

Minutes of the January 11, 2024, Board of Physical Therapy Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Betsy Becker, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Physical Therapy to order at 1:06 p.m. on January 11, 2024, in the Lower Level, Goldenrod Conference Room, of the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on January 3, 2024.

Becker announced that this is an open meeting and that the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Dr. Betsy Becker, Chair (via WebEx)
Kimberly Oliphant, Member (via WebEx)
Dr. Kirk Peck, Vice-Chair (via WebEx)

Members Absent:

Tom Victor, Secretary

Staff Present:

TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kirsten Coniglio, Administrative Technician
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Legal (via WebEx)
Jeff Newman, Investigator with the Investigation Unit
Anna Harrison, DHHS Compliance Monitor for Licensing and Investigations

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Peck moved, seconded by Oliphant, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Becker, Peck, and Oliphant. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the minutes from the September 28, 2023 Board meeting. Voting to approve: Becker, Oliphant, Peck. Voting to abstain: Victor. Minutes were approved on October 5, 2023.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Peck moved, seconded by Oliphant, to move into closed session at 1:10 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or

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referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, and Peck. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board returned from closed session at 1:52 p.m.

MOTION: Oliphant moved, seconded by Peck, that it is the Board's recommendation that the physical therapist assistant application for Anna Bassler be issued. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, and Peck. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: After discussion, Peck moved, seconded by Oliphant, that the Board elect the following slate of candidates for 2024: Kirk_Peck, Chair; Betsy Becker, Vice-Chair; Kimberly_Oliphant, Investigative Consultant; Tom_Victor, Secretary. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, and Peck. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

7. VOTING FOR DELEGATES

MOTION: Peck moved, seconded by Oliphant, that Betsy Becker serve as voting delegate and Kimberly Oliphant serve as alternate delegate to the 2024 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Leadership Issues Forum, Delegate Assembly, and Annual Education Meetings. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, and Peck. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

8. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

MOTION: After discussion, Peck moved, seconded by Oliphant, that the Board receive ½ day per diem, equal to \$25 dollars, for preparation for each meeting and the full per diem, equal to \$50, for the day of each meeting. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, and Peck. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

9. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

MOTION: After discussion, Oliphant moved, seconded by Peck, that, per the request of the Department and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, meetings for this Board continue to be posted on the Department of Health and Human Services Licensure Board Meeting Agenda webpage, be physically posted on the Board Meeting Agenda billboard in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building, and be disseminated via e-mail to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, and Peck. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

10. COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Becker stated that the Annual Conference and Business Meeting of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association will be held on April 6, 2024, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Becker and Peck

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will attend. Peck will request speaking time to introduce himself as 2024 Board Chair and provide attendees with Board updates. Becker suggested that Covert-ByBee request clarification from FSBPT_of the viability of individuals to volunteer with_the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

11. UPDATE ON NEW LICENSURE DATABASE

Covert-ByBee reported_that the Department continues to work with the contractor to validate data and prepare for a new database, and that all tasks are currently on time.

12. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee reported that there are no bills currently before the Nebraska Unicameral that directly impact the regulation of Physical Therapy or functions of the Board.

13. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT (APR)

Covert-ByBee presented the APR and stated that it was prepared for informational purposes only.

14. RESCHEDULING OF APRIL 11, 2024, MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board be held on March 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Covert-ByBee will make Victor aware of the change.

15. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following topics were identified for the next meeting: Discussion of Board Membership, APR, Legislative Update, PT Compact Update, Public Comment, Update on New Licensure Database, and Stakeholder Communication.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Dr. Kirk Peck, Vice-Chair