



Kelly King, PT, DPT  
President

**ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
1470 W. ADAMS ST., STE 2450, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007  
(602) 274-0236  
[ptboard.az.gov](http://ptboard.az.gov)

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES via  
Google Meet Video Conferencing  
Virtual Attendance  
October 31, 2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kelly King, PT, DPT, President  
Karen Bustillo, PT, DPT, CLT, Vice President  
Joshua Greer, Public Member  
Joshua Barton, Public Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Giovanni Leone, PTA; Secretary

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY  
GENERAL PRESENT:** Marc Harris, Assistant Attorney General

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Judy Chepeus, Executive Director  
Mindy Richardson PT, Investigator  
Liz Sinish PT, Investigator  
Monica Crowley, Licensing Administrator  
Veronica Cardoza, Administrative Services Officer

**BOARD SAFF ABSENT:**

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER – 8:30 A.M.:** Dr. King called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. (A recording of the meeting is available on the Board’s website.)
- 2) **Roll Call:** – See Above.
- 3) **Minutes: Review, consideration, and action:**
  - A) September 29, 2023, Regular Session
  - B) September 29, 2023, Executive Session -A

Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to Approve the September 29, 2023 Regular Session meeting minutes, however, after the vote was tabulated it was determined that the Board **did not meet the required quorum for the above motion.**

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Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X			
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained					X		
Absent			X				

Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to table the review of the September 29, 2023 Regular Session and Executive Session meeting minutes to the Board’s next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**4) Applications for Licensure and Certification:**

A) Review, consideration, and possible action on Physical Therapist applicants requesting ADA accommodations.

1) Frances Timothy Fuentebella

Mr. Fuentebella was present and address the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Barton to **Deny** the request for ADA accommodations. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**5) Consent Agenda:**

**A) Applications recommended for approval of Physical Therapist licensure upon successful completion of the application, including receipt of transcripts and passage of the NPTE and/or AZLAW.**

- 1) Kaitlin Crisman
- 2) Jennifer Gruenhagen
- 3) Colton Ruhl
- 4) Claire Sweeney

**B) Applications recommended for approval of Physical Therapist Assistant certification upon successful completion of the application, including receipt of transcripts and passage of the NPTE and/or AZLAW.**

- 1) Amy Pavlica

Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to **Approve** consent agenda items 5A and 5B. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**End of Consent Agenda**

**12) Board business and reports:**

**C) Executive Director’s Report**

- 1) **Introduction to newest Investigator**  
Introduction of Elizabeth (Liz) Sinish as the Board’s newest investigator

Ms. Chepeus introduced Ms. Liz Sinish, PT, DPT as the newest staff investigator. Ms. Sinish addressed the Board.

- 2) **Update regarding Thentia Cloud**  
Review and discussion regarding the software migration to Thentia Cloud

Ms. Chepeus provided the Board with an update regarding the Board's software migration to Thentia Cloud.

- B) Update regarding FSBPT Annual Meeting**  
Review and possible discussion regarding the FSBPT Annual Meeting held October 19-21, 2023 in Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Greer and Dr. King provided an update regarding their attendance at the FSBPT Annual Meeting.

### **C) Executive Director's Report**

- 3) **September 2023 financials**  
Review and possible discussion

Board members reviewed the financial information for the month of September 2023.

- 4) **Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations**  
Review and discussion on approvals granted in September 2023

#### **a) 61 Licenses/Certificates Newly Issued**

- i. 24 Physical Therapists Endorsement
- ii. 17 Physical Therapists Examination
- iii. 3 Physical Therapist Universal Recognition
- iv. 0 Physical Therapist Foreign Educated
- v. 1 Physical Therapist Military Spouse
- vi. 7 Physical Therapist Assistants Endorsement
- vii. 8 Physical Therapist Assistants Examination
- viii. 1 Physical Therapist Assistant Universal Recognition
- ix. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Military Spouse

#### **b) 2 Licenses/Certificates Reinstated**

- i. 1 Physical Therapists
- ii. 1 Physical Therapist Assistants

**c) 0 Business Entity Registrations**

- i. 0 Newly Issued
- ii. 0 Reinstated

**d) 0 Interstate Telehealth Registrations**

- i. 0 Newly Issued PT
- ii. 0 Newly Issued PTA

Board members reviewed the licenses, certifications, and registrations processed in the month of September 2023.

**7) Informal Hearings**

**A) 23-45 Armando Rivas, PTA (9:00 a.m.)**

Ms. Chepeus called roll of Board members and staff. Dr. King provided a review of the proceedings and possible outcomes.

Ms. Richardson and Mr. Rivas were sworn-in as witnesses.

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Mr. Rivas was present and addressed the Board.

Mr. Rivas provided a closing statement.

The Board deliberated.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to adopt the allegations, and potential violations, as set forth in the investigative report as **Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**, including A.R.S. §§ 32-3208 and 32-2044(18). The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to **issue a Board order** to include:

Six months’ **Probation** with the possibility of early termination after successful completion of the following terms:

- Decree of Censure
- Successfully pass the AZLAW jurisprudence exam
- \$500 Civil Penalty

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye		X		X	X		
Nay	X						
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**9) Complaints and other disciplinary matters: review, consideration, and action.**

**A) 22-31 Guarav Khanal, PT**

Initial review, consideration, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Mr. Khanal, PT and his counsel Mr. Flynn Carey, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Barton to forward case #22-31 to an **Informal Hearing** to include all the allegations and potential violations as set forth in the investigative report. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							

Absent			X				
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Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to direct staff to review 3 additional patient charts from visits that occurred after Mr. Khanal completed continuing education in documentation. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**G) 23-79 David Hauskins, PTA**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to offer Mr. Hauskins a **Consent Agreement** for the voluntary surrender of his PTA certificate. If the agreement is not signed the matter will be remanded to Formal Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**B) 22-38 John Bott, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Mr. Bott, PT and his counsel Mr. Flynn Carey, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

The Board deliberated.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Dr. King to issue a **Non-disciplinary order** to include:

- 6.25 hours of **Continuing education** in the areas of Scope of practice, supervision, documentation.

Continuing education shall be completed in one month, courses must be pre-approved, may be completed online, and do not count toward renewal requirements. Credit previously earned by Mr. Bott after the notice of complaint was issued may be submitted to satisfy the hours ordered. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**C) 22-40 Melissa Shafer, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Ms. Shafer, PT and her counsel Ms. Anne McClellan, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to issue a **Non-disciplinary order** to include:

- Five hours of **Continuing education** in the areas of Ethics and Supervision

Continuing education shall be completed in one month, courses must be pre-approved, may be completed online, and do not count toward renewal requirements. Credit previously earned by Ms. Shafer after the notice of complaint was issued may be submitted to satisfy the hours ordered. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**The Board Recessed from 10:40 A.M. to 10:52 A.M.**

Roll call taken after returning from Recess at 10:52 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

**D) 23-51 Lucy Yu, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Ms. Yu, PT and her counsel Ms. Sara Stark, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to enter into **Exertive Session -A** to obtain legal advice. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**Executive Session -A from 11:37 A.M. to 11:55 A.M.**

Roll call taken after returning from **Executive Session -A** at 11:55 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to forward case #23-51 an **Informal Hearing** and direct staff to pursue a consent agreement to include a professional boundaries course such as Probe or PBI. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X			
Nay					X		
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**10)PT Compact matters: review, consideration, and action.**

**A) 23-72 Stephanie Whitmer, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Ms. Whitmer, PT and her counsel Ms. Sara Stark, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

**Let the record reflect Ms. Sinish left the Board meeting at 12:15 P.M.**

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to offer Ms. Whitmer a **Consent Agreement** consistent with the Board’s unlawful practice matrix for the time in which Ms. Whitmer practiced in Arizona as a PT Compact privilege holder after establishing Arizona residence. If the consent agreement is not signed, Ms. Whitmer will be invited to an **Informal Hearing**. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**9) Complaints and other disciplinary matters: review, consideration, and action.**

**E) 22-45 Robert Palmer, PTA**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to invite Mr. Palmer to an **Informal Hearing**. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**F) 23-39 Colleen Petras, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to invite Ms. Petras to an **Informal Hearing**. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**H) 23-80 Paul Ramos, PTA**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to offer Mr. Ramos a **Consent Agreement** for the voluntary surrender of his PTA certificate. If the agreement is not signed the matter will be remanded to a Formal Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT

Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**D) SG**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King to **Take No Action**. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**J) SL**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a complaint

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

SL was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to **Open a Case** against Suzanne Legg-Matthews citing a potential violation of A.R.S. § 32-2044(9). The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							

Abstained							
Absent			X				

**10)PT Compact matters: review, consideration, and action.**

**B) KK**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a complaint

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

KK and her counsel Mr. Cody Hall, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer to **Open a Case** against Kathrine Kittrell citing a potential violation of A.R.S. § 32-2044(2)(3)(14). The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**C) DW**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a complaint

Ms. Richardson and Ms. Chepeus provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to direct staff to send an educational letter to DW regarding the requirements of licensure and compact privileges as it relates to the practice in the state of Arizona. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							

Abstained							
Absent			X				

Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to **Take No Action** in this case beyond the educational letter. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**The Board Recessed from 12:56 P.M. to 1:04 P.M.**

Roll call taken after returning back from Recess at 1:04 P.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

**11)Old Business: review, consideration, and action.**

**A) 21-31 & 22-28 Steven Kempton, PT**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding monitoring report, compliance with Consent Agreement including the possibility of lifting the Stay of Revocation

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary of Mr. Kempton’s compliance with the terms of his Consent Agreement..

Mr. Kempton was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to lift the Stay of Revocation and Revoke Mr. Kempton’s license to practice as a physical therapist for failure to comply with the terms of his Consent Agreement as discussed. The motion failed.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X					
Nay				X	X		
Recused							
Abstained							

Absent			X				
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Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to re-agendize case #21-31 and 22-28 for the December 12, 2023 meeting for further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**Let the record reflect Ms. Sinish rejoined the Board meeting at 1:50 P.M.**

**8) Rehearing or Reviews**

**A) 23-19 Mark Morelli, PTA**

Review, discussion, and possible action on Mr. Morelli’s request for review or rehearing

**Let the record reflect Ms. Cardoza left the Board meeting at 1:58 P.M.**

Mr. Morelli was not present when the matter was called and was not in attendance.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo to grant Mr. Morelli’s request for review and direct staff to change the word Upgraded to Updated in Mr. Morelli’s Board order. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**12) Board business and reports:**

**A) Rules Committee**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding establishing the number of members that will comprise the committee as well as making committee appointments.

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary to the Board regarding the Rules Committee.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Barton to appoint the six members who have volunteered for the Rules Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X		X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**13) Future Agenda Items**

- Meeting dates for 2024 Board Meetings

**11) Adjournment**

Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **Adjourn**. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. King	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	VACANT	VACANT
Aye	X	X	X	X	X		
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent							

**Meeting adjourned at 2:16 P.M.**

Prepared by,

Monica Crowley  
Licensing Administrator

Board Meeting 10/31/23

Approved by,

Karen Bustillo, PT, DPT, CLT,  
Vice President