Minutes of October 8, 2026, Board of Physical Therapy Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Dr. Kirk Peck, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Physical Therapy to order at 1:02 p.m. on October 8, 2026, 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 Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on October 2, 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:

Kirk Peck, PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, CERP Chairperson
Kimberly Oliphant, PT, Secretary
Crystal Stuhr

Staff Present:

Amy Blinston, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Board Coordinator
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Legal
Abby Hoy-Nissen, Assistant Attorney General
Hayle Alvarado, DHHS Investigations
Trisha Allen, DHHS Investigations
Randy Clark, DHHS Investigations
Jeanette Peterson, DHHS Compliance Officer

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Oliphant moved, seconded by Stuhr, to amend the agenda for item 3 to now read Approval of Minutes and Reaffirmation of Mail Ballots. Voting aye: Peck, Stuhr, and Oliphant. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOTS

Stuhr moved, seconded by Oliphant to approve the draft minutes from the October 1, 2026, meeting. Voting to approve, Becker, Peck and Oliphant. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

On May 6, 2026, a mail ballot was sent regarding the scope of practice question: *Is assisted stretching the practice of Physical Therapy?* Voting in favor of the response that "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." Peck, Becker, and Oliphant. None opposed. The response was approved May 14, 2026.

On May 8, 2026, a mail ballot was sent regarding the scope of practice question: *Is Manual Lymphatic Drainage within the Scope of Practice of a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapist Assistant?* Voting to in favor of the response *"*It is the opinion of the Board of the Physical Therapy that Manual Lymphatic Drainage is under the scope of practice for Physical Therapy and may be performed by either a licensed physical therapist or a certified physical therapist assistant who is under the general supervision and direction of a licensed physical therapist." Peck, Oliphant, and Becker. None opposed. The response was approved May 18, 2026.

On May 8, 2026, a mail ballot was sent regarding the following scope of practice question: *Is medication management and education within the Scope of Practice for a Physical Therapist?* Voting in favor of the response that "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". Peck, Oliphant, and Becker. None opposed. The response was approved May 12, 2026

4. CLOSED SESSION

Stuhr moved, seconded by Oliphant for the Board to move into closed session at 1:08 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Stuhr, Oliphant, Peck. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:43 p.m. There were no recommendations.

6. PT COMPACT

Blinston presented the document "Physical Therapy Compact Commission Notice of Proposed Rulemaking". If anyone would like to make a written comment on this proposal the due date is November 27, 2026. The vote on the proposal will be held on December 2, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. ET. The document was posted on the DHHS Physical Therapy licensure page October 2, 2026, at Physical Therapy. More information is available at PTCompact.org.

7. NE JAM

Blinston presented the Nebraska Jurisprudence Assessment Module (NE JAM) 2025 Annual Report, which compares the former jurisprudence examination (NE LAW) statistics with the newly adopted assessment module (NE JAM).

8. COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Peck advised that the NE Chapter of American Physical Therapists will meet in Omaha on April 2, 2027. The Board will need to choose a delegate to speak at the meeting and discuss which topics will be presented.

9. SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR 2027

The 2027 Board of Physical Therapy meetings were scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on February 18th, April 1st, July 1st, and November 18th.

10. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Topics for the next meeting include the Application Processing Report, Physical Therapy Compact Update, Communication with Stakeholders, Election of Officers and Delegate, Notice of Publication Discussion, Per Diem Discussion, Legislative Update, and Public Comments.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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