



1

Board Members

President

Karen Brandon, DSc P.T.

Vice-President

Samuel Qiu

Members

Karen Brandon, DSc P.T.

Dayle C. Armstrong, PhD., P.T., MS, DPT

Katarina Eleby, M.A

Tonia McMillian

Samuel Qiu

Alicia Rabena-Amen, PT, DPT

Vacant, PT, DPT

**Physical Therapy Board of California
ADOPTED Meeting Minutes**

March 18-19, 2025 9:00 a.m.

University of the Pacific, Stockton
Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy
751 Brookside Rd., Stockton CA 95211
Room: D121

Board Staff

Jason Kaiser, Executive Officer

Sarah Conley, Assistant Executive

Officer

Brooke Arneson, Specialist

Liz Constancio, Manager

Valerie Kearney, Manager

Carole Phelps, Manager

2 For the sake of clarity, agenda items discussed during the meeting follow their original
3 order on the agenda in these minutes though some agenda items may have been taken
4 out of order during the meeting.
5

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

1. Call to Order

The Physical Therapy Board of California (Board) meeting was called to order
by President Brandon at 9:00 a.m. and went into closed session at 1:22 p.m.
and recessed at 2:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

McMillian - Present
Armstrong- Absent
Brandon - Present
Eleby – Absent
Qiu- Present
Rabena-Amen - Present

All Members except for Dr. Armstrong and Ms. Eleby were present, and a
quorum was established. Also present at the meeting were: Jason Kaiser,
Executive Officer, Michael Kanotz, PTBC Legal Counsel, Sarah Conley,
Assistant Executive Officer; Brooke Arneson, Legislation and Regulation
Manager; Carole Phelps, Enforcement Manager; Valerie Kearney, Licensing

28 Manager; and Board staff: Kim Rozakis, April Beauchamps, Vincent Azar.

29
30 **3. Reading of the Board's Mission Statement**

31
32 Ms. McMillian read the Board's mission statement: To advance and protect the
33 interests of the people of California by the effective administration of the
34 Physical Therapy Practice Act.
35

36 **4. (A) Petition for Reinstatement – Michael Cain**

37 *After submission of the matters, the Board will convene in CLOSED SESSION*
38 *to deliberate on the petitions pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3).*

39 **5. Closed Session**

- 40
41 (A) Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board will
42 convene to Deliberate on Disciplinary Actions and Decisions to be
43 Reached in Administrative Procedure Act Proceedings.
44

45 **6. Review and Approval of December 5-6, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

46
47 Ms. Rozakis presented the draft meeting minutes for December 5-6. The Board
48 reviewed the minutes and made an editorial change.
49

50 **MOTION:** Adopt the December 5-6, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

51
52 **M/S:** McMillian/Rabena-Amen

53
54 **VOTE:** Brandon – Aye
55 Qiu – Aye
56 Armstrong- Absent
57 Eleby – Absent
58 McMillian - Aye
59 Rabena-Amen - Aye
60 4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried

61
62 **7. President's Report**

- 63
64 (A) 2025 Adopted Meeting Calendar
65

66 Mr. Kaiser presented to the Members that the June Board meeting would
67 be a 2-day meeting with staff recommendations for June 25-26, 2025.

68 Additionally, with the State of Affairs and Fiscal Operations with the
69 State of California, there may be a directive to limit travel to consider for
70 the September Board Meeting.
71

72 Mr. Kaiser added that two additional dates, in October and November,
73 could be added to prepare for the Sunset hearing next year.
74

75 Mr. Kaiser shared the recent amendment to the Bagley Keen Open
76 Meeting Act which allows the Board to have a hybrid meeting but still
77 requires the majority of the Board Members to be in attendance at the
78 publicly noticed location. Mr. Kaiser added that the Board will provide a
79 virtual option for the June meeting.
80

81 Mr. Qiu asked if the June and September meetings will be three days.
82 Mr. Kaiser responded that three days were left on the calendar for
83 members to decide which of the two days out of the three days the
84 members would want. Mr. Kaiser added that the staff's recommendation
85 for June is June 25th and June 26th, and the September meeting as a
86 two-day meeting, with an additional day being an in-person expert
87 consultant training. Mr. Kaiser encourages Board Members to attend the
88 expert consultant training, but it is not mandatory.

89 **MOTION:** Amened June 2025 meeting date to June 25-26, 2025.
90

91 **M/S:** McMillian/Qiu
92

93 **VOTE:** Brandon – Aye
94 Qiu – Aye
95 Armstrong- Absent
96 Eleby – Absent
97 McMillian - Aye
98 Rabena-Amen - Aye
99 4-0 Ayes, Motion Carried
100

101 Mr. Kaiser shared to the members a Sunset Advisory Committee may
102 need to be put together at the June meeting. Mr. Kaiser added additional
103 meetings will be needed for Sunset and to have the members look at
104 their calendars on dates they are not available in October and
105 November.

106
107 (B) 2026 Proposed Meeting Calendar
108

109 Mr. Kaiser asked the members if they have any conflict dates for 2026
110 to let himself or staff know.
111

112 **8. Executive Officer's Report**
113

114 (A) Executive Services
115

116 Mr. Kaiser shared at this meeting the Board is looking at the second
117 quarter of 2024/2025 statistics, but the staff will report on things that
118 have happened or occurred after the close of the second quarter. Mr.
119 Kaiser added the legislative report on the March agenda shows no bills.
120 Due to the deadline for submitting the meeting materials to the
121 Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Information Services to
122 ensure the materials are ADA compliance and posted to PTBC's
123 website. Bills will be presented at the March meeting, but they are for
124 informational purposes only.
125

126 Mr. Kaiser reported Ms. Beauchamps has provided members an
127 Outreach calendar where the members are able to see there is an
128 increase of outreach events throughout the year.
129

130 Dr. Rabena-Amen asked if the Board has any updates regarding the
131 Strategic Plan. Mr. Kaiser responded that the Board does plan on
132 reporting at the June meeting, staff have also participated in the action
133 plan process.
134

135 (B) Administrative Services
136

137 Mr. Kaiser reported the Board is working under the Department of
138 Finance issued budget letters with anticipation of significant general
139 fund deficit in fiscal year (FY) in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. The budget
140 letter states the Board must take immediate action to reduce
141 expenditures and identify operational savings. The Board is planning for
142 an 8% reduction in the current overall budget and a vacancy sweep that

143 was conducted Statewide. Currently, the Board has not had to surrender
144 any position authority.

145
146 Mr. Kaiser shared the Board currently has 1 Analyst vacancy in the
147 Application Services Unit. Ms. Rathbun held the position prior; she has
148 accepted a promotional position with the Board of Registered Nursing in
149 their correspondence unit. Additionally, Mr. Kaiser welcomed Ms.
150 Stokes to the Administrative Services Unit as Lead Budget Analyst, Ms.
151 Stokes started with the Board in February and has 8 years of experience
152 in finance and budget. Mr. Kaiser added the Board hopes to have the
153 Analyst position in Continuing Competency Unit vacancy filled in the
154 next couple weeks.

155
156 Mr. Kaiser stated the Governor issued Executive Order N-22-25 which
157 orders all agencies and departments that provide telework as an option
158 to implement a hybrid telework policy with a default minimum of 4 in-
159 person days per week as July 1, 2025. CalHR provided guidance on
160 March 13, 2025, on how Boards may consider employee requests for
161 more than one telework day per week on a case-by-case basis.
162 Agencies and departments shall consider their individual operational
163 needs to determine whether to offer telework as an option with an
164 emphasis of in-person work including enhanced collaboration, cohesion,
165 creativity and communication as well as improved opportunity for
166 mentorship. Mr. Kaiser added there will be new teleworking agreements
167 with staff in the coming months.

168
169 Dr. Brandon asked if the Board has issues with space and if the Board
170 will have to share space. Mr. Kaiser answered in the middle of the
171 pandemic the Board moved from a smaller location into a larger location,
172 currently the Board has enough square footage space and cubicles
173 assigned to staff to allow for the 4 in-person days with a little bit more
174 room for growth.

175
176 Mr. Kaiser shared the Board has 1 Board Member vacancy, which is
177 becoming more emergent as time goes on. Since the last meeting in
178 December there have been several appointments made to DCA boards
179 including the Board of Pharmacy, Dental Hygiene Board of California,
180 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Athletic Commission of California and

Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. Mr. Kaiser has had discussions with the Governors appointment secretary, and they are aware of the current needs, and they are also considering upcoming vacancies. Mr. Kaiser added at the June meeting that the Board will be right at quorum.

Dr. Rabena-Amen asked if the Governor's Office is looking for applicants. Mr. Kaiser responded there aren't enough applications to review by the Governor's Office for both professional and public member positions and the Governor's Office is always asking for submissions.

Mr. Kaiser shared that if anyone is interested in becoming a Board member to go to www.gov.ca.gov and complete the application, there is also an interview process.

(C) Licensing Services

Mr. Kaiser stated the Board has been predicting an increase in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) applications due to an increase in the number of PTA programs in California. PTA applications received are up 24% from the last fiscal year to date.

(D) Consumer Protection Services

Mr. Kaiser stated there has been an increase in enforcement activity. This includes an 8% increase in the total number of complaints, a 53% increase in the number of complex cases that went to the Office of the Attorney General (AG) for filing, and a 22% increase in the number of accusations.

Mr. Kaiser stated that as of the end of the second quarter, the Board has expended approximately 60% of its enforcement budget, which is a little out of the ordinary. In quarter 3 and quarter 4, the Board experiences higher billing volumes. The Board is preparing an augmentation package to address anticipated costs associated with the Attorney General's Office and the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). This augmentation would enable the Board to allocate additional funds to the enforcement budget to accommodate a

217 potential increase in complaint volume. However, the number of
218 complaints remains inherently unpredictable.

219
220 **9. Executive Services Update**

221 **(A) Legislation Report**

222 2024/25 Legislative Session Summary

223 Mr. Arneson reported the Board is in the first year of the 2025-2026 two-
224 year legislative session which reconvened on January 6th, 2025, and the
225 deadline for bills to be introduced was Feb 21st, 2025. It is so early in the
226 session, most of the bills that the Board is watching are currently in spot
227 form. Additionally, the Board is already watching quite a few bills, and a
228 more detailed legislative summary will be at the June Board meeting.

229
230 Ms. Arneson provided a quick summary of a few bills that the Board is
231 watching.

232
233 **AB 489 Health Care Professions Deceptive Terms or Letters Artificial**
234 **Intelligence**

235
236 Ms. Arneson reported this bill is in the Assembly pending referral to the
237 Committee. This bill would prohibit Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs
238 from using terms, letters or phrases in its advertising or functionality that
239 suggest the AI program is a healing arts license. Licensing boards would
240 have jurisdiction to enforce these provisions against people or entities that
241 develop or deploy AI programs.

242
243 **AB 667- Professions and Vocations: Licensure Examinations**

244
245 Mr. Arneson reported this bill is in the Assembly and is double referred to
246 the Health and B&P Committee. This bill would require boards and
247 bureaus within DCA to permit an applicant who cannot read, speak or
248 write in English to use an interpreter at no cost to the applicant when
249 taking a state administered or contracted license exam. This bill would
250 require the entity administering the examination to pay for the interpreter.
251 In addition, this bill would require the PTBC to include a section in our
252 license application asking about the applicants preferred languages.
253 Additionally, conducting an annual review along with a corresponding
254 legislative report regarding language preferences.

255
256 Dr. Rabena-Amen asked if this bill is for CAPTE accredited programs and
257 for foreign education and the intent of this bill? Mr. Kaiser responded that
258 the intent at this time is unknown due to how early this bill is, but it does

259 apply broadly, and he is assuming the intent behind this bill is not about
260 health care boards, and the bill does not address foreign applications and
261 credentials. Mr. Kaiser added this bill is about all the vocations, and
262 professions that are licensed in California and if those interpretive services
263 are provided on an examination.

264
265 **AB 742 DCA Licensing Applicants Who Are Descendants from**
266 **Slaves**

267
268 Mr. Arneson reported this bill is similar to a bill that the Board saw last
269 legislative session AB 2862 and that bill was held in the Senate B&P
270 Committee. AB 742 is in the Assembly and is double referred to the B&P
271 and Judiciary Committees. This bill would direct DCA licensing entities to
272 prioritize applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of American
273 slaves, once a process to certify descendants of American slaves is
274 established.

275
276 **AB 1458 Animal Physical Therapy**

277
278 Ms. Arneson reported this bill is currently in the Assembly B&P
279 Committee. This bill is currently in spot form and is similar to AB 814 from
280 last session which died in the Senate B&P Committee. AB 1458 in spot
281 form states that it is the intent of the legislature to enact legislation to
282 authorize a PT license under the PTBC who holds an advanced
283 certification in animal physical therapy to provide animal physical therapy
284 under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian upon the recommendation
285 of the veterinarian.

286
287 **SB 470 Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act Teleconferencing**

288
289 Ms. Arneson reported this bill is in the Senate and was double referred to
290 by the Governmental Organization and Judiciary Committees. This bill
291 would delete January 1, 2026, repeal date of the alternative provisions for
292 teleconference meetings under the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act;
293 thereby authorizing teleconferencing provisions indefinitely.

294
295 **(B) Rulemaking Report –**

296 2025 Rulemaking Update for Pending or Proposed Regulations
297 1) Update Regarding the Development of Possible Amendments to
298 the Board's Continuing Competency Regulations

299
300 Mr. Arneson directed members to the new flow chart provided by the DCA
301 regulatory unit which depicts the 4 stages of the regulations process on

page 44 of the meeting materials. Continuing competency regulations is in the first phase of the chart, the concept phase of the regulatory process and the goal of this phase is that the proposed language is drafted and approved by the Board to move forward.

Mr. Arneson expressed she is excited to report that Board staff have been working collectively on proposed amendments to the existing continuing competency (CC) regulations and will be bringing proposed language for the Board's consideration at the upcoming June 2025 meeting. The Board's proposed CC regulation packages will be two separate packages, one addressing amendments to the current CC regulations and the second package will be addressing continuing competency approval agency fees.

(C) Communication & Education Update

Ms. Beauchamps presented the outreach report. Ms. Beauchamps reported that in Quarter 2, the Board provided ten outreach workshops.

Ms. Beauchamps shared that during the current quarter (Q2), the Board has started providing outreach to high schools. The Board was invited to a career fair in Antioch, California, on October 22, 2024, and October 23, 2024, the Board had the opportunity to visit Aurthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School, and on November 13, 2024, the Board attended a career fair at Luther Burbank High School. Mr. Beauchamps added the Board will also be attending a Future Health Professionals, formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), which is a future health professionals' college and career Fair at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento on March 29, 2025.

Mr. Beauchamps reported the fall/winter 2024 newsletter is out and outreach calendars will now be included in the meeting materials.

Dr. Brandon asked how the Board's website identifies the statistics. Ms. Beauchamps answered the Board uses Google Analytics.

Dr. Brandon asked if the Board has anything planned in the near future on consumer awareness? Ms. Beauchamps answered the Board is working on publications and flyers aimed at consumers as well as trying to attend any outreach events.

10. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

The Board requested public comments on items not on the agenda, and there was no public comment.

11. Recess

The Board entered into closed session at 1:43 p.m. and recessed at 2:08 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

12. Call to Order

The Physical Therapy Board of California (Board) meeting was called to order by President Dr. Brandon at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

13. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

McMillian - Present
Armstrong- Absent
Brandon - Present
Eleby – Absent
Qiu- Present
Rabena-Amen - Present

All Members were present except Dr. Armstrong and Ms. Eleby, and a quorum was established. Also present at the meeting were: Michael Kanotz, PTBC Legal Counsel; Jason Kaiser, Executive Officer; Sarah Conley, Assistant Executive Officer; Brooke Arneson, Legislation and Regulation Manager; Carole Phelps, Enforcement Manager; Valerie Kearney, Licensing Manager; and Board staff: Kim Rozakis, April Beauchamps and Vincent Azar.

14. Reading of the Board's Mission Statement

Dr. Rabena-Amen read the Board's mission statement: To advance and protect the interests of the people of California by the effective administration of the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

15. FSBPT National Update on Dry Needling and Analysis of Competencies for Dry Needling by Physical Therapists Review (2024)

Ms. Adrian, PT, Director of Professional Standards for the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, presented an overview of FSBPT national update and analysis of competencies on dry needling.

Mr. DeLuca from the California Acupuncture Coalition provided public comment sharing they feel strongly that dry needling is acupuncture and any dry needling that is being performed needs to be by a certified licensed acupuncturist. Mr. DeLuca added the California Acupuncture Coalition would love to work with the Board and address any concerns.

16. Dry Needling Presentation from Physical Therapists at the Veterans Administration, Palo Alto, California

Richard V. Gastillo, PT, SCCE, Jerome Sabangan, PT DPT and Thaa De Ornelas, PT DPT presented an overview of dry needling and to share their knowledge and experience on how the practice has been utilized and developed over time.

Dr. Rabena-Amen shared she is looking forward to learning more and looking into the Veterans Administration interdisciplinary model.

Dr. Brandon asked how effectiveness and access to care helps the consumer. The presenters responded that the research supports utilizing dry needling as an intervention because it helps efficiency in terms of the system and provides function and wellness faster to patients.

Dr. Rabena-Amen asked, is there currently any research that would be beneficial for the Board? The presenters responded they are currently working on a low back pain study, and currently they have some case studies that they will be presenting this year at various conferences. Additionally, their strategic plan over the next 5 years is to have a lot more larger scale multi-site studies, and they will publish that information.

Dr. Rabena-Amen asked if there are any examples of California consumers who voice frustration at the inability to receive dry needling services in California. The presenters responded that they do not have a specific example involving their patients because they have access to the Veteran's Affairs (VA). However, they mentioned that friends or loved ones are traveling to different states to receive dry needling treatment because their partners were able to receive care at the VA. These individuals are advocating for the treatment because they believe it can be beneficial.

The presenters also shared the VA offers Community Care. Community Care is when a service member cannot receive care at a VA for any reason they may receive care in the community providers.

In public comment, Mr. Jones, Physical Therapist (PT) had a positive experience with dry needling where he was able to have full range of motion within 5 hours of dry needling. Mr. Jones also expressed he would like to have access to dry needling as a PT.

17. Consumer and Professional Associations and Intergovernmental Relations Reports

(A) Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)

Ms. Sigmund-Gains, Executive Director for the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy, wanted to share the resources that are available through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) on a number of different topics and formats through publications and webinars. Ms. Sigmund-Gains also shared through <https://www.hrri.org/> there was a publication that focused on re-entry to practice, specifically on atrophy of Competency over time when away from practice from an academic standpoint.

Ms. Sigmund-Gains also shared that they would love to receive input on the development of burnout, practitioner wellness, and the idea of healthy practice and the development of healthy practice tools. <https://www.hrri.org> has published research of the development on how to establish an effective assessment mechanism, and the Federation community has been working on developing this assessment tool.

Ms. Sigmund-Gains added that FSBPT has created a task force for animal PT. The task force is looking at solidifying regulatory language and best practices. The task force consists of member physical therapists, administrators and veterinarians.

Ms. Sigmund-Gains shared there will be a Board Member regulatory training course in April and a leadership issues forum in July.

461 (B) Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) - Executive Office
462

463 Mr. Kaiser reported on behalf of DCA. Mr. Kaiser shared on January 29,
464 2025, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-25, which defers
465 renewal fees and waives other fees for DCA licensees in the Los
466 Angeles wildfire areas. Specific DCA provisions include granting
467 licensees whose licenses expired between January 1, 2025 through July
468 1, 2025, will grant a one-year extension to pay their renewal fee, provided
469 their business or residence address is in certain zip codes impacted by
470 the fires. Additionally, licenses will still need to renew their license, but
471 their fees will be postponed for one year. Duplicate or replacement
472 licenses or wall certificates will be provided free of charge until January
473 7, 2026, and delinquency fees are suspended until July 1, 2025. DCA
474 has also provided messages to the Boards and Bureaus for
475 dissemination to the impacted licenses, and all Boards and Bureaus
476 have updated their website. DCA also has a toll-free phone number 1-
477 800-799-8314 and an e-mail address, CAFires@dca.ca.gov, available
478 for fire survivors needing assistance.
479

480 Mr. Kaiser stated that the Governor released his proposed state budget
481 on January 10, 2025. Additionally, DCA's vacancy reduction and
482 government efficiency plans were approved by the Department of
483 Finance and may be made official in the spring revisions. Additionally,
484 under the proposed budget is the creation of a dedicated California
485 Housing and Homelessness Agency. DCA and other regulators
486 currently under the Business and Consumer Services and Housing
487 Agency would form a separate agency called the Business and
488 Consumer Services Agency. The Governor's reorganization proposal
489 will be reviewed by the nonpartisan Little Hoover Commission and the
490 legislature in Spring 2025.
491

492 Mr. Kaiser added on March 3, 2025, that Governor Newsom issued an
493 Executive Order to all state agencies and departments to update their
494 hybrid telework policies to increase from two to four days in office per
495 week beginning July 1, 2025. On March 13, 2025, the Department of
496 Human Resources issued guidance on implementation of the executive
497 order. The guidance provides defines parameters for when agencies

498 and departments can make case by case exceptions to the 4-day office
499 minimum requirements.

500
501 Mr. Kaiser shared Ms. Dorantes who served as the Assistant Deputy
502 Director of Board and Bureau Relations since October 2022. On
503 December 6th, 2024, Ms. Dorantes was appointed Assistant Deputy
504 Director of Legislative and Government Affairs at the California
505 Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Additionally, Ms. Gear served
506 as the Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations since September
507 2022. Ms. Gear was appointed Deputy Director of Legislative and
508 Governmental Affairs at the Department of Health Care Access and
509 Information on February 14, 2025.

510
511 (C) California Physical Therapy (CPTA)

512
513 Ms. Defoe, Executive Director of CPTA, reported that on March 18,
514 2025, CPTA held a legislative day with more than 100 Physical
515 Therapists (PTs) to talk about issues that are important to PTs. They
516 held more than 30 meetings in the building with legislators.

517
518 Ms. Defoe shared that the top priority currently is the modernization of
519 the Physical Therapy Practice Act, which would raise the level of
520 education and training required for licensure. CPTA does not currently
521 have a bill and is currently promoting this but is likely looking into 2026.
522 Additionally, a bill CPTA is working on relates to public education
523 credentialing, which would create a pathway for Physical Therapists and
524 Occupational Therapists to obtain an administrative services credential.
525 Additionally, there is a bill by the Animal Physical Therapy Coalition that
526 would authorize Veterinarians to authorize a licensed physical therapist
527 to provide animal therapy under the referral of a veterinarian at the level
528 of supervision determined by veterinarians.

529
530 Ms. Defoe stated the annual conference will be held September 20-21,
531 2025, in Palm Springs at the Palm Springs Renaissance.

532
533 Ms. Defoe reported that the goal for webinar Wednesday was 3
534 webinars a month, and that goal was met in 2024 and hopes to keep the
535 webinars going in 2025. If anyone is unable to attend, they are on the

FSBPT's website.

Mr. Airs, representative of Animal Physical Therapy Coalition, provided public comment indicating that he looks forward to working with the Board and CPTA.

18. Administrative Services Update

(A) Program Update

(B) Budget Report

Mr. Kaiser reported travel has been reserved for mandatory requirements such as board meetings, job-required training, and education. The Board is utilizing the DCA SOLID Unit for training needs.

Mr. Kaiser added the Board has authorized 29.1 positions, there were 3 vacancies for Quarter 2 (Q2). During Q2 there were 2 appointments, Mr. Caton for the Licensing Services Unit and Mr. Heaton for the Enforcement Unit. Recently, the Admin Unit has filled the Lead Analyst position with Ms. Stokes. Additionally, there is a new vacancy with the Application Licensing Services Unit.

Mr. Kaiser Stated the Board is authorized \$7,238,000 which includes personal services, operating expenses and equipment. The Board's budget has decreased \$378,000 over the previous years. The current fund is projected at 8 months' reserve year end.

19. Licensing Services Update

(A) Program Updates

(B) Statistical Reports

Ms. Kearney shared the Licensing Services Unit has become efficient and streamlined, acknowledging receipt of application in under the 35-day required time and is averaging around two to three weeks.

Ms. Kearney added there is a new report for all application types including foreign whether the application was completed at received or incomplete at received. Currently, an applicant can expect to have their application completed within 60 days of being received.

20. Consumer Protection Services Update

(A) Program Updates

576 (B) Statistical Updates

577 Ms. Phelps shared the Consumer Protection Services (CPS) Unit is now fully
578 staffed, Mr. Heaton is responsible for enforcement case review and
579 investigation. Currently, there are 463 complaint cases being investigated by
580 6 analysts. The 463 complaint cases are in all stages of the investigation
581 process.

582
583 Ms. Phelps added the CPS Unit, and the Board continues to hold quarterly
584 meetings with the contact with the Division of Investigation (DOI) and the
585 Attorney General's Office (AG) to discuss outstanding issues and collaborate
586 to ensure effective case and program management. The Board continues to
587 work with both DOI and the AG's Office on planning Expert Consultant
588 Trainings.

589
590 Ms. Phelps reported CPS Unit has now begun utilizing SharePoint for all
591 electronic document storage. Ms. Phelps thanks Mr. Azar for assisting the
592 CPS Unit with streamlining procedures to efficiently process complaints.
593 Ms. Phelps, shared Performance Measure 1, shows that the PTBC received a
594 total of 134 cases this quarter, including 86 consumer complaints, and 48
595 reports of arrests or convictions.

596
597 Ms. Phelps added Performance Measure 2 measures the average number of
598 days after receiving a complaint until the PTBC initiates a case and sends an
599 acknowledgement letter to the Complainant. This quarter's average is 3 days,
600 well under the target of 9 days.

601
602 Ms. Phelps stated Performance Measures 3 shows the average case age in
603 days for all cases that did not result in a referral to the Attorney General's
604 Office for formal discipline. The average case age was 169 days, which is
605 28% higher compared to this time last fiscal year. These numbers are known
606 to fluctuate greatly, as they reflect the average of all cases, and encompass
607 the entire investigative process that involves the timelines, workloads, and
608 response times of not only Enforcement staff, but of all involved
609 parties/agencies. PTBC's target for this performance measure is 180 days, so
610 this target is being met.

611
612 Ms. Phelps added Performance Measure 4 captures the average case age in
613 days for cases that were referred to the Attorney General's Office for formal
614 discipline. Twelve cases were finalized at the AG's office this quarter, taking
615 an average of 685 days from receipt of a complaint to final outcome. The
616 target for this performance measure is 540 days.

617

Ms. Phelps summarized this fiscal year so far: staff initiated 292 new cases, issued 14 citations, completed 228 desk investigations, referred 29 cases to the Attorney General's Office, received one Interim Suspension Order and two Penal Code section (PC) 23 Orders, and closed 22 cases after referral to the AG's Office.

Ms. Phelps clarified that a PC 23 order allows the Board to intervene in a criminal matter and request the judge to order a suspension or a license restriction.

Lastly, Ms. Phelps presented the Disciplinary Summary of all formal discipline issued for Quarter 2 of FY 2024-25. In this quarter, one Public Letter of Reprimand and one Public Reprimand were issued, five licensees were placed on probation, and four licensees lost their license to practice physical therapy by revocation order. Disciplinary actions are public record and are available through the DCA License Search: <https://search.dca.ca.gov/>

21. Probation Monitoring Services Update

(A) Program Updates

(B) Statistical Updates

Mr. Martin shared during Quarter 2 (Q2) of FY 2024-2025, the number of licensees on probation decreased from seventy-one to sixty-six licensees on probation for various causes. Besides the forty-seven licensees on probation and actively working in the State of California, there were an additional seven out-of-state probationers tolling (not receiving credit toward completion of probation), and twelve in-state probationers tolling due to unemployment or underemployment where they were unable to work 192 hours in the Quarter. Five licenses were placed on probation in the quarter, and five licensees completed probation. The Board revoked the licenses of three probationers, and one licensee voluntarily surrendered his license to the Board instead of facing disciplinary action from the Board.

Mr. Martin added of the forty-seven licensees that are not tolling, ten are enrolled and participating in the Board's Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (Maximus), equaling about 21% of all licensees on probation that weren't tolling. Three licensees enrolled in the Board's Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program in the quarter, and one licensee completed the program.

Mr. Martin shared with the Board the vendor for the Board's Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program, Maximums ended their contract. As of January 1, 2025, there is a new vendor for this program which is Premier Health. There

were some hiccups in the beginning with the new vendor, but things have been moving smoothly now.

Lastly, there were five instances of Non-Compliance with probation in the quarter. The instances of non-compliance were minor violations for not being available for quarterly interviews with the probation monitor.

Dr. Rabena-Amen asked what type of communication he is doing. Mr. Martin answered that he is doing virtual communication; he finds virtual communication is the best way and he is able to do this every quarter versus traveling. Traveling limits how many probationers he can visit.

22. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Lau, President of the Council of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, expressed concerns regarding public protection and the evolving role of acupuncture within the Medicare system. Ms. Lau urged the Physical Therapy Board to ensure that practitioners are adequately trained and educated before performing any needle insertions.

Mr. Bodea, Executive Officer for the California Acupuncture Board, wanted to share the Physical Therapy Board and staff have done a great job enforcing the Acupuncture Licensing Act. Mr. Bodea stated the California Acupuncture Board, and the Physical Therapy Board of California are sister agencies with the purpose of public protection.

Mr. Airs, representative of the Animal Physical Therapy Coalition, would like to give a presentation on what animal physical therapy is and have the opportunity for discussion and questions.

Mr. Sullivan, a Student at the University of the Pacific, shared while searching for a Physical Therapy school in California Ms. Sullivan found there are a lot of schools who do not teach dry needling. Mr. Sullivan expressed frustration that he is unable to learn about dry needling.

23. Agenda for Future Meeting

June 25-27, 2025

Department of Consumer Affairs

693
694 **24. Closed Session**
695

696 (A) Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board will convene
697 to Deliberate on Disciplinary Actions and Decisions to be Reached in
698 Administrative Procedure Act Proceedings

699 (B) Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the Board will convene
700 to Consider the Evaluation of Performance of the Executive Officer
701

702
703 **25. Adjournment**
704

705 The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. on March 19, 2025.
706