussion and recommendation at a future meeting. Ms. Tillman Wolf will pull additional comparison information related to the CE requirements for other state boards for consideration by the Committee.

**BREAK:** The Committee took a break at 2:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

***Discussion of Practice of Pelvic Floor Therapy and Definition of Invasive Procedure***

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided an overview of the Committee's discussions from the meeting held on April 12, 2024. The Committee discussed the importance of informed consent for all treatment modalities and reviewed model practice act language and commentary from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. The Committee discussed APTA recommendations on the role of chaperones. The Committee discussed possible amendments to the Board's regulations concerning informed consent, referrals, offers of chaperones to patients, and treatments performed in sensitive areas, as well as consideration of a potential stand-alone regulatory section that specifies training requirements for pelvic floor therapy.

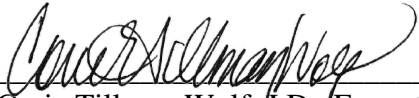
Following this discussion, the Committee requested that the Board staff draft proposed language related to the topics discussed for review at the next meeting. Ms. Tillman Wolf agreed to explore additional resources and gather relevant information for the Committee's consideration.

**NEXT STEPS**

Dr. Mariano stated that the recommendations of the Committee, as outlined in the motions, would be presented to the full Board for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting on February 21, 2025 and that another Legislative/Regulatory Committee Meeting would be scheduled for a later date for further discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Mariano called for any objections to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections and with all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Corie Tillman Wolf, J.D., Executive Director

May 12, 2025  
Date