

KATIE HOBBS
Governor

JUDY CHEPEUS
Executive Director

ARIZONA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
1470 W. ADAMS ST., STE 2450, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
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**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES via
Google Meet Video Conferencing
Virtual Attendance
February 25, 2025**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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, 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) January 28, 2025 Regular Session
 - B) January 28, 2025 Executive Session A
 - C) January 28, 2025 Executive Session B
 - D) January 28, 2025 Executive Session C

Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. King, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the regular session and executive session A, B, and C meeting minutes from the January 28, 2025 Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

End of Consent Agenda

4) Applications for Licensure:

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) Abigail Medina

Following review and discussion, Mr. Leone moved, seconded by Dr. Heick, to approve Abigail Medina’s ADA accommodation request for additional time – time and a half. The motion passed unanimously.

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

B) Physical Therapist applicants who graduated from a foreign educational program

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) Sakshi Shah

Dr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to approve Sakshi Shah’s supervised clinical practice period facility and supervising physical therapists. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote	Dr. Bustillo	Mr. Leone	Dr. Heick	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	Dr. King	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) George Angalich

C) Cases recommended for termination of Board Order.

- 1) 24-21 Rebekah Trost, PT

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to approve consent agenda items 5A and 5C. The motion passed unanimously.

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

End of Consent Agenda

7) Informal Hearings

A) 24-06 Shilo Evans, PTA (8:30)

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

Ms. Richardson and Ms. Evans were sworn-in as witnesses.

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

Ms. Evans was present, addressed the Board, and provided a closing statement.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, 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	Mr. Leone	Dr. Heick	Mr. Greer	Mr. Barton	Dr. King	VACANT
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nay							
Recused							
Abstained							
Absent							

6) Administrative Hearings

B) 24-05 Georgia Holguin, PTA

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding accepting the signed Consent Agreement, if not accepted, the Board will conduct the Administrative Hearing.

Mr. Harris provided a summary for the Board

Ms. Holguin was present.

Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to accept the signed consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A) 23-27 Christopher Karps, PTA

Mr. Karps was not present and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Bustillo called the administrative hearing to Order.

Mr. Harris, AAG, representing the state of Arizona, waived the reading of the Formal Hearing script. All Board members were furnished with the State’s exhibits.

Ms. Richardson, PT Investigator was sworn in as a witness. Mr. Harris provided an opening statement.

In response to questions from Mr. Harris, Ms. Richardson provided testimony regarding the charges that

were filed against Mr. Karps, his self-disclosed health issues, the ICA and the status of his license. Mr. Harris also went over State’s Exhibits 1 through 6 with Ms. Richardson that were related to the aforementioned testimony.

Mr. Harris entered Exhibits 1 through 6 into evidence. The Board accepted the Exhibits.

Ms. Chepeus, Executive Director was sworn in as a witness and provided testimony related to service and the Board’s efforts to contact Mr. Karps.

Mr. Harris provided a closing statement.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King to adopt the factual allegations and the allegations of unprofessional conduct as outlined in the State’s Complaint and Notice of Hearing as its Findings of Fact and its Conclusions of Law, respectively. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Following review and discussion, Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Dr. King to direct staff to contact Mesa Police Dept to perform a wellness check on Mr. Karps. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King to issue an order of revocation of Mr. Karps’ physical therapist assistant license. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

A) 24-27 Christopher Kuhlman, PTA

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding case

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

Mr. Kuhlman was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Greer, to invite Mr. Kuhlman to an informal hearing and to direct staff to, among other things, look into current facility practices and review documentation that shows the time stamp audit trail of records creation and updates as well as review an additional 3-4 records covering the period both before and after the complaint was filed against Mr. Kuhlman. The motion passed unanimously.

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

B) Amber Rasmussen, PTA Applicant

Initial review, discussion, and possible action regarding application approval in light of recent disclosure regarding a law enforcement incident

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary regarding Ms. Rasmussen’s application for PTA licensure.

Ms. Rasmussen was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Dr. Bustillo, to approve Ms. Rasmussen’s application for licensure and to open a case regarding her legal matter. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Board Recessed from 10:15 A.M. to 10:21 A.M.

Roll called after returning from Recess at 10:11 A.M. by Ms. Chepeus.

C) DG

Continued review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

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

D) JB

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

JB was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to open a case against James Babana, PT citing potential violations of A.R.S. §§ 32-2044(4) and (20) and to have staff review at least 2 additional records. The motion passed unanimously.

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

E) CS

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Ms. Richardson provided a summary for the Board.

CS was not present.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Greer moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to take no action against CS. The motion passed unanimously.

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

F) QM

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Let the record reflect Dr. Heick recused himself from this case.

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

QM and his attorney Ms. Lynette Odom, Esq were present and addressed the Board.

Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to take no action against QM. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to open a case against Katherine Zwanziger, PT citing potential violation of A.R.S. § 32-2044(3). The motion passed unanimously.

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

Let the record reflect Dr. Heick rejoined the Board meeting.

G) JI

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

Jl was not present.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to take no action against Jl. The motion passed unanimously.

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

H) SB

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

SB was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. Bustillo moved, seconded by Dr. King, to take no action against SB. The motion passed unanimously.

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

I) SC

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

SC was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to take no action against SC. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Recused							
Abstained							
Absent							

J) AV

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding opening a case

Dr. Sinish provided a summary for the Board.

AV was present and addressed the Board.

Following review and discussion, Dr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Barton, to take no action against AV. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

A) 24-08 Eric Mirarchi, PT

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the signed Consent Agreement

Ms. Chepeus provided a summary for the Board.

Mr. Mirarchi was represented by his attorney Ms. Sara Stark, Esq who was available for questions.

Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Mr. Leone, to accept Mr. Mirarchi’s signed consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

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

12) Board business and reports:

A) Executive Director’s Report

- 1) 2025 National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) Policies and 2024 Jurisdictional Pass Rate Report
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the 2025 NPTE policies effective March 2025, and the 2024 jurisdictional pass rate report

Board members reviewed the NPTE policies effective March 2025 and the 2024 jurisdictional pass rate report.

The Board returned to this matter after agenda item (12)(A)(3) when Dr. King provided context relevant to the 2024 jurisdictional pass rate report.

- 2) Attorney General Notification Letter
Review and discussion regarding the notification letter received from the Attorney General's office

Mr. Harris provided a summary of the notification letter sent by the Attorney General's office

- 3) Legislative update
Review, discussion, and possible action regarding proposed legislation and legislative committee actions including but not limited to HB2181, HB2583, SB1346, SB1037, HB2049, HB2632, SB1235, SB1656, and HB2311

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

- 4) January 2025 Financials
Review and possible discussion

Board members reviewed the January 2025 financials.

- 5) Licenses and Registrations
Review and discussion on approvals granted in January 2025

a) 44 Licenses Newly Issued

- i. 32 Physical Therapists Endorsement
- ii. 7 Physical Therapists Examination
- iii. 1 Physical Therapist Universal Recognition
- iv. 0 Physical Therapist Foreign Educated
- v. 0 Physical Therapist Military Spouse
- vi. 1 Physical Therapist Assistants Endorsement
- vii. 3 Physical Therapist Assistants Examination
- viii. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Universal Recognition
- ix. 0 Physical Therapist Assistant Military Spouse

b) 1 Licenses Reinstated and Reactivated

- i. 1 Physical Therapists
- ii. 0 Physical Therapist Assistants

c) 2 Business Entity Registrations

- i. 2 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 and registrations processed in the month of January 2025.

13) Future Agenda Items

- N/A

14) Adjournment

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Prepared by,
Monica Crowley
Administrator Services Officer

Approved by,
John Heick, PT, DPT, PhD
Secretary