



**TENNESSEE BOARD OF
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

January 6, 2023

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Physician Assistants (hereinafter, "the Board") was called to order on January 6, 2023, at 9:06 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243.

Board Members Present: C. Marie Patterson, Chair, PA-C
Robert Kasper, MD
Andrew Hull, PA-C
Gregory Cain, PA-C
J. Seth Weathersby, PA-C
Robert White, PA-C
Barbara Thornton, Consumer Member
David Roberts, PA-C

Board Members Absent: Christina Free, Secretary, PA-C

Staff Present: Stacy Tarr, Executive Director
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director
Tracy Alcock, Office of General Counsel
Dexter Hawkins, Administrative Assistant

The Chair, Ms. Patterson, called for a roll call of all members present.

I. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Catherine Taylor White

Ms. White came before the board requesting a fifteen-day extension on top of the thirty-day PA lapsed license policy. Ms. White explained that she was unaware that her license would expire before twenty-four months because of her birthday. When new licenses are issued, the renewal date is determined on the individual's birthday. In some circumstances, a licensee may have less than twenty-four months, which was the case with Ms. White. However, every licensee understands that it is their responsibility to ensure that they renew on time and are not practicing on an expired license. The board understands that sometimes individuals have implemented a policy that allows only thirty days from expiration to continue practicing without repercussions.

The board and administrative staff discuss ways to improve the process of renewal dates, such as adding stipulations on work letters recommended by Ms. Tarr. Ms. Tracy Alcock explains that a PA knows they should not be working on an expired license, and if Ms. White is granted the fifteen-day extension, she would not be disciplined or have an agreed citation. Mr. Weathersby motioned to accept Ms. White's proposal of fifteen extra days on top of the thirty-day lapsed license policy, and Mr. Kasper seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mr. Roberts and Ms. Thornton opposed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cain made a motion to accept the October 21, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Weathersby seconded the motion, and it passed.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Receive reports and/or requests from the Office of Investigations

Mr. Nolton presented the Board Statistical Complaint report. New complaints for PA's open are fifty-three (53), total closed complaints are sixty-nine (69), nine (9) closed due to insufficient findings, seven (7) were transferred to the Office of General Counsel, forty-five (45) were closed with no action, six (6) received a letter of concern, and two (2) was sent a letter of warning.

Of those numbers listed above the following are in regard to which category they fall under: one (1) falsification of records/reports, two (2) substance abuse, one (1) action in another state, eight (8) malpractice/negligence, twenty-two (22) unprofessional conduct, one (1) violation of Board order, (2) medical records request, five (5) overprescribing, one (1) practice beyond the scope, one (1) prescribing to friends/family, eight (8) outside the investigative scope, and one (1) related to covid-19.

Under Orthopedic PA's, there were no new complaints.

After Mr. Nolton gave his Report, the board discussed the Covid-19 case and asked for clarification. Mr. Nolton could not give specifics, but it revolved around a mask policy. Ms. Patterson discussed comparing our trends with other states and asked Mr. Nolton if it was

possible. Discussion of how to improve the Board Statistical Complain report was discussed between the Board, Mr. Nolton, and Ms. Alcock.

Administrative Office

Ms. Stacy Tarr reported that the following activity regarding Physician Assistants transpired in the administrative office between October 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022

New Applications Received:

- Full licensure 58
- Temporary 0
- Upgrade to Full 2
- OPA Full Licensure 0

Total New Licenses Issued:	137
Total Number of Renewals:	334
Total Number of Online Renewals:	309
Average Renewals Online:	92%
Total Number of Reinstatements	7

As of December 31, 2022, the total number of active Physician Assistant licenses is 3,417. Of those licensees, 2,853 have a Tennessee mailing address. The total number of Orthopedic Physician Assistant licensees as of December 31, 2022, is 10.

As of December 31, 2022, the total number of active Physician Assistant licenses is 3,340. Of those licensees, 2,769 have a Tennessee mailing address. The total number of Orthopedic Physician Assistant licensees as of December 31, 2022, is 10.

Report from the Office of General Counsel by Tracy Alcock, Advisory Attorney

Ms. Tracy Alcock would begin by informing the Board about the conflict-of-interest document they needed to sign at the beginning of the year. Ms. Alcock reminds the Board that she is working to change the rules for the PA board. Ms. Alcock hands board members a rough draft of the rules to take home and review. Ms. Alcock will examine the Board's policies to ensure they correspond with current law. There are (7) seven open cases currently. Ms. Alcock informs the Board that there is a trial coming in 2023 in which the board members can break into a panel of three to sit on the trial.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licenses

Mr. Cain made the motion to approve all licenses. Mrs. Patterson seconded the motion and it passed.

FSMB, FARB, and CLEAR

Ms. Alcock presents the three pieces of training set for 2023. FSMB, which will be held in Minneapolis, MN; FARB Regulatory Law Seminar, which will be held in Chicago, IL; and CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation), which will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Weathersby motions to send one attorney, one board member, and one administrative staff member to the training. Ms. Patterson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

V. UPDATE FROM DR. MICHAEL BARON, TENNESSEE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Dr. Baron presented his presentation from the Tennessee Medical Foundation. Dr. Baron explained how his organization is helping not to stigmatize mental health and allowing medical professionals to receive help without the fear of being outcasted. He discusses how questions regarding mental health on applications are intrusive and makes it more difficult for individuals to receive the help they need. Dr. Baron proposed to send out a Tennessee Medical Foundation mass email to all Physician Assistant licenses twice a year. The board discussed possibly sending it out more than twice a year. Mr. Cain motions to send out the mass email two times a year, and Mr. Hull seconds the motion. The motion passes.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGREED CITATIONS

There were no citations for approval.

VII. PRESENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

Allen Tate, PA

Ms. Alcock introduced the two attorneys involved in Mr. Tate's consented case. Mr. Dolan and Mr. Kraemer introduced themselves, in which Mr. Kraemer introduced himself as Mr. Tate's counsel. Discussion between the board, Ms. Alcock, Mr. Dolan, and Mr. Kraemer would begin in which they asked board members if there would be a conflict of interest and who would be able to attend the trial set for the year. Mr. Kasper and Ms. Patterson both claimed they would recuse themselves as they have a conflict of interest with the respondent Mr. Tate. Further discussion continues as Ms. Alcock

explains to the board that they can hear contested cases as a panel of three or all together, excluding Mr. Kasper and Ms. Patterson. After explaining how they would handle the case concerning the panel, the board asked how many days the trial would be and if it could be on a Thursday or Friday. Ms. Tarr explained that she would need to look at the calendar to reserve the dates. Ms. Thornton makes a motion to have a panel of three or more sit for the trial of Mr. Tate, and Mr. Hull seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Public Comment – None

The meeting adjourned at 11:15pm.

These meeting minutes were ratified by the Board at their April 21, 2023, meeting.