

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Open Session Minutes—Physical Therapy Licensing and Disciplinary Board

Date: June 11, 2024

Locations:	Room 5c1	Room 376	Webex
	555 W Monroe	320 W Washington St	
	Chicago, Illinois	Springfield, Illinois	

Call to Order: 11:03 am

Adjournment: 1:02 pm

Springfield: Chair Tom Dibadj DPT; Joseph Williams, DPT

Division Staff Present: Rochelle Hartman, Board Liaison, Health Services Section; Janel Hartoun, Assistant General Counsel

Guest: Colleen Flannery, Executive Director Illinois Physical Therapy Association

The meeting was called to order at 11:03. Quorum established.

Minutes

of the January 2024 meeting were approved with the following amendments: 1) Frank attended in person, not by Webex; 2) Reference to “athletic trainers” needs to be changed to “personal trainers.” (Williams/Dibadj)

Announcements

- After several years of board service, Frances Wedge will be moving off the board. Two physical therapist candidates in review by the Director. A physical therapy assistant is still needed.
- Frank asked that the continuing education FAQ on the website be revised or removed due to outdated information.
- No updates about new licensing system

Old Business

- **Chiropractic Advertising**
 - Hartoun provided update to issue with letter about how chiropractors may advertise, sent by a law firm and shared at the January 2024 meeting. Chiropractors may “engage in manipulations of the body and have training and education to do so” which overlaps with physical therapy. In advertising, they must not refer to themselves as physical therapists or their work as physical therapy unless they have a licensed PT on staff. To do so would be a violation of the Physical Therapy Act and could result in complaints for false advertising and unlicensed practice. Flannery indicated that the chiropractic community had interpreted the letter to mean they could advertise physical therapy services and that there had been lax investigation and enforcement of complaints. Hartoun said she would address the issue with the new Acting Director.

New Business

- Rules and CE
 - Hartoun encouraged members to forward suggestions for rule updates, including the addition of new approved CE sponsors. Frank and Dibadj suggested there might need to be some clarifying language regarding CE, particularly regarding the apparent umbrella effect of approved organizations. For example, can IPTA approve a sponsor and that sponsor be approved by IDFP? Hartoun said no.
 - Frank asked for clarification about virtual CE that originates from out of state, for example would a virtual program that originated in Texas be approved as out-of-state? It was determined that yes, it would be eligible as an out of state program. Other points discussed:
 - an application to count a virtual event that originated in Illinois was denied because Illinois-provided CE needs to be approved/licensed.
 - It's the responsibility of the licensee to pay attention to CE rules.
 - Co-sponsorship of events is okay, but an approved sponsor cannot deem another organization approved.
 - Updating the language on the CE application would help clarify issues that frequently come up.
- Remediation
 - Hartman shared an updated remediation packet with clearer language. Frank asked if there could be a link to the packet on the website. Hartman said she would check to see why it hadn't been made available on the website. Flannery asked if information about how to find placements for the supervised hours could be added to the packet—many don't realize that they can get the hours as being an aide. A discussion followed about whether remediation was necessary, but it was determined to leave that for a future discussion.
- Timeliness of application notification
 - Dibadj reported getting an increasing number of inquiries and frustration about delayed communication during the licensing process not just from PT applications, but also OT and Speech.
- Foreign Credentialed Applicants
 - Dibadj asked if there was a different process to get foreign-trained applicants licensed. Hartoun indicated that all applicants were to be treated the same in the period between having provided all requirements/credentials and issuance of license.
- Telehealth and COMPACT
 - HB 5087 which puts establishes physical therapy via telehealth as an exception and may only be provided by a licensed practitioner in Illinois. It has passed both chambers and is waiting for the governor's signature. No movement on COMPACT legislation.

Exit Open Session 12:28 pm

Return to Open Session 12:48 pm

Motion to approve recommendations made in closed session (Frank/Dibadj). Approved

Remediation plan approved

- Stephanie Konwinski
- Elizabeth Sandoval

Out of State CE approved

- Lazarczuk
- Mitchell
- Uttech
- Ritz

Out of State CE approved pending receipt of certificate of completion

- Lopina

FY25 schedule—the schedule sent out is incorrect. Hartman will send updated/correct schedule.

FSBPT events: Let Hartman know if you are interested in attending.

In-person Licensing Assistance

Frank has heard from applicants that driving to Springfield will result in a quicker, successful resolution to licensing issues and would like to hear from the Department. Hartoun offered that it's unfortunate and inconvenient for applicants to drive to Springfield and encouraged board members to refer applicants to her before recommending they drive. Hartman said that there was a discussion about providing online appointments.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order at 11:03 am	Quorum established by roll call
MINUTES	Edits: Change Frank attendance from Webex to in person; change reference to "athletic trainers" to personal trainers	Approved with amendments Williams/Dibadj
ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INTRODUCTIONS	• Board Composition: Frances Wedge will be moving off the board. Two PTs being vetted. Still need a PTA.	
OLD BUSINESS	•	
NEW BUSINESS	• Diagnostic ultrasound within scope of practice? Some states allowing PTs to use, maybe for differential diagnosis? If not considered radiation then probably within scope. (Dibadj) • DOT physicals—some states allow PTs to perform. What about school/sports physicals? Likely beyond scope, not much interest. (Dibadj, Flannery, Wedge)	

	(Move to Closed Session, 12:40 pm)	
AGENCY UPDATES	Return to Open Session 1:17 pm •Acting Director Lindsay: progress being made in licensure delays; bids open for new system; Still backlog of most professions' apps. (Hartman/Miller) •Frustration from schools about difficulty placing remediation candidates in facilities because of insurance issues/liability. Practical experience ends up being observation. Agency does not maintain list of facilities for remediation. (Flannery) •Any role for state to help with workforce data gathering as part of application process? Other professions in IL use Survey Monkey to get data in renewal process. (Dibadj, Hartoun, Miller)	Motion to approve recommendations Mde in closed session (Dibadj/Frank) Motion carried.
ADJORNMENT	1:18 pm	Motion to adjourn (Frank/Dibadj)

Respectfully submitted,
Rochelle Hartman, Board Liaison