
ARIZONA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
1470 W. ADAMS ST., STE 2450, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
(602) 274-0236
ptboard.az.gov

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES via
Google Meet Video Conferencing
Virtual Attendance
January 28, 2025**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Bustillo, PT, DPT, CLT, President
Giovanni Leone, PTA; Secretary
John Heick, PT, DPT, PhD
Joshua Greer, Public Member
Joshua Barton, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kelly King, PT, DPT, Vice President (Arrived at 10:54 a.m.)

**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, MA Investigator
Liz Sinish PT, DPT 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) December 17, 2024 Regular Session

Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the regular session meeting minutes from the December 17, 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent		X					

End of Consent Agenda

4) Applications for Licensure:

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

1) Jerry Bourassa

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent		X					

Executive Session A - 9:04 A.M. to 9:16 A.M.

Roll call taken after returning from Executive Session at 9:16 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Dr. Heick, to table consideration of Mr. Bourassa’s application for licensure as a physical therapist pending receipt of the following documentation related to his current competencies and ability to safely practice:

- Medical examination opining on current fitness to practice; and
- Take and pass NPTE or complete 140 hours of continuing education (equivalent to the duration of his lapsed license) or
- Complete 100 hours of continuing education in the areas of documentation, supervision, coding, billing, and coursework specific to the practice setting to which he intends to return.

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					

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) Maribel Gudat
- 2) Jacob Ozment
- 3) Brandon Richard Jr.

C) Cases recommended for termination of Board Order.

- 1) 23-72 Stephanie Whitmer, PT
- 2) 23-84 Noah Abrahams, PT

Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to approve consent agenda items 5A 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent		X					

End of Consent Agenda

6) Administrative Hearings

A) 24-05 Georgia Holguin, PTA (9:00)

Ms. Chepeus called roll of the Board members and invited them to introduce themselves.

Ms. Elizabeth Campbell, AAG, acted as Independent Advisor to the Board

Mr. Harris, AAG informed the Board that the State was ready to proceed with the administrative hearing. He also reminded the Board that Ms. Holguin’s lack of participation in her initial review and informal hearing is the reason that the matter was remanded to formal hearing.

Ms. Elizabeth Campbell, AAG, outlined the Board’s options to proceed with the formal hearing or to continue the formal hearing allowing an opportunity to negotiate a consent agreement to be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Ms. Holguin was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to continue the Formal Hearing in case 24-05 Georgia Holguin, PTA to allow the parties an opportunity to negotiate a consent agreement and present it to the Board at its February 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent		X					

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

A) 24-17 Laura Crowe, PT

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

Ms. Crowe and her counsel Ms. Libby Petersen, Esq. were present and addressed the Board.

Complainant RT was present and addressed the Board.

Throughout the Board's review, the complainant exhibited belligerent and hostile behavior. In addition, he frequently interrupted when others were speaking and used an inappropriate hand gesture. Despite being asked numerous times to modify his behavior and to show the same respect to others that others were showing to him, RT continued with his disruptive antics. As a consequence, he was muted several times during the Board’s consideration of this matter. When this ceased to be effective, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Greer, to direct staff to virtually remove RT from the 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					

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Greer, to dismiss case 24-17 Laura Crowe, PT. 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 10:31 A.M. to 10:41 A.M.

Roll call taken after returning from Recess at 10:41 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

B) Robert Palmer, PTA

- 1) Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding case 24-23

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

Mr. Palmer was present and answered the Board’s questions.

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

- Six hours of Continuing education in the area of Ethics

Continuing education courses must be completed within 4 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					

Let the record reflect Dr. King joined the Board meeting at 10:54 A.M.

- 2) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding release from case 22-45

Ms. Richardson provided a summary of Mr. Palmer’s compliance with his Board Order in case 22-45.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Heick, to continue consideration of this matter until such time as Mr. Palmer has completed his Board Order requirements in case 24-23. 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 Joshua Leslie, PTA

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding complaint

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

Mr. Leslie was not present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Greer, to issue an Advisory Letter reminding him of his 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) BJA

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

BJA was not present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to open a case against Baby Jane Acutin citing potential violations of A.R.S. §§ 32-2044(3) and (12). 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							

E) AB

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

AB was not present.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to take no action against AB. 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							

F) GR

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

GR was present.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to take no action against GR. 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							

G) CS

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

CS was present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to take no action against CS. 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							

H) KR

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

KR was present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to enter into Executive Session B 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 B - 11:31 A.M. to 11:37 A.M.

Roll call taken after returning back from Executive Session at 11:37 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to open a case against Kayla Rystrom, PT citing potential violations of A.R.S. § 32-2044(10). 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							

Mr. Barton exited the Board meeting at 11:40 A.M.

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

A) Helena Bustamante, PTA

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding renewal of her compact privilege

Dr. Sinish provided a summary to the Board.

Ms. Bustamante was present.

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to direct staff to send an educational letter to Ms. Bustamante regarding the requirements of licensure and compact privileges as it relates to the practice of physical therapy in the state of Arizona. 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) 23-88 David Castillo, PT

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding interim consent agreement

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary for the Board.

Mr. Castillo was not present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to accept Mr. Castillo’s signed consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of his PT license. 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) Board Elections (President, Vice-President, Secretary)

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Board Elections pursuant to A.A.C. R4-24-103

Dr. King nominated Dr. Bustillo for President. Dr Bustillo accepted.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to re-elect Dr. Bustillo as President of the AZ Board of PT for the 2025 annual Board 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent					X		

Dr. Bustillo nominated Mr. Leone for Vice-President. Mr. Leone accepted.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Greer, to elect Mr. Leone as Vice-President of the AZ Board of PT for the 2025 annual Board 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent					X		

Mr. Leone nominated Dr. Heick for Secretary. Dr. Heick accepted.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to elect Dr. Heick as Secretary of the AZ Board of PT for the 2025 annual Board 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent					X		

B) FSBPT Delegate Election (Delegate and Alternate)

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the Election of Board Delegates for FSBPT 2025 meetings

- 1) Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) July 19-20, 2025; Arlington, VA
- 2) Annual Educational Meeting October 23-25, 2025; Spokane WA

Dr. King nominated Mr. Greer for the FSBPT Delegate for 2025. Mr. Greer accepted.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to elect Mr. Greer as the FSBPT delegate for 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 nominated Dr. King for the FSBPT Alternate Delegate for 2025. Dr. King accepted.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to elect Dr. King as the FSBPT alternate delegate for 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		

C) Executive Director’s Report

1) ADA requirements and testing accommodations

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding ADA requirements and testing accommodations

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary for the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to enter into Executive Session C 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	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent					X		

Executive Session C - 11:56 A.M. to 12:20 P.M.

Roll call taken after returning from Executive Session at 12:20 P.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to direct staff to seek additional potential training relative to ADA accommodation requests. 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) Drafted substantive policy statement for the Alternate Approval Pathway
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the drafted substantive policy statement related to the Alternate Approval Pathway

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary for the Board.

Let the record reflect Ms. Richardson left the Board meeting at 12:25 P.M.

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. King, to approve the substantive policy statement related to the Alternate Approval Pathway. 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) Legislative update
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding proposed legislation and legislative committee actions including but not limited to HB2181, HB2583, SB1037, and SB1235

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary of proposed legislation and legislative committee actions.

The Board members discussed pending legislation and recent committee actions. Members spoke out in support of HB2181 and HB2583 and raised concerns regarding SB1037 and SB1235. Board members also had concerns related to recent Health & Human Services Committee of Reference meeting vote relative to consolidation of the Board of Massage Therapy that identified the Board of Physical Therapy as a potential option.

4) Updates regarding the Board’s proposed rulemaking

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the status of the Board’s currently proposed rulemaking.

Ms. Chepeus provided an update regarding the status of the Board’s currently proposed rulemaking.

5) December 2024 Financials

Review and possible discussion

Board members reviewed the December 2024 financials.

6) Licenses and Registrations

Review and discussion on approvals granted in December 2024

a) 94 Licenses Newly Issued

- i. 23 Physical Therapist Endorsement
- ii. 59 Physical Therapist Examination
- iii. 1 Physical Therapist Universal Recognition
- iv. 1 Physical Therapist Foreign Educated
- v. 2 Physical Therapist Military Spouse
- vi. 3 Physical Therapist Assistant Endorsement
- vii. 5 Physical Therapist Assistant Examination
- viii. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Universal Recognition
- ix. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Military Spouse

b) 6 Licenses Reinstated and Reactivated

- i. 3 Physical Therapists
- ii. 3 Physical Therapist Assistants

c) 2 Business Entity Registrations

- i. 2 Newly Issued
- ii. 0 Reinstated

d) 1 Interstate Telehealth Registrations

- i. 1 Newly Issued PT
- ii. 0 Newly Issued PTA

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

13) Future Agenda Items

- N/A

14) Adjournment

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. Heick, 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 12:55 P.M.

Prepared by,
Monica Crowley
Administrator Services Officer

Approved by,

Giovanni Leone, PTA
Secretary