

Board of Physical Therapy Minutes of April 23, 2026, Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Dr. Kirk Peck, Chair, called the virtual meeting of the Board of Physical Therapy to order at 1:01 p.m. on April 23, 2026, in the Lower Level, Otoe 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 Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on April 14, 2026.

Peck announced that this is an Open Meeting and that the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Dr. Kirk Peck, Chair
Dr. Betsy Becker, Vice Chair
Kimberly Oliphant, Member

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Board Coordinator
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Legal
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Trisha Allen, DHHS Investigations
Hayle Alvarado, DHHS Investigations

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The minutes of February 5, 2026, meeting minutes were approved by mail ballot by Oliphant, Peck, and Becker. Voting nay: none. Minutes approved February 24, 2026.

Approval of Practice Monitor for Michelle Mahler license #3229. Voting to approve Adam Braxmeyer Peck, Oliphant, and Becker. Voting nay: none. Mail ballot approved February 17, 2026.

Approval of the Ethics Coursework for Christina Miller License # 637. Voting aye, Peck, Oliphant, and Becker. Voting nay: none. Mail ballot approved March 25, 2026.

4. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Becker moved, Oliphant seconded for the Board to move into closed session. Voting aye: Becker, Oliphant, Peck. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

“Purpose: To hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions.”

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:52 pm.

In the matter of the reinstatement from discipline application for the Physical Therapy license #3645 for William Hamlin the Board recommends reinstatement.

In the matter of the request to waive the limit of Continuing Education obtained online for Sydney Schachne application for licensure, what does the Board recommend? The Board does not waive Continuing Education requirements based on the information provided.

6. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- a. *Is Manual Lymphatic Drainage within the Scope of Practice of a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant?*

“It is the opinion of the Board of the Physical Therapy that the Manual Lymphatic Drainage is under the scope of practice for physical therapy and may be performed by a licensed physical therapist or a certified physical therapist assistant working under the general supervision and direction of a licensed physical therapist.”

- b. *Is medication management and education within the Scope of Practice for a Physical Therapist?*

“It is the opinion of the Board of Physical Therapy that it is within the Scope of Practice of a licensed Physical Therapist as part of the evaluation and reevaluation process to educate patients on medication effects and how they may impact physical status. However, the scope does not allow a licensed physical therapist to prescribe or alter medications.”

- c. *Is assisted stretching the practice of Physical Therapy?*

“It is the opinion of the Board of Physical Therapy that assisted stretching is within the scope of practice of a physical therapist not to the exclusion of any other licensed or certified profession.”

7. PHYSICAL THERAPY COMPACT UPDATE

The Physical Therapy Compact website is updated and user friendly. The website does allow closed AI services to answer certain questions. Most compact privileges are being purchased from Iowa, Texas, and Colorado. Licensed physical therapists in Nebraska purchase privileges from Iowa, South Dakota, and Missouri.

8. FSBPT ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) meeting is July 18-19, 2026, in Arlington, Virginia. Kirk Peck will be attending. Kim Oliphant is the alternate.

9. COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Nebraska Physical Therapy Association state meeting was held April 2, 2026, in Omaha, NE. Becker attended and spoke about the Nebraska Jurisprudence Assessment Module.

10. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Covert-ByBee presented the License Application Processing Report (APR) and stated that it was prepared for informational purposes only.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

Covert-ByBee wanted to share her sincerest thanks to Betsy Becker and wish her well on her new job in South Dakota and that she will be missed on the Board of Physical Therapy. All in attendance agreed.

12. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Topics for the next meeting include the Application Processing Report, Physical Therapy Compact Update, Communication with Stakeholders, and public comments.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
(signature on file)
Kimberly Oliphant, Secretary