

Physical Therapy Board of California

2005 Evergreen St, Suite 1350, Sacramento, California 95815
Phone: (916) 561-8200 FAX : (916)263-2560 Internet: www.ptb.ca.gov



APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL TASK FORCE

August 1, 2008

Department of Consumer Affairs
Lake Tahoe Conference Room
2005 Evergreen Street
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 561-8200

Friday, August 1, 2008

9:30 A.M. to 4:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Nancy Krueger, PT

Ms. Krueger called the meeting of the Assistive Personnel Task Force to order at 9:31 a.m. Roll call was taken. Task force members Jim Dagostino, PT, Mitch Kaye, PT, Lorraine Kimura, PT, John Linberger, PTA, Katie Rath, PT, Deborah Seid, PT, Sara Takii, PT, Board Member and Jim Turner, Public Board Member were all present and a quorum was established.

Mr. Hartzell made note for the record that Debra Alviso, PTBC Board member was in the audience as an observer.

2. Approval of April 18, 2008 Assistive Personnel Task Force Meeting Minutes

Ms. Marco advised the task force that she had made two edits to the minutes since distribution. The edits were to agenda Item #3, 1) *consequential* was changed to *sub sequential*; and, 2) the following sentence was added, *Jim Dagostino and Mitch Kaye were charged with exploring other state regulations governing the supervision of the physical therapy aide.*

The minutes were approved as amended. Vote: 9-0.

3. Recommendations for Modification to Physical Therapy Laws and Regulations Regarding Supervision

Review and discussion of physical therapist assistant supervision

Ms. Krueger brought the members attention to two of the documents received in the May 12, 2008 mailing, the *Task Analysis and Division of Responsibility in Physical Therapy* and

the *Problem Solving Algorithm Utilized by PTAs in Patient/Client Intervention*. Ms. Krueger thanked Vicki Erickson for supplying the “Task Analysis...” and John Linberger for the “Problem Solving Algorithm...”. Ms. Krueger invited Ms. Erickson to begin discussion on findings in the task analysis document. Ms. Erickson’s introduction stimulated conclusions amongst the task force that even though the document was written in 1971, it remained applicable to today’s standards. Mr. Linberger was asked to address the algorithm and the problem solving processes of the physical therapist assistant. Discussions of both documents transcended into the shortage of PTA’s and manpower issues; the responsibility of the physical therapist for the patient; delegation flowing from the top; identifying the therapist of record; not to be overly restrictive if public safety doesn’t demand it; defining ultimate responsibility; varying practice settings and communication. Thoughts were expressed regarding documenting competencies of the physical therapist assistant and legal counsel cautioned that competency requirements cannot exceed the minimum level defined in statute. The extensive discussion resulted in forming a subcommittee of Jim Dagostino and Lorraine Kimura to address the issue of identifying the physical therapist of record and a sub committee of John Linberger and Vicki Erickson to address duties and functions of the physical therapist assistant.

Review and discussion of physical therapy aide supervision

Ms. Krueger asked Mr. Dagostino and Mr. Kaye to present their findings from the review of all state statutes and regulations on the supervision of aides. Mr. Dagostino indicated, from their review, they concluded that California had some of the strictest regulations regarding the use of aides in the nation but all states require direct supervision of the aide. He further added that no state supported banning the use of aides even though the APTA isn’t supportive of aides doing patient modalities.

Ms. Krueger also brought the attention of the task force to the regulations governing the practice of medical assistants. The requirement for training of the medical assistant was noted. Ms. Seid offered that she learned from the Medical Board of California that there is no limitation on the number of medical assistants that a physician can supervise and asked whether the task force wanted to discuss this. Mr. Hartzell advised that statutory requirements limit the physical therapist to supervise two physical therapist assistants, one physical therapy aide and there is no limit to the number of (physical therapist or physical therapist assistant) license applicants or students. The regulations regarding supervision of the physician assistant and the nurse practitioner were also explored. The attention was drawn to the potential for a regulatory requirement for training of the physical therapy aide and documentation of competencies. Laura Freedman, legal counsel for the Board advised that the authority to establish a competency requirement exists in the Board’s statutes. Ms. Freedman will develop proposed language for consideration by the task force.

4. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The subcommittees will report on their assignments; legal counsel will present draft language requiring documentation of aide competencies; and the task force will address issues associated with identification of treatment providers in the patient record.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Erickson inquired about the intent of defining “within audible range” in reference direct supervision of the aide and Mr. Hartzell responded that to mean within a few steps. Ms.

Marco explained that the Practice Issues Committee developed a position paper defining direct supervision as within audible range. Mr. Hartzell expressed concern with the definition and a possible revisit of the issue.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Krueger adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.