



Karen Bustillo, PT, DPT, CLT  
President

**ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
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[ptboard.az.gov](http://ptboard.az.gov)

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES via  
Google Meet Video Conferencing  
Virtual Attendance  
October 1, 2024**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Bustillo, PT, DPT, CLT, President  
Kelly King, PT, DPT, Vice President  
Giovanni Leone, PTA; Secretary  
Joshua Greer, Public Member  
Joshua Barton, Public Member  
John Heick, PT, DPT, PhD

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY**

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

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Judy Chepeus, Executive Director  
Monica Crowley, Administrative Services Officer  
Phoenix Bryant, Licensing Specialist  
Liz Sinish PT, Investigator

**BOARD STAFF ABSENT:** Mindy Richardson PT, Investigator

1) **CALL TO ORDER – 8:30 A.M.:** Dr. Bustillo called the meeting to order at 8:31 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: Consent Agenda:**

- A) August 27, 2024 Regular Session
- B) August 27, 2024 Executive Session -A

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **Approve** the consent agenda consisting of the regular session and executive session A meeting minutes from the August 27, 2024 Board meeting. The motion passed.

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

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

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

1) Rey Garcia

Mr. Garcia was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Approve** Rey Garcia’s request for ADA accommodations of additional time – time and a half and separate room. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**C) Review, consideration, and possible action on Physical Therapist applicants who graduated from foreign educational programs.**

1) Review, consideration, and possible action regarding educational equivalence, option to license or require a supervised clinical practice period and/or eligibility for NPTE/ AZLAW exams for applicants who graduated from a Non-U.S. Accredited foreign educational program.

a. Elijah Presiados

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **Approve** Elijah Presiados’s education as substantially equivalent, to **Allow** him to sit for the AZLAW, and to **Waive** a Supervised Clinical Practice Period. The motion passed unanimously.

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

b. Jose Angelo Solon

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Approve** Jose Angelo Solon’s education as substantially equivalent, to **Allow** him to sit for the NPTE and AZLAW, and to **Require** a Supervised Clinical Practice Period of 500 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

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

c. Phillip Edmundson

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to **Approve** Phillip Edmundson’s education as substantially equivalent, to **Allow** him to sit for the NPTE and AZLAW, and to **Require** a Supervised Clinical Practice Period of 500 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

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

5) Consent Agenda:

**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.** The Board will review, discuss, and may take action on the following applicants who provided an affirmative response to application questions related to their background.

- 1) Calvin Merrill

**C) Cases recommended for termination of Board Order.** The Board will review, discuss, and may vote to take action on the following case(s):

- 1) 23-51 Lucy Yu, PT

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Approve** consent agenda items 5B and 5C. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**6) Administrative Hearings**

**A) 22-31 Gaurav Khanal, PT (9:00 a.m.)**

The Board will hold a settlement conference pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.06. Statements, either written or oral, made by Mr. Khanal, including a written document, created or expressed solely for the purpose of settlement negotiations will not be inadmissible in any subsequent administrative hearing.

Mr. Khanal was present and was represented by his counsel Mr. Flynn Carey, Esq. Mr. Carey summarized for the Board Respondent’s request to modify the proposed consent agreement.

Ms. Chepeus provided the Board with a summary of the case.

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

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

Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent							

**Executive Session -A from 9:15 A.M. to 9:44 A.M.**

Roll call taken after returning from **Executive Session** at 9:44 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

Mr. Khanal answered the Board’s questions.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King, to retain all findings of fact and conclusions of law but modify the offered Consent Agreement by removing the provision for voluntary surrender of license and replace it with the following terms;

Mr. Khanal’s license is Revoked but the revocation is stayed contingent upon his compliance with the following terms:

- **Probation** for 5 years with the possibility of early termination after successful completion of all of the following:
- **Practice Restriction** – Mr. Khanal is prohibited from practicing in any home health or residential setting until successful termination of probation.
- **Suspension of Practice** until Mr. Khanal has completed the continuing education and jurisprudence terms below.
  - **Continuing education** courses must be pre-approved, may be completed online, and do not count toward renewal requirements. Continuing education must be completed in the following areas:
    - **Comprehensive Professional Boundaries** such as PB-24 offered by PBI education or Probe: Ethics and Boundaries Program offered by The Center for Personalized Education for Professionals
    - Six hours of continuing education in the area of **Billing**
    - Six hours of continuing education in the area of **Documentation**
    - Six hours of continuing education in the area of **Supervision**
  - **Jurisprudence – Successful passing of the AZLAW jurisprudence examination**
- After successful completion of all continuing education and the jurisprudence exam, the Board may lift the suspension and Mr. Khanal may resume practicing under **supervised clinical practice** for a period of 500 hours to be completed within six months where he shall practice only under direct clinical supervision. While Mr. Khanal completes his period of direct clinical supervision, he is prevented from supervising assistive personnel and students.
- **Clinical monitoring** to occur on a monthly basis for an indefinite period to include a minimum of three charts per month until there are three consecutive months where Respondent’s documentation meets the

standards of practice.

Early termination of probation may be requested after successful completion of all of the above terms.

If the consent agreement is not signed within 30 days the matter will be remanded to formal hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**The Board Recessed from 10:49 A.M. to 11:01 A.M.**

Roll call taken after returning from recess at 11:01 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

**7) Informal Hearings**

**A) 24-06 Shilo Evans, PTA (9:30 a.m.)**

Dr. Bustillo provided a review of the proceedings and possible outcomes.

Ms. Sinish and Ms. Evans were sworn in as witnesses.

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

Mr. Evans was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to **Continue** this matter until Ms. Evans’ court matter has been adjudicated.. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

**A) 24-15 Yesenia Cornejo, PTA**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Sinish provided a summary of the Board’s investigation.  
 Ms. Cornejo was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to issue a **Non-Disciplinary** order to include **Continuing education** as follows:

- Six hours in the area of Billing and Coding
- Six hours in the area of Documentation
- Three hours in the area of Supervision

**Continuing education** shall be completed in 6 months; courses must be pre-approved, may be completed online, and do not count toward renewal requirements.

**Respondent may submit any qualifying continuing education** taken after the notice of complaint was issued in satisfaction of the hours ordered. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**B) AR**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a complaint

Ms. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

AR was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to open a complaint against Allan Ralston, PTA. The motion passed.

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

Nay				X	X		
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent							

The Board’s previous motion was clarified when Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to cite a potential violation of A.R.S. § 32-2044(8) in the complaint opened against Allan Ralston, PTA. The motion passed.

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

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

**A) Rebekah Trost, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

Ms. Trost was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to **Open** a complaint against Rebecca Trost and offer her a **Consent Agreement** citing Conclusions of Law A.R.S. §§ 32-2044(1), 32-2048(A), 32-2053 as it relates to rule 1.1.L, 3.1.A, and 3.1.C and offering terms consistent with the Unlawful Practice Disciplinary Matrix for 31-90 days, including:

- **90 days Probation** with early termination possible after all terms of the agreement are satisfied
- Successful passing of the AZLAW **Jurisprudence Exam**
- **Notification to Employer/Payer/Patients** of her unlawful use of an Arizona PT Compact privilege from January 25, 2024 to July 2, 2024.
- Three hours of **continuing education** in the area of Ethics
- **\$460 Civil Penalty**

The motion passed unanimously.

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



Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent							

**12) Board business and reports:**

**A) Rules Committee Recommendations**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding recommendations from the Rules Committee in preparation for the Board’s 2024 five-year rules review.

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary to the Board.

Ms. Peg Hiller, PT (ret.) addressed the Board regarding the Rules Committee activities and recommendations.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Accept** the report provided by the Rules Committee and to incorporate it into the Board’s 5-Year Rules Review Report. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Let the record reflect Mr. Greer left the Board meeting at 12:49 P.M.**

**B) Executive Director’s Report**

1) **Renewal season updates; oral report**

Review and discussion regarding renewal applications from July and August 2024.

- a) 8,462 PT Licenses/PTA Certificates Renewed
  - i. 6,390 Physical Therapist Licenses
  - ii. 2,072 Physical Therapist Assistant Certificates

Ms. Chepeus provided an update regarding renewal applications processed in July and August 2024.

2) **Continuing competence audits**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding setting the percentage of random licensee/certificate holders for continuing competence audit.

The Board reviewed continuing competence audit options to determine a percentage of random audits to perform.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **Audit 2%** of the renewal applicants for compliance with continuing competence requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

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

3) **Implementation activities regarding new legislation**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the implementation of SB1267 and HB2910 which were both signed into law by Governor Hobbs.

Ms. Chepeus provided an update of staff efforts to implement necessary changes as a result of the passing of both SB1267 and HB2910.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to update the Board’s mission statement by removing references to physical therapist assistant certification. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to grant self-service access and waive duplication fees associated with duplicate wall licenses for physical therapist assistants until 8/31/2026. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- 4) **Fiscal Year 2026 Budget submission**  
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the Board’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget submitted on September 3, 2024.

Board members reviewed the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget submission.

- 5) **July & August 2024 Financials**  
Review and possible discussion

Board members reviewed the July and August 2024 financials.

- 6) **Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations**  
Review and discussion on approvals granted in August 2024

- a) **112 Licenses/Certificates Newly Issued**

- i. 23 Physical Therapists Endorsement
- ii. 76 Physical Therapists Examination
- iii. 0 Physical Therapist Universal Recognition
- iv. 0 Physical Therapist Foreign Educated
- v. 0 Physical Therapist Military Spouse
- vi. 2 Physical Therapist Assistants Endorsement
- vii. 11 Physical Therapist Assistants Examination
- viii. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Universal Recognition
- ix. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Military Spouse

- b) **0 Licenses/Certificates Reinstated and Reactivated**

- i. 0 Physical Therapists
- ii. 0 Physical Therapist Assistants

- c) **1 Business Entity Registrations**

- i. 1 Newly Issued
- ii. 0 Reinstated

- d) **2 Interstate Telehealth Registrations**

- i. 2 Newly Issued PT
- ii. 0 Newly Issued PTA

Board members reviewed the licenses, certifications, and registrations processed in the month of August 2024.

**13) Future Agenda Items**

- A discussion of Arizona pathways to practice physical therapy including licensure application options for PT compact privilege holders.

**14) Adjournment**

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

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

**Meeting adjourned at 1:33 P.M.**

Prepared by,

Monica Crowley  
 Administrator Services Officer

Approved by,

Giovanni Leone, PTA  
 Secretary