



Karen Bustillo, PT, DPT, CLT  
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  
December 17, 2024**

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

**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  
Mindy Richardson PT, Investigator  
Liz Sinish PT, Investigator

**BOARD STAFF ABSENT:**

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER – 8:30 A.M.:** Dr. Bustillo 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: Consent Agenda:**

A) October 29, 2024 Regular Session

Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to **Approve** the consent agenda consisting of the regular session meeting minutes from the October 29, 2024 Board meeting. 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							

**End of Consent Agenda**

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

**A) Candidates who are requesting ADA accommodations. The Board considers ADA accommodation requests associated with the National Physical Therapy and Arizona Jurisprudence Examinations. Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant licensure requires successful completion of the application, including, but not limited to, receipt of transcripts and passage of the NPTE and/or AZLAW**

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

a) Larz Stowell

Mr. Stowell was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Deny** Larz Stowell’s request for ADA accommodations of time and a half and separate room. 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							

b) Kenneth Scherer

**Let the record reflect Dr. Heick recused himself from this matter.**

Mr. Scherer was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Deny** Kenneth Scherer’s request for ADA accommodations of time and a half and separate room. The motion passed.

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

**Dr. Heick returned to the Board meeting.**

**B) 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. Ian Miguel Ayson

Mr. Ayson’s initial application was previously reviewed by the Board at its February 2023 and April 2024 meetings. Mr. Ayson has now submitted a new application for the Board’s consideration.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to **Approve** Ian Miguel Ayson’s education as substantially equivalent, allow him to sit for the NPTE and AZLAW, and 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							

b. Sakshi Shah

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to **Approve** Sakshi Shah’s education as substantially equivalent, allow him to sit for the NPTE and AZLAW, and 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							

3) Review, consideration, and possible action regarding approving the Supervised Clinical Practice Period (SCPP) facility and supervising therapists proposed by Foreign Educated Physical Therapist applicant.

a. Phillip Edmundson

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **Approve** the supervised clinical practice period facility and supervising physical therapists proposed by Phillip Edmundson. 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:**

**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) Leanna DeLeon
- 2) Michael Ybarra
- 3) Mckenze Thomsen
- 4) Denise Larsen

**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) Jacob Durham

- 2) Mickellie Hammond
- 3) Glenda Fisher

Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer, to **Approve** consent agenda items 5A and 5B. 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							

**End of Consent Agenda**

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

**A) 24-07 Karlee Hopkins, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

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

Ms. Brown was present and addressed the Board. Complainant was not present.

**Let the record reflect Mr. Greer exited the Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.**

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

- Six hours of **Continuing education** in the area of Supervision. Coursework should focus on supervision but may also include elements of documentation, coding and billing

Continuing education courses must be completed within 3 months. They must be pre-approved, may be completed online, and do not count toward renewal 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			

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to open a complaint against Christopher Kuhlman, PTA to include a potential violation of A.R.S. § 32-2044(5). 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) Applications for Licensure and Certification:**

**C) Review, consideration and possible action on Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant applicants applying under A.R.S. § 32-2028**

- 1) Larry Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez was present and answered the Board’s question.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **Approve** Larry Hernandez for licensure upon successful completion of the application, including receipt of transcripts, passage of the NPTE and/or AZLAW. 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			

**The Board recessed from 10:26 a.m. to 10:37a.m.**

**Let the record reflect Mr. Greer rejoined the Board meeting at 10:37 a.m.**

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

**B) 24-16 Alvin Rodgers, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

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

Mr. Rodgers was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to issue an Advisory Letter reminding Mr. Rodgers of his responsibilities to adhere to the laws and rules related to supervision of assistive staff. 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) 24-22 Andrea Liermann, PT**

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

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

Ms. Liermann was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to issue an Advisory Letter reminding her of her reporting responsibilities in accordance with A.R.S.§ 32-3208. 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							

**D) NK**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

NK was present and addressed the Board. Patient LM was present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **open** a case against Nivedita Krishnamurthy citing potential violations of A.R.S. §§ 32-2044(4) and (20) and request a review of at least 3 additional records. 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. Leone left the Board Meeting at 11:31 a.m.**

**E) TM**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

TM was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **open** a case against Tony Martinez citing potential violations of A.R.S. §§ 32-3208 and 32-2044(3). 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				

**F) JK**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.



JK was not present

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **take no action**. 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				

**G) KL**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

KL was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **take no action**. 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				

**H) RH**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

RH was not present.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King, to **take no action**. 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				

**I) PP**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

PP was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **open** a case against Pamela Pino citing potential violations of A.R.S. §§ 32-3208 and 32-2044(03). 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				

**J) DK**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board

DK was not present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to **open** a case against Dakota Kay citing the potential violations of A.R.S. §§ 32-3208 and 32-2044(03). 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				

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

**A) 23-27 Christopher Karps, PTA**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding interim consent agreement

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

Mr. Karps was not present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. Heick to **remand** case # 23-27 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent			X				

**12) Board business and reports:**

**A) Update regarding FSBPT Annual Meeting**

Review and possible discussion regarding the FSBPT Annual Meeting held October 31-November 2, 2024 in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Dr. Heick and Mr. Greer recounted for the Board their experiences at FSBPT’s 2024 Annual Meeting.

**B) Executive Director’s Report**

1) **2025 Prospective Board Meeting Dates**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the Board’s potential 2025 meeting dates (\*date deviates from fourth Tuesday)

- a) January 28, 2025
- b) February 25, 2025
- c) March 25, 2025

- d) April 22, 2025
- e) May 20, 2025\*
- f) June 24, 2025
- g) July 22, 2025
- h) August 26, 2025
- i) September 23, 2025
- j) October 21, 2025\*
- k) November 18, 2025\*
- l) December 16, 2025\*

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King to **accept** the 2025 board meeting dates with the exception of 11/18/2025 thus eliminating a Nov meeting. 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				

2) **NPTE contract Alternate Approval Pathway implementation**

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the following subjects:

- Implementation of the Alternate Approval Pathway on or about January 3, 2025
- Designation of FSBPT as the Board’s designee to grant eligibility
- Potential Substantive Policy Statement as it relates to meeting the requirements as set forth in A.R.S. § 32-2024(B)(2)(c)
- Processing steps for ADA accommodation requests

Jeff Rosa from the FSBPT was present to answer any questions the Board had. Ms. Chepeus provided an update regarding the NPTE contract Alternate Approval Pathway implementation.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. Heick to **implement** AAP on or about Jan 3 2025. 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				

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King to name FSBPT as a designee of the Board to grant exam eligibility. 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				

Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to direct staff to develop a substantive policy statement addressing AAP and A.R.S. § 32-2024. 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				

Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. King to allow the presentation of ADA accommodation requests for Board review after application submission but prior to application completion. 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) **PT Compact status report**  
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the November 2024 PT Compact status report.

Board members reviewed the November 2024 PT Compact status report.

- 4) **Updates regarding the 2024 five-year rules review and notice of proposed rulemaking**  
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the submitted 2024 five-year rules review report and the published notice of proposed rulemaking.

Board members reviewed the 2024 five-year rules review and notice of proposed rulemaking.

- 5) **October & November 2024 Financials**  
Review and possible discussion

Board members reviewed the October and November 2024 financials.

- 6) **Licenses and Registrations**  
Review and discussion on approvals granted in October & November 2024

**a) 99 Licenses Newly Issued (Oct. 44; Nov. 55)**

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	
i.	28	20	Physical Therapists Endorsement
ii.	1	23	Physical Therapists Examination
iii.	3	1	Physical Therapist Universal Recognition
iv.	0	0	Physical Therapist Foreign Educated
v.	0	0	Physical Therapist Military Spouse
vi.	1	1	Physical Therapist Assistants Endorsement
vii.	9	10	Physical Therapist Assistants Examination
viii.	2	0	Physical Therapist Assistant Universal Recognition
ix.	0	0	Physical Therapist Assistant Military Spouse

**b) 5 Licenses Reinstated and Reactivated (Oct. 3; Nov. 2)**

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	
i.	2	2	Physical Therapists
ii.	1	0	Physical Therapist Assistants

**c) 5 Business Entity Registrations (Oct. 1; Nov. 4)**

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	
i.	1	4	Newly Issued
ii.	0	0	Reinstated

**d) 1 Interstate Telehealth Registrations (Oct. 0; Nov. 1)**

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	
i.	0	1	Newly Issued PT
ii.	0	0	Newly Issued PTA

Board members reviewed the licenses and registrations processed in the month of October and November 2024.

**13) Future Agenda Items**

- N/A

**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 12:57 P.M.**

Prepared by,

Monica Crowley  
 Administrator Services Officer

Approved by,

Giovanni Leone, PTA  
 Secretary