

**MINUTES**  
**North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners**  
**April 21, 2020**  
**NCBPTE OFFICE**  
**8300 HEALTH PARK, Suite 233**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina 27615**  
**Teleconference**

**Members Present:**

Teresa F. Hale, PT, Chair  
Crystal D. Ostlind PTA, Secretary/Treasurer  
C. David Edwards, PT  
Leslie Kesler, PT  
Stuart W. MacRoberts, Public Member  
Pearl L. Rhone, PTA  
Jamie L. Miner, PT

**Absent:**

Paul Garcia, MD – excused absence

**Staff Present:**

Kathy Arney, PT, Executive Director (ED)  
Debbie Ragan, PT, Deputy Director (DD)  
David Gadd, Attorney

---

The format for the Minutes is as follows: *V-# Summary of Motion (Board Member who introduced motion)*

**Meeting Called to Order** by T. Hale, NCBPTE Board Chair – 9:16 am

**Announcements**

Executive Director K. Arney, announced the following:

- FSBPT Announcements regarding re-opening of Prometric and Exam taking
- Prometric has announced it will re-open May 1. The FSBPT is allowing ‘windows’ of time for testing in May for PT/PTA students who were previously made eligible for the April NPTE exam.

**Conflict of Interest Reminder by the Chair**

T. Hale, Chair, reminded members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest. In addition, T. Hale asked if there were any known conflicts of interest or appearance of conflicts of interest with respect to any matters that

were to be brought before the Board today as required by Executive Order 127. No Board member indicated conflicts of interest with the business before the Board today.

This Board meeting was properly noticed and posted ahead of this meeting.

## MINUTES

### V-018-'20 Passed Minutes – April 8, 2020 Special Board Meeting

- The Board adopted a motion to approve draft Minutes of the Board meeting held April 8, 2020 via teleconference. **(Rhone)**  
Members voting in the affirmative: Hale, Ostlind, Edwards, Kesler, MacRoberts, Rhone, Miner  
Members voting in the negative: None

## GOVERNOR COOPER EXECUTIVE ORDER 130 – MEETING NORTH CAROLINA’S HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS

### V-019-'20 Passed – Certain Exemptions from Licensure during the NC State of Emergency

- The Board adopted a motion to not modify or waive licensure requirements at this time in the context of Executive Order 130 items 3A (1)(a) (ii-iv). **(Edwards)**  
Members voting in the affirmative: Hale, Ostlind, Edwards, Kesler, MacRoberts, Rhone, Miner  
Members voting in the negative: None

Discussion of Executive Order 130, Section 3 A 1 a i-iv, Increasing the Pool of Professional Health Care Workers – Regulatory flexibility to expand the health care workforce to meet the needs for additional health care workers to treat patients, included:

- i. “...persons to provide care if they are licensed in other states, territories, or the District of Columbia, but not licensed in NC.” The NC PT Practice Act 90.270.101(8) includes an exemption from licensure for local disasters and States of emergency. The temporary exemption is in place during the state of emergency in NC, and is compliant with EO 130. Those with the license exemption are posted on the website in compliance with EO130.
- ii. “...persons to provide care if they are retired or if their licenses are inactive.” The Board Rules already address revival methods; there does not appear to be a need for waivers since there are many PT/PTA licensees without work currently.
- iii. “...skilled, but unlicensed volunteers to provide care, and The ED did not make recommendations for waiver or modification for this group of individuals. Skilled, but unlicensed workers who choose to volunteer in another capacity in the medical field during this state of emergency will be trained as aides and will work under the supervision of the healthcare service they are providing.
- iv. “...students at an appropriately advanced stage of professional study to provide care.” The NC PT/PTA educational institutions were contacted for feedback

concerning this clause. Generally, educational programs educate students, have them successfully graduate, obtain a license to practice and enter the workforce. The Board's mission is public protection. The Board discussed no modification or waiver is needed at this time due to exams re-starting and FBI CBC fingerprinting alternative methods being available.

## LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

### **V-020-'20 Passed – Accepting certain documents required for licensure temporarily via email during the NC State of Emergency**

- The Board adopted a motion to approve accepting the following documents temporarily via email from the originating institution during the NC State of Emergency: licensure verifications from other states, educational transcripts and foreign educated applicant's proof of curriculum being taught in English. The latter will only be accepted until May 1, 2020 due to the effective date of rule amendments to 21 NCAC 48E .0110 - .0112 and 21 NCAC 48E .0501. The Board based its decision on concerns expressed by other US licensing boards, educational institutions and applicants related to work-at-home requirements and the inability to send documents via mail during the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision will be reviewed and revision considered at each subsequent quarterly Board meeting. *(Edwards)*

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Members voting in the affirmative: | Hale, Ostlind, Edwards, Kesler,<br>MacRoberts, Rhone, Miner |
| Members voting in the negative:    | None  |

### **V-021-'20 Passed – Grant an extension of time to applicants needing to reapply, totaling the time during which the State of North Carolina is under a declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- The Board adopted a motion to approve modifying the reapplication after 1-year requirement per Executive Order 130 during the state of emergency to minimize application burden on applicants and especially those who have had a delayed exam taking date. It will be nullified when the current state of emergency is terminated by the Governor. *(Kesler)*

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Members voting in the affirmative: | Hale, Ostlind, Edwards, Kesler,<br>MacRoberts, Rhone, Miner |
| Members voting in the negative:    | None  |

### **Updates for Exemptions from licensure for out of state licensees was provided by K. Arney ED (noted above in discussion of EO130) and progress of alternative FBI CBC fingerprinting processes was provided by D. Ragan, Deputy Director**

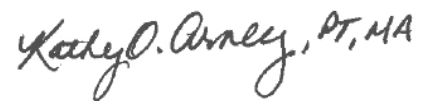
Applicants are being advised on all current methods for obtaining FBI criminal background check fingerprints. Exam applicants are being made aware of the current waiver of FBI/CBC results prior to exam eligibility during the current state of emergency.

## **FUTURE BOARD MEETING AND EVENTS:**

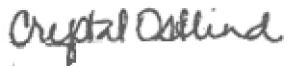
As discussed at the last Special Board Meeting - June 10, 2020 – either in person or remote to be determined closer to the date of the meeting

Meeting adjourned by T. Hale, Chair, at 10:01 a.m.

Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA in cursive.

Kathy O. Arney, PT, Executive Director  
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Crystal Ostlind in cursive.

Crystal Ostlind, PTA  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Recorder